



# Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society

## Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 7:00 pm

*Meeting Booklet*



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# Guest Speaker

FarmWorks Investment Co-operative Ltd.

FarmWorks is a way for Nova Scotians to invest in Nova Scotians involved in farming and food production and processing.

FarmWorks provides loans to farms, food processors, and value-added food producers, helping to increase the viability of Nova Scotia agriculture and the security of a healthy, regional food supply.

The money loaned comes from a Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF) (run by FarmWorks) that annually enables Nova Scotians to purchase common shares. Those who invest (hence provide money to recipient farms) yield meaningful financial returns on their investments.

[www.farmworks.ca](http://www.farmworks.ca)



# Agenda

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Greetings from Sean Fraser, MP
3. Roll Call and Attendance
4. Approval of the Agenda
  - a. Additions to Other Business
5. Minutes of the Preceding (February 19, 2019) Annual General Meeting
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
7. President's Annual Report
8. Treasurer's Annual Report
9. Standing Committee Annual Reports
  - i. Building Committee
  - ii. Grounds Committee
  - iii. Halifax County Exhibition
  - iv. Exhibitions' Association of Nova Scotia
  - v. Rental Committee
  - vi. Business Plan Committee
  - vii. Promotions Committee
  - viii. New 4H Building Committee
  - ix. Funding Committee
10. Other Business
11. Resolution to Amend By-Laws
12. Nominating Committee Report
13. Appointment of Nominating Committee
14. Motions
  - i. Approve/endorse new directors
  - ii. Host the Halifax County Exhibition - August 19-22, 2020
15. Adjournment

# Board of Directors & Volunteers

Murray Holman, President

Geoff Larkin, Vice President

Janette McDonald, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Gerry Walker, Past President

Joe Fisher, Treasurer

Jay Woodworth, Secretary

Sheila Fisher, Director

Russell Fulton, Director

Tom Parker, Director

Bob Ruggles, Director

Demmick Streach, Director

Anne Warburton, Director

John Fox, Director

Gwyn Bellefontaine, Director

Hannah Stokdijk, 4H Member Representative

Kim Higgins, Exhibition Management

Juli Oxford, Exhibition Management

Spencer Henry, Volunteer Member - Building Committee

Michelle Flemming, Volunteer Member - New 4H Building Committee

Greg Parker, Volunteer Member - New 4H Building Committee

# 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2019

## **ATTENDANCE:**

**Attendees:** Murray Holman, Jay Woodworth, Tom Parker, Verna Higgins, Anne Warburton, Barb Larkin, Geoff Larkin, Gerry Walker, Bob Ruggles, Juli Oxford, Russell Fulton, Melissa Fulton, Elizabeth Illingworth, John Fox, Jeff Higgins, Maddy Smith, Emily Cameron, Abigail Sawyer, John Keenan, and Janette McDonald.

**Regrets:** Demmick Streach, Joe Fisher, Kim Higgins

The meeting was called to order at 7:47 pm following a presentation by Margaret Congdon, Truro Farmer's Market Manager.

## **AGENDA**

Bob Ruggles moved to approve the agenda; Gerry Walker seconded. **Motion carried.**

## **MINUTES:**

The minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting (February 20, 2018) were circulated with the Agenda and were summarized by Jay Woodworth. Sheila Fisher moved to accept the minutes as presented, Gerry Walker seconded. **Motion Carried.**

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

None.

## **ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Murray Holman, MMAS President thanked all attendees and the board of directors for their support in 2018. He alluded to the progress on the business plan and the direction that the board intends to take in the future.

## **ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Jay Woodworth presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Joe Fisher. The report was included with the agenda booklet and outlined finances for the past three years (2016-2018). The report also proposed a 2019 budget. Current cash assets (as of 2018-12-31) were \$799,301.62 which included the land and building value as well as cash deposits of \$97,801.62. Current liabilities for the same period were \$476.32. Jay Woodworth moved the acceptance of the treasurer's report, Abigail Sawyer seconded. **Motion carried.**

## **ANNUAL REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

### **Buildings Committee**

Tom Parker highlighted the efforts of the building committee in 2018. Maintenance and repairs in 2018 included the horse barn, chicken barn, large show ring, small ring, the office, the bingo hall, and gravelling.

