

OPTA Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday December 1, 2020

Attendance: Bert Blackburn, Emily Brown, Lori Cantelo, BJ Jackman, Bill Drikos, Peter Tsementzis, Richard Bootsveld, Verne Higgs, and Pam Muma

Absent: Ron Rowe

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm EDT by Bert Blackburn via Zoom conference call.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Lori made a motion to accepted November 9, 2020 minutes, seconded by BJ. All in favor, minutes accepted.

2. Business arising from minutes

1. Website/Facebook/Twitter – Emily stated all are up and running with nothing to report this month.
2. Ontario Council of Shooters – Emily stated there has been no meeting and nothing to report this month.
3. New Shooter/OPTA promotions – Emily stated there was nothing to report this month.
4. New Shooter Clinic – There have been several emails over the past month regarding this subject bringing forward some needs such as how to build a shooter's confidence, possibly bring a high-level shooter from the US for clinics, making sure people have fun and enjoy the comradery, etc.
Lori stated that Ontario has awesome high-level shooters of our own, so she did not see the need to bring in a shooter from the US for clinics, we must to look at our All-Star Teams. Pete stated that his intent was to help new registered shooters get around the grounds, how to sign up, learn proper etiquette on the line etc. He stated that he is not a qualified coach but would be willing to help and would love to be a part of helping new shooters into our game. He also said there are many great shooters in Ontario that would probably be willing to work with new shooters at clinics throughout Ontario.
Lori brought forward that the Lottery Fund we have can also be used to pay to have people become qualified coaches, should we be looking at using some of the funds for this? Emily explained that in the past, perhaps two or so years ago, a shotgun coach clinic by the Shooting Federation of Canada and Susan Nattrass was held in London which Todd Millard attended.

Bill felt that if we needed certified coaches to help obtain government grants that is fine. For this particular clinic he feels that having our shooters would be better qualified to teach new shooters. Bill also felt that providing money is not the answer, it is providing confidence that will keep shooters coming back.

A concern from the Board is how some new shooters are getting conflicting advice from different shooters and then trying to sort out what is right and wrong for them. Lori suggested we need to have consistency from the Board whether it is through formal clinics, professional or otherwise, we just need to be consistent.

Pete suggested that perhaps we could host an All-Star day where new or old shooters can come out and get pointers from our All-Star shooters in all disciplines. As well as line etiquette, gun fit etc.

Emily brought up the barriers to success which are 1. Funding, 2. Volunteer support- always the same people out to help, 3. Club Support- such as having a club waive the non-member rates, opening an additional trap to let a new shooter try without the stress of 4 other seasoned shooters on the line, 4. Club Membership capacity- which clubs are taking on new memberships so these new shooters have somewhere to go out each week to practice 5. Time- our season is short and with the competitive shooting it is difficult to get clinics in place, 6. Equity/Inclusion/Diversity-where do we have the ability to include this group.

After lengthy discussion, all agreed that an All-Star clinic would be a great way to encourage people to strive for excellence and build confidence. Verne stated the All-Star clinics are a great start and we should proceed with this project. We now need to set things up for when we can get back shooting.

Lori asked if we could make a requirement that any club that pays the OPTA affiliate fees needs to host at least one registered shoot per year. During discussion it was acknowledged that for the most part the reason these clubs do not host registered shoots is going back to some of Emily's barriers including, volunteers and club support.

5. Promoting High Level Trapshooting in Ontario – This agenda item was including in the above discussion.
 6. Ontario Registered Shoot Dates – Pam has reached out to the clubs that have not submitted dates but has not heard back from any of them yet. She will reach out to them again.
 7. Online Membership Payment – Pam stated she has not done anything on this yet, was waiting to have all the signing authority completed. Technically she cannot conduct any banking business until signing is complete.
3. Monthly finances
1. YTD Financial Results – Financial reports as submitted by Pam were briefly reviewed. Again, not much happening over this past month. No questions from the Board.

4. New business

1. OPTA Logo on Quinte Trophies – Peter Tarnowski reached out to Emily to find out if the OPTA would authorize the logo on Quinte trophies. The question Bert asked is if Peter was asking this with the intent of receiving sponsorship funds from the OPTA. Emily will contact Peter and clarify. All felt that if they were not requesting sponsorship then using the logo would be fine.
2. Sponsorship Money – Bert asked if we were going to formally cancel the sponsorship money and put it into the New Shoot Clinics. Pete felt we would not spend \$6,000 on clinics. Lori suggested perhaps getting OPTA towels that can be given to the shooters at the clinics. Bill asked if taking the sponsorship money away would this hurt the OPTA? Bert felt it would not.
Bert stated that our strategic plan was to increase revenue and decrease expenditures and one options was to decrease sponsorship money so this would fit right into our plan.
Canadian University Shooting Federation has had over \$100,000 donated to them even with Covid. Emily felt we need to reach out to them and possibly provide time and clubs.
3. Hall of Fame Building - Pete asked about the Hall of Fame building item at the bottom of every agenda. Bill explained what the Board had done in the past regarding to this item. Bill stated that Hamilton Gun Club had offered a building to the OPTA but once it was looked at it was decided against as it would not be worth repairing. Bill asked if the Board still wanted to proceed with a building at Hamilton then someone should talk to Hamilton to see if this offer is still available or if land was available. Some Board members were concerned about putting money into a Hall of Fame building when we did not own the land it would be built on. Pete, Lori and Bill will talk with Hamilton to see what options were available to the OPTA. Verne stated that he would like to see a home grounds for the OPTA and had a few ideas in mind. Verne asked BJ and Emily if they would be willing to help with this project, both agreed.
After much discussion of various options, Bert asked Pete and Verne to do more research of both ideas and bring them back to the next meeting for further discussion.

5. Next meeting – Tuesday January 5th at 7:30 via Zoom.

6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm EDT.