



Lucketts Ruritan

Board of Directors: Peter Gustafson, *Past President*; Jim McKenzie, *President*; Doug Kemp, *Vice President*; Elizabeth Penaranda, *Secretary*; Craig Bond, *Treasurer*; Steve Hillebrand, Matt Quitter, Fred Nassauer: *Three-year Directors*

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Attending: Adams, Baker, Bond, Cleland, Fabboli, Falk, Fisher, Hart, Hattaway Hillebrand, Kemp, McKenzie, Meyerhofer, Moffett, Nassauer, Penaranda, Quitter, Runde, Scheibhofer, Small, Sorrell, Wiseman, J. Hobbie (LR)

Guests: Eric DeKenipp, candidate for School Board, and Laurie Mills, Project Manager, Hopps Farm

Pres. McKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and welcomed our guests, Eric DeKenipp, candidate for School Board, and Laurie Mills, Project manager, Hopps Farm, our evening speaker. Eric DeKenipp briefly introduced himself and thanked the club for the opportunity to appear. Eric, an ex Marine, acknowledged the assistance given to him by community groups when he was growing up, and he now wishes to give back by focusing on youth programs and the school system.

P. Baker said the invocation before the meal and we thanked the ladies of Furnace Mountain Church for preparing it.

Program

Laurie Mills, Project Manager, Hopps Farm, spent 11 years as a paralegal and then worked for a professional fund raising company. Her boss had renovated a car dealership in Frederick, MD and wanted to put in a distillery; however, when the city of Frederick wanted a time consuming traffic study, he left Frederick with two employees and bought a 53 acre farm on Rt. 15, originally built as a horse farm with a barn, an arena and pasture fencing; however, the farm had failed and the property was neglected. The new owner has found Virginia and Loudoun County very welcoming to new business and are making progress building the gin distillery. They soon decided to grow hops on the property, brought two hops experts in from Cumberland, MD and now have five acres planted in hops. They have worked closely with Kelly Boles of the Loudoun County Dept. of Economic Development and with Doug Fabboli who also grows hops and has provided valuable advice and

Next Meeting

October 13th, 2015 • 7:30 P.M.
Lucketts Community Center

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Program: Discussion of Candidates Forum on October 28th and the fall coat drive in partnership with LES.

assistance. Realizing that they needed a place to process the hops, they applied for, and received a Governor's grant for a hops processing facility. To date they have processed their first seven crops. Hops do well in our area, have deep tap roots, and are not attractive to deer. Since hops grow on poles, the crop does require flat land. Laurie shared that the startup costs for hops are \$12K/acre, while the costs for grapes are 5K/acre; however, hops are more lucrative because there is currently a hops shortage here. Also, hops can be packed and frozen for sale all year.

Laurie explained that there are wet and dried hops, and she passed around samples for our club members to see. When the hops bud is opened, the yellow part makes the beer flavor; the addition of barley and malt is like the stock for beer. They also plan to have five acres of barley. Laurie noted that when the hops are cut, processing occurs within one hour and 15 minutes. Wet hops have to be used immediately. Dry hops have to be separated, dried, and stored. Their two employees (Solomon and Dylan) will be available to help and advise other hops farmers in the area. There are different kinds of hops, but Hopps Farm is growing European hops, specifically, Cascade, for now. The goal of the owners of Hopps Farm is to encourage agribusiness in Loudoun, not housing developments, but such businesses must be sustainable; thus, their specific goal is to make hops as successful here as grapes have become.

In July of last year, a Limited Farm Brewery Act was passed. This paved the way for Hopps Farm to make progress in building their infrastructure. With an investment of \$4M, they have turned the riding ring into a brewery and installed restrooms in the old horse stalls. They are currently putting

in a large septic system and 1200 gal/day drain field, three new wells, and a barrel house, all of which they expect to be completed by late fall 2015. Their original business partner, Fine Dog Brewery, pulled out, so Hopps Farm hired a brewmaster, bought equipment from Poland (a 7-10 barrel system and fermenters) which had to be cut apart put back together, and started building. So far, they have put in a 66 ft. bar, an outside patio, an area for games such as bocce and corn hole, and are negotiating with food vendors for a permanent BBQ stand and other food options. They also plan to have local entertainment inside. Their aim is to create an “experience” for visitors.