### **Grounds Committee**

Jay Woodworth, on behalf of Demmick Streach, summarized the grounds report which highlighted bush hogging, LED light installation, grading, and fencing as main accomplishments in 2018.

### **Halifax County Exhibition**

Juli Oxford summarized the Exhibition report. The 2018 HCE was very successful under the theme "BEE at the EX!". New entertainment included the Indigo Circus. CBC film company accessed the midway for a television series filming. Attendance was up to 11,222 attendees (895 in 2017).

### **Rental Committee**

Janette McDonald discussed the new rental application process and explained the subsidy opportunity to the public. Rental forms were available at the meeting.

### **New 4H Building Committee**

Janette McDonald described the work of the New 4H Building committee and their efforts in establishing an agreeable plan for construction.

### **Business Plan Committee**

Geoff Larkin introduced the concept of the Business Plan to the public and explained the need to have a clear direction for board members, as well as community members.

### **Promotion Committee**

Jay Woodworth commented on the development of the promotion committee, a newly established committee designed to promote the MMAS.

### **Exhibitions Association of Nova Scotia**

Tom Parker reported on the EANS AGM. He also reported that \$1,700 was allocated to each exhibition from leftover government funds and \$2,500 was awarded to each exhibition to develop their own Agricultural Awareness materials, which was underway.

Janette McDonald moved the acceptance of the committee reports, Geoff Larkin seconded.

### **Motion Carried.**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

None.

**BOARD NOMINATIONS:****RETURNING**

***Demmick Streach:*** Anne Warburton moved Demmick Streach's continuation on the Board of Directors, Tom Parker seconded. **Motion Carried.**

***Geoff Larkin:*** Anne Warburton moved Geoff Larkin's continuation on the Board of Directors, Tom Parker seconded. **Motion Carried.**

***Gerry Walker:*** Anne Warburton moved Gerry Walker's continuation on the Board of Directors, Tom Parker seconded. **Motion Carried.**

**NEW DIRECTORS**

***John Fox:*** Sheila Fisher moved Jon Fox's nomination to the Board of Directors, Geoff Lakin seconded. **Motion Carried.**

***Gwyn Bellefontaine:*** Bob Ruggles moved Gwyn Bellefontaine's nomination to the Board of Directors, John Fox seconded. **Motion Carried.**

**4H REPRESENTATIVES**

The board called for nominations from the floor for 4H representatives. No nominations were put forward.

Bob Ruggles moved to cease nominations; Melissa Fulton seconded. **Motion Carried.**

**MOTIONS:**

John Fox made a motion to hold a Halifax County Exhibition in 2019, Bob Ruggles seconded. **Motion Carried.** The HCE will be held August 14-17, 2019.

**AJOURNMENT:**

Gerry Walker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. **Motion Carried.**



# President's Report

2019 was a busy and rewarding year for those who make up the MMAS, the board of directors, exhibition staff and community volunteers.

2019 saw a record attendance at the HCE which is a tribute to the staff of the HCE and I personally thank them for their dedication. They spend a lot of time getting cost effective entertainment and that is no small task.

The board of the MMAS continues to work at being more effective in its work by utilizing committees. A good business plan will certainly propel us into the future. We have a good blend of experienced directors and young up-and-comings with great ideas. There are plans underway to construct a new food building which will replace the booth used by The Lions and Elderbank church groups.

We currently have people looking for funding from HRM and federal, provincial monies. MMAS and HRM have a great relationship. They provide yearly funding and we thank them for that. The MMAS currently has a great reserve fund which will help with improvements to the grounds.

The current movement of "buy local" fits in very well here in the Musquodoboit valley and our HCE is in a great position to support local agriculture. We have directors who see an opportunity here and I believe they will run with this. This Exhibition can become more and will become more.

Thank you to everyone who is part of this exhibition, you are very successful.

