

Wellesley Apple Butter & Cheese Festival

Minutes

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.

Bill Gies Recreation Complex
1401 Queen's Bush Rd
Community Meeting Room 201

Voting Members Present: Jamie Reid, Ronald Bisch, Theresa Bisch, Derek Brick, Mike Moser, Cathy Koch, Katie Reid, George Poole

Voting Members Absent: Alecia Henderson, Dave Zyta

Auxiliary Members Present: Maryanne Perry, Robert Reid, Tim Leis, Cassandra Smyth, Carrie Siewert, Larry Kryski, Kelly Deneka

Staff:

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1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.
 2. **Disclosures of Pecuniary interest:** None
 3. **Adoption of Minutes: Motion** to adopt the minutes of the March 11, 2025 meeting as printed: Cathy Koch. Seconded by Mike Moser. Carried
 4. **Presentations/Delegations/Communications:** None
 5. **Unfinished Business:**

O/S: Transition to new Rec Complex for 2026. The ABC Festival requires site plans and George Poole is waiting for electrical drawings before moving ahead with plans for running electricity. Michelle Lamontagne, from the Township recreation department has offered to assist with obtaining these for the Festival. More discussion on this at a future meeting.

The Lions Club Requested that ABC Fund four Lions Members to become Food Handlers at a cost of \$100 each. Derek Brick reported that Public Health recommends one person per booth be certified.

Motion #12/2025: That the Apple Butter and Cheese Festival fund the cost of Food Handling Training for two (2) Lions Club Members. Motion By: Derek Brick, Seconded by Ron Bisch. Carried.

The Festival will also pay for 2 members of the Festival committee to be trained as food handlers.

O/S: The location of the Hard Cider Tasting and the band was discussed. Beth Baechler and Mel Looser have offered to be the booth co-ordinators for this portion of the Festival. The format may change as will the location. It was discussed to have this in the pavilion. Jamie Reid will ensure the Festival has the use of the pavilion on festival day. A discussion ensued as to moving vendors closer to the licenced area as well as the antique tractors and cars. It was also discussed if this should be a tasting event or change how alcohol is served. More discussion at the next meeting.

O/S: Potential dance after the 2025 Festival. Bob Reid asked the Wellesley Fair board if they are interested in running this dance but is awaiting a response.

O/S: Transition to new storage building. Ron Bisch has asked Witzel Dyce Engineering what is needed to build a mezzanine in the building. Danny Roth said that the Township is planning on installing shelving in the building, but Derek Brick will discuss this with the Township.

O/S: The 2 Gateway signs for the entrances to the village were approved by Council. Michael Fritz has received 2 quotes for the signs and will bring updated drawings to the next meeting. **Note: the drawings were distributed electronically after the meeting and a design was chosen by an email poll. Michael Fritz to report on project progress at the next meeting.*

O/S: 4-H Petting Zoo. Tim Leis reported that he has spoken with the group and they need to discuss insurance. Their board will meet in 2 weeks, so more information should be available at the Festival's next meeting.

6. New Business:

Round Table Reports:

Derek Brick reported that the picnic tables are getting worn and the Festival should start replacing several tables per year. It was suggested that 15 to 20 be replaced this year.

Derek Brick and Bob Reid will get pricing on replacement tables.

Derek Brick also suggested a potential project for the Festival funds. A picnic shelter by the playground at the Bill Gies Recreation Complex. No decisions will be made until all current financial commitments have been funded.

Mike Moser is hoping to start selling at the Snack Shack earlier in the day. He asked for suggestions for new products to sell.

Tim Leis reported that the antique tractor feature for 2025 will be Cockshutt/Oliver.

Bob Reid asked about replacing the black netting in the arena with white netting. Jamie Reid will obtain pricing.

Katie Reid asked for a review of the hydro requirements for the market vendors. She also reported that there have been lots of vendor applications coming in.

Carrie Siewert asked if the tractor route had been discussed in order to have parking at the Bill Gies Recreation Centre. Don Roth plans the routes, but it shouldn't require additional equipment.

Larry Kryski is working on selecting which photos to use for the feature wall in the arena. Maryanne Perry will work with him on this project.

Ron Bisch asked if anyone had arranged for a second information booth for this year. Rob Reid will look into this.

Ron Bisch also reported that he met with the decorating committee for the arena. The Township has a budget of \$40,000 for display cases, but the Festival won't require any, since our wall will be a mural.

7. **Financial Report:** Theresa Bisch reported the Township reserve currently has a balance of \$102,477.28. Interest for January, February and March 2025 has not been applied to the account yet. Outstanding financial commitments are currently \$4,000 for the Disc Golf Course, \$500 for the Fall Fair and the cost of the Gateway signs.
8. **Next Meeting:** May 13th, 2025 – 7:30 p.m. at the Bill Gies Recreation complex.
9. **Adjournment:** 8:47 p.m. on a motion from Katie Reid. Seconded by Ron Bisch.

Notes after the meeting: Home Hardware no longer sells garden sheds. They will price picnic tables, but they come as kits and someone will need to assemble them. There are some leads on people who build garden sheds who may also do picnic tables. Bob Reid has obtained pricing from one source but is still waiting for Home Hardware's price.

The band, Turning Corners is not available on Festival day, so alternatives will be investigated. More information to be provided on these items at our next meeting.