

FIRA Executive Meeting October 16, 2025

Minutes

Attendance

President: Jeff Vanderkuur
Treasurer: Joe DiFrancesco
Secretary: Carrie DiFrancesco
Director: Lynn Yake
Director: Wayne MacKenzie
Director: Cindy Woodrow
Director: Bill Odell
Director: Gail Connelly
Director: Peter Connelly

Previous Business

~ Possible improvement expenditures:

- * **Acoustics:** Andy Valickis emailed us information regarding an option to purchase a brand of panels to help with the acoustics in our building. If we have the interest to proceed, it could cost approximately \$4,000 and we would need a committee to decide what to purchase, the colors, etc.... The Executive Board supports pursuing this and recommending the idea to membership at the AGM.
- * **UV Upgrade:** Joe last communicated with the Haliburton Health Unit in 2018, when our UV system was unplugged by Dysart. Their final answer is that we are considered low risk even though there was a test in 2002 where our water wasn't safe. After the failed water test, FIRA obtained a UV system and the cost was split with Dysart and they maintained control of it's maintenance. Joe recently sent an email to Dysart and explained we had an interest in a new UV system but so far, no response. This morning we received an email from the Health Unit requesting an appointment to inspect our kitchen. Joe will make the appointment and meet with her. The Pump Shop gave us a \$3,000 quote for a new system. On the AGM agenda, we'll ask membership if they think we should pursue another UV system and support possibly sharing the cost with Dysart. Post meeting update - The Health Department inspector will follow-up with guidance on the UV system request.
- * **Programmable thermostat:** A suggestion was made by a member for us to purchase a programmable thermostat so we can warm or cool the

building before an event or activity. They aren't very expensive - approximately \$2-300. It makes sense to heat the building before an event so the forced air isn't blowing hard at the times you do not wish it to. We would also get alerts should the furnace stop working in the winter. The board agrees we will pursue this expense. Wayne & Peter will look into purchasing.

- * **Snowplow service for FIRA 2025-26 Winter:** Jeff contacted Barb Hammond and she said they can take care of the driveway. Dave Freeman works for Barb and he usually uses a blower. We should get another quote from our other member, Rob Wagenaar, who also uses a blower. Bill will contact Rob.
- * **Battery backup for modem/generator options:** The DiFrancescos have a portable generator FIRA can use when needed in the winter if we had a plug-in manual connection. Wayne prefers an automatic stand-by as power outages are probably going to become more common and possibly longer outages. Although expensive it would last many years to spread the cost out. Operating and service costs would also need to be considered and whether we would need a larger propane tank to run one. Lynn will also contact local electrician Derek Hillaby for pricing for options to keep heat on in the building. Lynn will also call Laurie Scott and other officials to see if there are monies available for such types of emergency service. We could also do specific fundraisers to purchase one.

Financial Update

~ **2024 Records Audit:** Thank you Gail & Peter for auditing last year's financials. The records were determined to be accurately maintained and reported.

~ **2025 YTD and Forecast**

- * **Dues and Fundraising** - About \$1,000 more in dues collected than last year with 13 new households joining FIRA.
- * **Operating expenses:** Internet costs are down with the switch to Bell Fibe from Starlink. Everything else similar to last year.
- * **Major Improvements/Expenses/Donations:** We purchased a new tent and a vacuum and have several possible major projects to discuss.

Fundraising

~ **MacGregor Meat Sale:** Brought in \$800. Thank you Graham

~ **Pancake Breakfast:** Brought in \$1,600. Great job Doug & committee!!!

~ **Pig Roast, with the AGM.** Lynn, Carrie, Cindy, Wayne & the Smiths are working on all the details.

~ **Club 200:** We did not this fundraiser in 2025. We most likely will try it again in 2026 with the proceeds going towards a generator or other major improvement.

Activities/other committee updates

~ Board Activities

- * **Fitness groups:** Sue Harrison would like to pursue that we hold a fitness class over the winter via Internet. She will ask at the AGM to see if there is interest. Will request feedback from members to see if they would attend group activity at FIRA even if it can be done at home? Need to determine dates, times, type, etc.
- * **Games** - Euchre, Cribbage and Mahjong - all are still active.
- * **Darts:** After a quiet summer, more are attending.
- * **Crafts:**

~ Social Events

- * **Summer Happy hours:** Lynn reported that it is more and more difficult to get hosts in the summer. Will discuss a different approach for next year.
- * **Sand Bay Happy Hour:** Cindy reported that our Sand Bay Happy Hours are spur of the moment due to the weather but we again had a great turnout and really fun time. This year's water was low and many boats were already out but folks with boats picked up others.
- * **Winter Happy Hours:** We are still continuing the monthly winter Happy Hours. In November we have a Trivia Night on the 4th, the annual December Christmas Party on the 11th, and the new year's months are to be determined. One idea is to look at sports night again.
- * **Bonfires:** Hoping to fit in a fire this year. Another last minute event based on weather.

~ Special Events

- * **Cornhole Tournament:** Thank you to the Bishops for organizing!! Great turnout.
- * **Harvest Lunch for Ladies:** Wednesday October 29th at 11:30am
- * **Trivia Night:** Tuesday, November 4th from 4-6pm. Tuesday night games was tried but maybe revisit? Gail will coordinate.
- * **Christmas Party:** Thursday, December 11th
- * **Any new ideas?** Flip chart will be available in hall for folks to write any activity ideas or reach out to secretary by email or website.

New Business

- ~ Board Nominations - Treasurer, Secretary, Supporting Directors
- ~ Other items from the floor?
- ~ **Next meetings: AGM / Pig Roast, October 25th**