I was at a meeting outside of Middle Musquodoboit lately which was attended by people from Ontario. There was a discussion about our national and regional dairy shows and fairs and one person made reference to "what is that show called in Musquodoboit?". I was proud. That is who we are.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Murray Holman**

President

Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society

# Treasurer's Report

*\*Balance Sheet is displayed on Page 11 for reference*

As my fourth year comes to a close, I have been convinced by several Board Members that MMAS needs me to continue for another year. I agreed. I have continued to create a variety of checks and balances that will be incorporated into the procedures for future years. I have also begun to write the list of responsibilities that are currently associated with the role of treasurer.

I am pleased to report the following highlights from 2019:

- 1) Banking fees continue to be \$2 a month. A big thank you to the RBC.
- 2) All financial records have been placed in separate file boxes (clearly labelled). They are located in the Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural and Education Center (upstairs office).
- 3) Another summary binder for the Halifax County Exhibition has been produced and is on file with the MMAS. This summarizes a vast majority of activity that takes place at the Exhibition.
- 4) A Balance Sheet has been produced using a template from the Joint Stock Companies. This template has been acceptable by the government for many years. Two Directors or their designates may sign the document.
- 5) The EANS report was submitted by me with the assistance of Juli and Kim. (\$10,000)
- 6) The final report for HRM was submitted by me with the assistance of Juli and Kim. (\$5,000)
- 7) Application has been made for at least one summer employee. There are some changes this year, notably that the employee does not have to be a student.
- 8) A summary sheet of financial activity from 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 has been produced for another year.
- 9) A new roof has been the major expense for 2019.

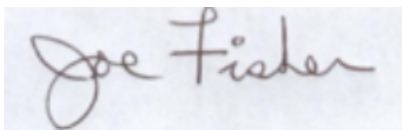
### Recommendations

- 1) The Board must actively seek a replacement for treasurer who can be trained in 2020.
- 2) The MMAS should consider a second employee for the summer whose task is to create a manual that outlines the operations of the MMAS including job descriptions, inventory, assets, standard operating procedures, terms of reference, policy documentation, etc.
- 3) There must be a concerted effort to reduce expenses and increase revenue. The protocol for spending must be stated clearly. One person should not have autonomy.
- 4) The new Board should reconsider the new vendor building. Financial savings could be had if the new building was incorporated into the 4H building.
- 5) A Grants Committee should be formed to apply for more than just the HRM grant and the grant for a summer student.

### Notes on the financial report:

Please look at the overall financial position of MMAS. This provides the actual situation of the Society (the bottom line). The Exhibition is only one aspect of the MMAS even though it receives 90% of the attention.
The stipend for Part-time Employees (Kim and Juli) was included in the expenses of the HCE. The grant money was provided to the MMAS for support of the infrastructure. It is not within the Exhibition income.
In 2017 and 2018, the float of \$30, 000 was included as income and an expense for Halifax County Exhibition. That is why the number is high.
MMAS has a credit with All Beauty Siding for \$2000.00
In 2020, the MMAS will erect a building for a couple of vendors. This will require financial assistance from MMAS. Grants have been applied for and we are waiting for a response. That is why a deficit exists.

Respectfully submitted by,



**Joe Fisher**

Treasurer

Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society

MMAS Finances 2016-2019		Budget 2020	INCOME	INCOME	INCOME	INCOME
			ACTUAL 2019	ACTUAL 2018	ACTUAL 2017	ACTUAL 2016
I N C O M E	Building Rentals	15,000.00	13,029.51	13,850.43	21,746.27	16,335.22
	Donations	50.00			67.00	
	Exhibition Income	140,000.00	129,318.62	159,504.44	166,685.73	111,356.26
	Grants	35,000.00	37,440.00	40,417.24	43,255.00	32,996.00
	HST-collected	7,000.00	8,079.77	7,807.32	6,636.93	7,691.74
	Membership	90.00	120.00	65.00	80.00	95.00
	Musquodoboit Valley Coop	0.00			0.00	7,500.00
	Rebate-HST	500.00	1,539.55	552.91	693.55	232.86
	Transfer from HCE Account					4,982.00
	Miscellaneous		226.32	439.33	400.00	
Total Income for MMAS		197,640.00	189,753.77	222,636.67	239,564.48	181,189.08