Laurie showed a master plan map for the farm, showing how and where they will incorporate local small businesses, such as produce and honey, into the venue. Loudoun County has helped to smooth the way, and Hopps Farm expects to contribute significant tax revenue to the state and county and create 50 local jobs. From their success so far, they want to give back to the community by sharing their knowledge about Health Dept. requirements and issues related to the limestone overlay district, large septic systems, and traffic on Rt. 15, and by helping other breweries become established.

Laurie concluded by noting that the brewery will have Lucketts in its name, but they haven’t settled on a final name yet.

Pres. McKenzie introduced Naomi Hattaway, newest Lucketts Ruritan Club applicant; with her husband, Todd, who is a pilot, the Hattaways will be the first to take advantage of our new family membership category. The members present unanimously voted Naomi and Todd in as new members. The Hattaways have three children and are new to Loudoun County; they live next to Doug Fabboli; Naomi is the PTA President at Lucketts Elementary and is active in the community.

July Minutes were reviewed and approved with one minor correction.

Treasurer’s Report: C. Bond presented the Treasurer’s report. Receipts were \$8,404.22; disbursements were \$17,366.13, reflecting totals for scholarship distribution, compactor service and LCC facility use fee. Total investments were \$168,565.33. The Membership Dues Report reflected a total amount of \$497 currently owed,

down from the previous month. Treasurer’s Report was approved.

New Business:

Lucketts Lifetime Ruritan Award: Pres. McKenzie reported that we have finalized and formalized a Lifetime Ruritan Award that we can present to longtime members, as appropriate.

Christmas Party: Our annual holiday party will be held at Skills, USA on Saturday, Dec. 5th. Kay Quitter is managing the caterer; Peter Hart will manage drinks.

Support for LES: F. Nassauer is our POC with the LES PTA. He reported that Principal Clement has notified the club that the school needs more school supplies, primarily for needy students. Discussion focused on whether we should give our annual donations of \$1K each to the PTA and LES in December, as we have done previously, or now, when the need has been identified at the start of the school year. S. Sorrell stated that we should be responsive to current needs; a motion was made and passed to fund the school now, with more given in December if needed. We also decided that, in future, we should make this donation earlier, in August, before school starts. Naomi Hattaway, as PTA president, reported that our donation to the PTA from our parking effort at the Antiques Fair will be used for an addition to the playground equipment. Naomi also noted that 12 gallons of mint chocolate chip hand churned ice cream left over from the Lucketts Fair is being sold at the Faith Like a Mustard Seed Farm store.

Regarding the need for coats and shoes for needy LES kids, Naomi will help in identifying the number of children (and adults) who need coats. To meet the adult needs, we will put a donation box at trash on Saturdays.

Meet and Greet Candidates: The meeting to meet the candidates for Board of Supervisors and School Board will be held Oct. 28th at LCC. P. Gustafson has made a poster, but since he is out of town for a while, P. Baker will take over coordination of this event.

Old Business:

Finance Committee: Pres. McKenzie announced the BOD decision to move to Quickbooks from Exel as the tool for financial management.

Parking: S. Hillebrand and I. Moffett reported that we earned \$4K from parking the Lucketts Fair;

\$1250 goes the Lovettsville/Waterford Club for their assistance, leaving our club a net of \$2750. We earned \$1841 from the Dulles Soccer tournament, with \$672 going to the Optimist and \$399 to L/W clubs, leaving our club a net of \$799. We earned \$2000 from the Epicurience event at Morven Park. S. Hillebrand will be out of town for six weeks, leaving Ian in charge of parking during this time period. We are no longer doing any parking at the Waterford Fair; we had offered to handle Huntley Field at \$15/hr, but the Foundation notified us that that we were not needed.

