

OPTA Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2020

Attendance: Bert Blackburn, Lori Cantelo, Emily Brown, Dominic Gitto, BJ Jackman, Ron Rowe, Richard Bootsveld, Bill Drikos and Jamie LeBlanc

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm EDT by Bert Blackburn via conference call.

1. Approval of meeting minutes

Dominic made a motion to accept the April 13th board of directors meeting minutes which was seconded by Bill. All in favour, minutes accepted.

2. COVID-19 Impacts to OPTA business

1. Provincial Championship – Bert opened the discussion by asking the board to consider what our drop dead date is for a decision on the currently scheduled Provincial Championship as well as the possibility of holding the event later (possibly the Labour Day weekend) and what would be the decision date in that case. A third option was introduced of having a “satellite” style Championship where several clubs would host competition simultaneously with results fed to a central entity/committee for tally and awarding of trophies. A number of considerations were discussed including: a delayed event could mean the targets belong to the 2021 target year, the annual meeting needs to occur at some point, can St Thomas accommodate a later date or will town bylaws or other considerations hamper their ability to host, will people come given the risks involved or can we reduce the risks to a level that makes most shooters comfortable, how complicated/difficult will travel and accommodations be for shooters coming from further away, will St Thomas be able to get the help they need, will they be able to manage physical distancing restrictions with such a large attendance, what if the Province allows gatherings but at levels like 50 or fewer for example, could more days or less targets per day allow a modified event to be successful, we have a signed agreement with St Thomas to host the event and it is the host according to our bylaws.

In the end the board felt that we should pursue all reasonable options to hold the event in some reasonable format. All agreed that waiting for further developments and discussion at our next meeting was the right course of action for now and that a decision on the original event dates could be delayed until our next meeting. Jamie committed to contact Bob at St Thomas to discuss options including: delay (possibly Labour Day event), limits in terms of days for a delayed event, appetite for a smaller/shorter event, etc. Trophies options were discussed and a motion was put

forward by Dominic and seconded by BJ to proceed to order trophies that would be recyclable/flexible enough for either cancellation or delay. All agreed and the motion was accepted. Other awards were discussed. Richard brought up his desire to nominate Jim Lee for the Mike Fulop award. This was a second nomination as Peter Tarnowski had been nominated earlier in the year. It was agreed that the two nominations would be considered at the next meeting.

2. AGM – Jamie presented the finding of his research summarized in the report to the board. Based on this the board has flexibility in when and how to hold the AGM. It can be held as late as October 28, 2020 under normal circumstances and perhaps later depending on when the Provincial state of emergency is lifted. It is possible to hold the meeting by phone or online so long as sufficient members participate. This will need to be considered as part of the decision on if, when and how to hold the Provincial Championships.
 3. Other – Dominic shared that Hamilton is looking at opening as early as May 19th and have developed guidelines for re-opening. The date may change depending on decisions by the Province. Bert shared that he was on a call with the Ministry recently where the risk of being accused of negligence if someone gets sick was discussed. Emily shared information from a similar call which indicated that insurance will not cover a virus and that waivers cannot eliminate risk in the case of minors (adults only). The board discussed whether there was a way for clubs to share their re-opening plans and procedures to allow the club community to benefit from each other's efforts. Jamie briefly discussed the lost revenue analysis that he has begun to update to provide insight to the board. Based on last year's activity about \$3500 in shoot and membership revenues have been lost to date.
3. Business arising from minutes
1. Website/Facebook/Twitter – Emily shared the buy and sell on the website has been relatively quiet lately. Information about the announced Federal Government gun ban has been added to the website main page. The number of Facebook members has grown by 33 to 941 to date.
 2. Ontario Council of Shooters – A board meeting and/or AGM is expected in the next while (as early as next week).
 3. New Shooter/OPTA promotions – Emily let the board know that she is on a program advisor subcommittee for University shooting federation discussion shotgun sports and working on a new program.
 4. 2020 Provincial Championship
 - a. Review planning log – Log items were reviewed, and log will be updated for decisions made. See current board report.

b. Other - nothing

4. Monthly finances

1. YTD Financial Results – Nothing unusual was noted. Bank balances are sufficient to support ongoing activities and plans for the Provincials. The OPTA also has significant reserves in investments. One GIC will soon mature (June 15th) and some of this amount may need to be left in the bank to support ongoing needs if revenues continue to be lost. Jamie to recommend actions needed to board at the next meeting.

5. New business – Certain members have suggested that the OPTA should consider a financial contribution to efforts related to defending the firearm owner community from the announced Federal gun ban. The board considered this weighing its general support for the activities being undertaken against what providing financial support might risk. The OPTA receives significant funding from the Province through the OCS. The OPTA is a not-for-profit and may be limited in how it can support political causes as a result of regulations for NPOs. Given the risks, the board felt that it should limit its support to other methods. It was agreed that the board can support by encouraging its members to consider supporting the cause individually. It was decided that a letter should be published from the President to that end. All were in agreement with this action.

6. Next meeting - Monday June 8th 7:30 pm EDT via conference call.

7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm EDT.