MMAS Finances 2016-2018		BUDGET 2020	Expense	Expense	Expense	Expense
			ACTUAL 2019	ACTUAL 2018	ACTUAL 2017	ACTUAL 2016
E X P E N S E S	Bank Charges	-200.00	-208.11	-516.46	-795.26	-891.80
	Contract Work					
	Membership-Café, EANS, AGM	-1,000.00	-550.00	-994.57	-897.57	-1,145.00
	Events Expense	-1,000.00	-1,753.36	-900.00	-925.00	
	Exhibition Expenses	-120,000.00	-117,138.24	-154,478.66	-163,746.46	-110,053.39
	Gifts & Donations	-80.00	-80.00	-160.00		-100.00
	HST - Paid 2015 (O-N-D)					-1,187.15
	HST - Paid 2016-17-18-19	-7,500.00	-9,883.68	-7,455.70	-7,747.71	-7,692.88
	Insurance	-8,000.00	-7,436.00	-8,501.70	-8,002.00	-8,163.21
	Legal and Accounting		-600.00	-1,962.50		
	Maintenance & Repair	-40,000.00	-32,232.73	-21,656.14	-20,441.38	-15,985.15
	Miscellaneous					
	Office Supplies	-5,000.00	-5,902.99	-5,381.14	-3,499.97	-1,628.10
	Refund		-100.00		-1,000.00	
	Revenue Canada	-1,000.00	-1,514.26	-605.33	-1,096.47	
	Staff	-24,000.00				-1,188.06
Storage Costs	-1,000.00	-1,000.00	-1,000.00	-1,000.00	-1,000.00	
Summer Student	-3,700.00	-3,753.07	-3,284.73	-3,597.62	-5,711.10	
Utilities	-6,000.00	-5,442.68	-5,869.42	-5,904.57	-4,525.85	
Total Expenses for MMAS		-218,480.00	-187,595.12	-212,766.35	-218,654.01	-159,271.69
Income/Expenses		-20,840.00	2,158.65	9,870.32	20,910.47	21,917.39

LEDGER	Cash Position - start of period	99,483.95	97,325.30	87,454.98	66,569.51	44,627.12
	Profit/Loss for period		2,158.65	9,870.32	20,910.47	21,917.39
	Totals		99,483.95	97,325.30	87,479.98	66,544.51
	Current Balance in bank		99,649.25	97,801.62	88,754.98	66,569.51
	Liabilities		165.30	476.32	1,300.00	25.00
	Receivables		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Final Position		99,483.95	97,325.30	87,454.98	66,544.51	

# Committee Reports

## Building Report

It has been another productive year of fixing, repairing, and renewing the Halifax County Exhibition Grounds. This year, the following projects were completed:

- New roof on the Flower Building
- Improvements to drainage around the camping area
- New posts and gate installed on the main ring at the 4H building end
- New posts and gate installed on the small ring
- The Fire Brigade Tower was removed
- Inside the Entertainment Stage was freshly painted
- The drain was cleaned at the wash station
- A new sink was installed in the washroom behind the horse barn
- Repairs to the vendor booth doors on the strip

All went well and everything is in good shape and working order for another year.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Tom Parker**

Chair, Building Committee

Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society

## Grounds Report

The 2019 year was fairly quiet for the exhibition grounds department. Regular maintenance and mowing of the common areas, bush hogging of the campgrounds, and parking lots ensures safety and keeps the grounds looking good.

An infrastructure project was completed by Murray Holman and John Fox in the campground area. The addition of tile drainage and gravel will solve the flooding and water drainage issues. Thanks to them for the use of their equipment.

Respectfully submitted by,

### **Demmick Streach**

Chair, Grounds Committee

Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society

## Exhibition Report (August 14-17, 2019)

The Halifax County Exhibition Management Committee completed another successful event, the 135<sup>th</sup> Halifax County Exhibition. This year's theme was "Country Fun for Everyone!". Fair Person of the Year was Ken Streach, a former Director of MMAS, past exhibitor and longtime supporter of the Halifax County Exhibition.

