



Shelter Valley Folk Festival Annual General Meeting Minutes

3:30 PM Saturday February 4, 2017

Alnwick/Haldimand Township Municipal Hall Grafton, County Rd. #2

1. Call to order Chair Candace Shaw.
2. Virtues project – Deborah Hackett – Today’s virtue SERVICE definition and application, ending in a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.
3. Candace welcomed members and guests she asked if everyone had registered and if all voting members had received their voting card. She confirmed that the notice of meeting and proxy forms had been distributed to members and confirmed quorum.
4. Candace appointed board member Deborah Hackett as time keeper.
5. **MOTION: to receive the Agenda, Frank Iacobucci, seconded by Brent Potts, carried.**

MOTION: to receive the SVFF AGM 2016 minutes, Frank Iacobucci, seconded David Sheffield, carried.

Artistic Director Report- Lesley Marie Boileau

Chair Report- Candace Shaw

MOTION: to receive the Artistic Director’s and Chair’s reports, Roy Williams, seconded Marta Cooper Burt, carried.

6. Treasurer Report:
Jamila Sheffield gave an overview of the SVFF Financial Statements and provided an opportunity for questions and discussion, further discussion was encouraged to take place at the potluck.

MOTION: the members of Shelter Valley Folk Festival have reviewed the 2016 Year End Financial Statements and associated reporting from Welch LLP and move to accept, Marta Cooper Burt, seconded Elizabeth Scriven, carried.

MOTION: the members of Shelter Valley Folk Festival approve Welch LLP as SVFF’s external financial advisors for the year ending November 30, 2017, Elizabeth Scriven, seconded Frank Iacobucci, carried.

7. Nominations Committee Report: Beth Sheffield
There were 6 open positions and 7 candidates, after the election we are pleased to announce new board members Amy Burnham, Brent Potts, Doug Alcock, Frank Iacobucci, Lona Beck and Ray Flood.

MOTION: to receive the Nominations Committee Report and move to accept the election of the six new board members, Beth Sheffield, seconded by Greg Potts, carried.

8. Other business – Candace Shaw read a statement prepared by the board on SVFF going forward

MOTION: membership will meet again for a special general meeting before the end of June 2017 to discuss the 2018 festival, Brent Potts, seconded by Rahda Reinhart, carried

MOTION: In the spirit of SVFF I make the motion that 2017 be the last festival at the Henkel Farm and we do this harmoniously with the Henkel Family, David Sheffield, seconded by Marta Cooper Burt, carried.

DRAFT

Letter from the Board of Directors, February 4, 2017.

The Shelter Valley Folk Festival board has appreciated the feedback of the community regarding the future of Shelter Valley Folk Festival. Starting on September 18th, 2016 at the open debrief after the Festival, many of you expressed concerns about the challenges ahead for the festival and our ability to tackle them, given our financial and volunteer capacities.

Festival stakeholders came to subsequent meetings that were held at the Cobourg Library in mid-December and mid-January. We laughed together, cried together, and we began to realize that we are closing a chapter in the life of the Festival that we love.

We heard from core volunteers that they can no longer give the hours that they have donated in the past, due to the physical challenges required by our site. We heard from others that the work of the festival is taking people away from their families and taking a toll on the lives of volunteers. The Festival Board members are united in believing that this lack of sustainability goes against our values, and must not continue.

Today's AGM is a time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the year ahead. The Board is committed to having one last Labour Day Festival at the Henkel Farm, September 1-3, 2017, as a wonderful celebration of music, art, food and all things community, at a wonderful farm, hosted by a wonderful family.

This year's budget will need to look very different, as well. We will be inviting every member of this community to find ways to support this year's financial goals in order to host a successful festival. This will require much more of us in some ways, but we believe, will result in a memorable festival that will rival our very best years.

The Board also recommends that decisions regarding the future of the Shelter Valley Folk Festival organization should be postponed until after this final Festival. At that time, the board and members may choose to legally dissolve the organization or consider another outcome.

We all love this Festival because it has often brought out the best in each of us, and we think that can happen one more time. And then, as Roy Williams said at our last meeting, "we can walk away loving each other." With the kindness and perseverance that are necessary, we will overcome the challenges ahead of us, this year, and feel pride in doing this well.

As a community, let's commit to working together over the next seven months to being open and honest with each other, to being creative about how to support this last Festival, and to writing the best possible chapter to the story of Shelter Valley Folk Festival.