

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Present-Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Mark Fisher, Mike Harter, David Laaksonen, Jon Melvin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Don Howard, Patricia Gladman, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jeff Armentrout, Adam DeMarco, Bryan Mellen, Tiffany Rankin, Chip Thomson, Benjamin Wenner, Laryssa Hook

GUESTS: Jeff Crotty, Mike Knapp

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Chris Welker called the meeting to order, Dave Laaksonen led the pledge of allegiance, and Jen McGowan called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment, guests introduced themselves.

MINUTES:

T. Thomson motioned to approve the March board meeting minutes. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker reported that we had a flooding issue in the cabin and we are waiting on parts to get the boiler working. We are working on getting stuff out of the basement and over to the Hall of Fame.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan mentioned that she and Chris had attended the District 6 meeting in Washington Court House and she has Fair Manager's passes to hand out at the end of the meeting.

We hired a new track maintenance employee and he is doing a great job and seems to really enjoy it. We had our first meeting the Horsemen which went very well. We will continue to meet with them on the first Thursday of every month at 11am in the cabin.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported that we are doing better than last year at this time. We have been busy with taxes and Tom has been borrowing Morgan quite a bit for race payments. We are having issues with Quickbooks payroll updates and the March payroll didn't make it into the system. We are having to manually calculate the payroll so it is not accurate on the payroll report. We are working on getting that fixed. Quickbooks support can't seem to be able to figure it out.

We have done quite well switching the purse account from PNC to First Citizen's. We had 55 outstanding checks. 38 were reissued and out of the 38, 21 of them have cleared the bank.

We are accumulating money in the Star account and that will start to go out in payments to Meyer's and Associates. We are at about 10k in monthly interest in that account. Tom Wright gave a hats off to Randy on the higher interest rates that we are getting.

Jon Melvin moved to approve the treasurer's report. Mark Fisher second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chris Welker reported that the minutes were in the board packet and that we approved Greg Coon to come up and get with Jeff and Henry for some training.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Dave Laaksonen mentioned that we had a recommended landscaping bid from maintenance committee and that was Pony Landscaping. The other company that submitted a bid was Yellowstone. The board would like to get references on both and send back to the G&A committee for final approval pending references.

FAC COMMITTEE:

Mark Fisher reported that the committee discussed accommodations for the camels that might be exhibited in 4H this year. Today is the deadline for entering animals in 4H so once we know for sure that they will be coming, the committee will come up with ideas on where to house them. We need a quarantine barn and discussed maybe using the Annex since it is closer to the poultry barn.

Mark mentioned that they discussed 4H committees having access to golf carts specifically the ones who would normally bring a gator. The committees were asked to email Mark and Benjamin with why they needed a cart. This would need to be a committee cart, not an individual cart.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

No Report. Tom asked about moving forward with Destination Delaware on advertising and suggested we go forward. Mark asked what the dollar amount on that is. Tom said it should be about 25k from our advertising budget. Tom Wright made a motion to approve up to 25k from our advertising budget for Destination Delaware advertising purposes. Randy Turner second. Motion carried.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

Kevin Simpson reported that sponsorship packages are ready to be mailed out.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Jon Melvin mentioned that they discussed using the llama barn to house the camels and also the quarantine barn for fair. They talked about new paving or asphalt for the Jug and Juliette barns. They also talked about the track tractor that lost the 4WD and possibly trading in our mowers for new mowers. Mark asked if this was something the board would be interested in doing and he would be willing to negotiate a price on those things.

We have 53k left on the grant money that will go toward the tractor. Mark suggested going with a series 6 heavier duty tractor. He mentioned that Ag. Pro gives us 2 tractors and 3 gators to use during fair and that we should give them the opportunity to bid on these. We would possibly trade in a couple of our old tractor on the deal. Mike Harter said we would need to see some figures on all of this. Randy mentioned that we can probably take some of the interest that we have earned plus the grant money, but we also have to run a fair. Mark will get with Ag. Pro and get some pricing on the different options.

RACING COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright mentioned that Jim Beachy has been a positive push and they are meeting with the head of the Farm Bureau of Ohio for sponsorship. Tom has a meeting later tonight with Greg Coon to discuss how the track training went with our staff.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Colleen Smith reported that all 3 tents last year made money. Top of the Stretch made \$27.5k, Backstretch made \$17.5k and the Pavilion made \$16k. Top of the Stretch had Mike's roofing as a sponsor and will hopefully be coming back again this year. We might have a sponsor for the Backstretch. We are using the same caterer for the smaller tents again for 2025 which was City BBQ, and All Occasions was contracted for 2 years so they are good for 2025 as well.

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Minutes from the meeting were sent out. Pete Scott from Meyers attended the bed tax meeting. We have signed the agreement with them but still need to sign the AIA agreement. They have begun working and discussed the riding arena and new horse barns in 4H area.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:

No report. Parade is Sept. 7, 2025 at 3pm

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

Mike Harter asked if we can put Jerry Ungashick's memorial stone somewhere outside of turn 3 of the race track, maybe outside the door of the 3rd turn para mutual. He will get with Jeff to get that taken care of.

Randy Turner mentioned that the electrical on the gas pumps will be \$4k and that Jen has the authority to approve that cost.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ben Lehner will be here tomorrow to take care of a water leak over by the first aid building.

Jennifer Brown moved to adjourn. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.