The weather was in cooperation with our event this year, giving us 4 warm sunny days. This helped with the attendance that was up over last year to 11,814. This number includes passes, volunteers and the paying public. Approximately 225 4-H members attended and competed in the exhibition.

Livestock exhibits included 4-H: 136 - Dairy Cattle, 41 - Beef Cattle, 57- Light Horse, 19- Draft Horse (7 Belgian, 4 Clydesdale, 8 Percheron), 2 - Mini Horse, 9 -Goats, 1 - Sheep, 10 - Cavy, 15 - Rabbits, 48 - Poultry/ Waterfowl, Ox Pull - 12 teams, Horse Pull - 22 teams

In Home & Garden, the number of exhibitors was about the same as last year with new exhibitors helping to maintain the interest. Prize money payout for Home and Garden classes was \$4,502.

The Ice Cream booth was offered to 4 community groups, to operate a day each to raise funds (\$300) for their groups. The community groups were MRHS Band Trip, Middleton United Church, Mount Traber Bible Camp and Faith Walk Church.

Security was coordinated by Richard Grey, utilizing Titan Security again this year. Ground Search and Rescue volunteered on front and back gates during the day with security replacing them at night. The 1<sup>st</sup> Gays River Scout Troup once again operated the ticket booth.

Taylor Newman was hired on as our summer student. Taylor caught on fast and learned to roll with the flow. She enjoyed herself and is hoping to return in 2020.

New vendors this year included Den's Fudge, Barnyard Grill, J.R. Watkins, Clean Foundation and Thoughtful Food Project.

For new entertainment, we brought in the West Coast Lumberjack Show from British Columbia, owned by Darren Dean former resident of the Musquodoboit Valley. They performed 3 shows over Friday and Saturday which were enjoyed by all ages. We were fortunate to have new sponsors of MC Power and Husqvarna to cover most of the cost of this event.

Additional advertising this year was with The City Voice (Chronicle Herald), which also did an article on the Exhibition and with Urban Parent, an online events promoter to urban families. We will look at expanding more with the advertising through our new contacts. Some areas to address in 2020 are new entertainment for main show ring Saturday night. Increase revenue

through gate admission, booth rentals and sponsorship. Plans for the 2020 Exhibition are well underway.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Juli Oxford & Kim Parker**

Management

Halifax County Exhibition



## Exhibitions' Association of Nova Scotia

The annual meeting for the Exhibitions Association of Nova Scotia was held in Halifax on January 31-February 1, 2020. Attending were Tom Parker, Halifax County Board Member, Dana Parker, Ex-officio Finance Committee, Kim Parker, Halifax County Exhibition Managerial Committee, Gwyn Bellefontaine, Sheila Fisher and Joe Fisher.

The first session was facilitated by Leslie Wright, a specialist in organizational governance and management in the public and non-profit sectors. Open discussions were held on seeking more partnerships with outside groups, tapping into municipal officers for training volunteers and the use of marketing skills. Discussions focused on common concerns for EANS to investigate such as insurance, accounting practices, sponsorships, etc. Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and the group listed major concerns for EANS to address in their strategic plan.

Brian Casey spoke on fairs keeping up with the changing times. Define your unique items to showcase and promote each one. Make your Exhibition special.

Stephen Coyle and Thomas McGuire spoke on the business plan that Hants County Exhibition will implement to do overall improvement of the grounds with new construction, roadside appeal and expansions totally 9 million dollars. Their mandate is to showcase the importance of the agricultural industry to Nova Scotians through the Hants County Exhibition.

Rhonda MacDougall shared her life experiences with 4-H and a hockey mom with 4 children and although you become intensely immersed in your family activities and volunteering, you are not indispensable. She stressed the importance of creating handbooks and manuals for all positions on the Agricultural Society and Exhibition. Succession planning needs to be considered to have future volunteers.

When reaching out to a new volunteer, you need to provide a job description of what you are asking them to do and ask them what they can bring to the table. Micro-volunteering is now an option for many. Ask them for small jobs in a field they may have talent in. In order to cause change, you need to consider the 4 R's - Recruit, Recognize, Reward, Retain. "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, just the heart".

Daniel Muir gave a Traceability Update. At the present time, there are no changes and we will continue to follow the same practices that we have been. Michael Kittilsen will now be our new contact person for traceability.

Janette MacDonald, Public Trust Coordinator, NSFA spoke on how Farmers, Agricultural Departments and Exhibitions need to ensure the public that food sources from seeds, vegetables, crops and meats are grown in a safe environment. Events such as Open Farm Day

and Meet Your Farmer will strive to satisfy the general public that their food is handled in a safe and humane way.

Every year our Exhibitions are evaluated by another NS Exhibition. Photos are taken and topics are rated to be sure that all Exhibitions are meeting the requirements and we are doing their best to educate and entertain the general public. The Halifax County Exhibition has met all expectations and surpassed many. Sarah Turner, Superintendent of Fairs and Exhibitions stated that all Fairs and Exhibitions are improving their infrastructure and meeting all the requirements. She is our advocate in dealing with the Department of Agriculture and the Minister of Agriculture.

Annual Meetings for EANS were held, a banquet and auction finished off a very valuable weekend for all that attended.

Respectfully submitted by,

### Sheila Fisher

Representative, Exhibitions' Association of Nova Scotia  
Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society

## Rental Report

The rental committee had four applications from various community groups for use of the exhibition grounds and facilities.

The rental committee reviews submitted applications and subsidy requests to approve the use of the grounds and facilities. The application is available on the MMAS website with a new online fillable form, part of an on-going effort to simplify the rental process.

To rent the facility and grounds, visit [WWW.MUSQUODOBOITAG.CA/RENTALS](http://WWW.MUSQUODOBOITAG.CA/RENTALS) to access the online fillable form, which is directed to the rental committee immediately upon selecting SUBMIT. Alternatively, a pdf version of the form is available for download and printing. The form can also be obtained from a committee member, and there is a copy attached to your AGM booklet.

Please remember that applications must be submitted directly to a committee member to ensure a prompt response. Applications are reviewed on the third Tuesday of every month (excluding December) and if applications are received before this date, then a response should be available by the end of that month.

Not-for-profit groups and community events are eligible to apply for a subsidy from the MMAS to help reduce rental costs and encourage community events. To obtain a subsidy, applicants must fill out the subsidy portion of the form. In most cases, significant subsidies are awarded.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Janette McDonald**

Chair, Rental Committee

Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society

## Business Plan Report

This past year the Business Plan Committee looked at the following areas of the MMAS and tried to plan ahead for the next 3-5 years.

- **Exhibition Structure-** The exhibition is managed by the MMAS through a committee and staff members. The workload of volunteers of staff is large and the cost to operate the exhibition continues to grow. To ensure the MMAS Board provides appropriate oversight but does not micro-manage the committee or staff it is recommended that the MMAS Board do a review of the exhibition every three years. This review would discuss revenues (tickets prices, sponsorship, etc.), expenses, promotion, staff contracts, volunteer agreements, vendors etc. It would also include succession planning for volunteers, committee and staff. It is not meant to discuss smaller details but to be a strategic planning or direction setting exercise. The first planning session should be completed in early 2020.
- **Exhibition Committee-** Should be made up of at least two MMAS Board members (one acting as Committee Chair), staff members (including summer student when hired) and community members at large. The Superintendents of the various Exhibition Programs would be invited to attend two meetings per year to evaluate and discuss the exhibition in the fall and to plan and prepare for the exhibition in the spring. Terms of Reference should be developed for the committee.
- **Exhibition Grounds map/flow-** The committee reviewed a few drawings of the grounds and recommends that the existing food vendor booth (Church/Lion's booth) be moved back beside the Beer Garden. The Entertainment stage would be moved to the left of the new vendor building. A dining area should be created in the Beer Garden with the Beer Garden opening at 6pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Closed on Wednesday. Pipe and drape could be installed to close off the beer counter and serving area. Cleaning of tables, garbage, etc could be contracted to the Beer Garden staff. The rental of the tent outside would not be needed and picnic tables could be placed outside, uncovered.
- **MMAS should explore the options of purchasing land owned by Higgins or Benvie that is adjacent to MMAS owned property for a campground.**
- **Thoughtful Food Project-** The TFP was interested in using space in the new food vendor building for Good Food Bags or other projects. The building design should be flexible for use for many groups and meet food safety certification requirements.

- Rally in the Valley- The committee felt that MMAS should have a presence and support Rally in the Valley. A Junior beef show, plowing match, and/ or youth competitions could be included.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Geoff Larkin**

Chair, Business Plan Committee

Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society

## Promotions Report

The Promotions Committee was newly established prior to the last Annual General Meeting. The year of 2019 saw the development of the Promotions Committee and the beginnings of a face for the Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society (MMAS) on a social scale.

The Committee started off strong by establishing a website dedicated entirely to the MMAS. The website can be found at [www.musquodoboitag.ca](http://www.musquodoboitag.ca) and it houses information on the structure of the board, directors and committees, opportunities for volunteering, a calendar of events, a link to the Halifax County Exhibition (HCE) website, online and downloadable rental application forms, contact information, and a generous gallery of history on the society and the HCE (compliments of Sheila Fisher's archives).

A social media presence was also established, and the Facebook page Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society has grown to 82 followers as of this February (2020). These efforts will go a long way to creating an understanding of the society's goals in the broader community.

Gwyn Bellefontaine, of the Committee decorated a float for the exhibition parade on behalf of the MMAS and won a prize. Committee members attended Meagher's Grant Day this year and visited the RBC bank in Middle Musquodoboit to promote the MMAS prior to this AGM.

A banner has been obtained for promotion of the MMAS and a new logo to be unveiled in 2020 is in the works. Anne Warburton, of the Committee was responsible for finding the speaker for this AGM and we hope to host additional speakers within the community.

Please connect with us:



[musquodoboitag@gmail.com](mailto:musquodoboitag@gmail.com)



[www.musquodoboitag.ca](http://www.musquodoboitag.ca)



[@MiddleMusquodoboitAgriculturalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/MiddleMusquodoboitAgriculturalSociety)

Respectfully submitted by,

**Jay Woodworth**

Chair, Promotions Committee  
Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society

## New 4H Building Report

MMAS has been working with Halifax East Hants 4H volunteers to extend the 4H barn and renovate the existing space. MMAS is supporting the renovation through space allocation and grounds preparation, as discussed in the Business Plan report.

We are informed that 4H will be starting their build this summer and we are looking forward to the improvements to the grounds.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Janette McDonald**

Chair, New 4H Building Committee  
Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society

## Funding Report

The Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society is constantly improving the infrastructure on the Exhibition Grounds. The 4-H have outgrown their present building and have planned an addition to their present building which will house the life skills displays. As a result, the present food vendor building that houses the Musquodoboit Valley Lions and the Lower Musquodoboit Pastoral Charge will soon be replaced with another structure.

The Board of Directors has approved the construction of a new building near the entertainment stage. The stage will be moved about 50 feet with more bleachers in front of the entertainment stage and picnic tables placed near the new food vendor building. This will keep the new building in the site line of the former location. The new vendor building will include improved electrical, larger preparation space and increased storage for the groups at the Exhibition. The new vendor building will include a certified kitchen which will enable groups to prepare food for not only for the Exhibition but future events such as suppers, dances or rentals.

At present, an application has been submitted to the federal authorities and the municipal funding agency. Other grant applications are being considered for financial support.

By partnering with the 4-H, we hope to have potential Agricultural Society and Exhibition members - keeping the Exhibition on a path to the future.

Respectfully submitted by,

### Sheila Fisher

Chair, Funding Committee

Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society



# Thank you for joining us this year.

Interested in contributing to your local agricultural society by becoming a

## community volunteer

on one of our committees?

Visit our webpage at

**[WWW.MUSQUODOBOITAG.CA](http://WWW.MUSQUODOBOITAG.CA)**

or contact our Secretary at

**[musquodoboitag@gmail.com](mailto:musquodoboitag@gmail.com)**

**1-902-890-9021**