LAWS Mowing: We will mow at LAWS next week.

Note that the trash schedule can always be found on our website at:

<http://luckettsruritan.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Trash-July-Sept2015revised.pdf>

Announcements:

None.

Pledge of allegiance was said and meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2015

Attending: Bond (C&P), Kemp, McKenzie, Nassauer, Penaranda, Quitter

Meeting called to order at 7:35 P.M.

Review of Minutes: The Board approved the September Draft General Meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer C. Bond provided the interim September financial reports, which the Board approved. Receipts were \$10,638.39; disbursements were \$5285.35; membership dues owed were \$272; total cash and investments were \$175,390.40. Patty Bond was present to explain the new Quickbooks financial report formats. She reviewed the Accounts Receivable and the Profit and Loss sheets, pointing out what was different from the previous Excel formats. She is using the 2006 version of Quickbooks, which seemed adequate for our club reporting needs; thus, she did not think we needed to purchase the 2015 version. The Board concluded that we could operate with Quickbooks 2006, but we will ensure that we back up our financial data regularly.

New Business:

New Members: We will present our new members, Todd and Naomi Hattaway, with Ruritan shirts and hats and club information at our next General Meeting. Both will be scheduled for trash duty.

LES Support and Coordination: F. Nassauer will set up a meeting with representatives of LES and the PTA to discuss the requirements for the fall coat drive and how we might support this effort. We will send out a flyer to the community and have a sign at trash on Saturday mornings to advertise that we are accepting donations of clean, gently used coats for both children and adults. Depending on requirements and donations, our club will support this effort; the PTA will lead. Fred reported that a group called Mobile Hope visits each elementary school once a month to distribute clothing and supplies to those in need. This group can be a backup for the coat drive.

Fred also reported a successful LES fall picnic.

Nominating Committee: Pres. McKenzie will meet with the committee (Howder, Snooks, Sorrell) next Thursday to discuss a nominee for director to replace M. Quitter, whose term is expiring.

Christmas Party: M. Quitter reported that plans are on track. The facility is booked and the caterer lined up. We will use the list of invitees from last year as a start for determining guests for this year. K. Quitter will manage decorations; J. McKenzie will manage awards, and will work with the Nominations Committee to select a Ruritan of the Year and a citizen of the Year.

M. Quitter noted that since we have used Skills USA facilities free of charge for years for meetings and parties (fees have been waived for our club events), we could give back by presenting Skills USA with a new undercounter ice machine for their kitchen. Matt researched a machine by Manitowoc for \$1800 that makes 129 lbs. of ice a day and stores 80 lbs. After discussion, the Board voted to research a larger machine; Matt will ask his POC at Skills USA, Keith Asby, which size would be most appropriate for their needs, as a taller, higher capacity machine would not fit under the counter. When the BOD has a final recommendation, we will present it for a vote by the membership. Matt also noted that we can still donate a brick paver at Skills USA at a cost of \$500. The BOD will discuss this additional donation further after we decide about the ice machine.

Unfinished Business:

Zone 6 Board Meeting: The Zone 6 Ruritan Governor, Stan Dixon, needs activity reports by our Committee Chairs by early October. D. Kemp will work with the chairs to develop these reports.

Parking: The POC from the Waterford Foundation reached out again to Pres. McKenzie, requesting help for the Waterford Fair by people who have traffic control certifications. Although it was only a few days before the fair, Pres. McKenzie was to send an email out to see if anyone can help. (The Fair was eventually cancelled due to weather).

Recycle Bins: We will continue to try to sell the bins at trash on Saturday mornings.

Equipment Purchase: The BOD discussed and voted to purchase an overhead projector for presenting financial and other reports at our meetings and for use by our program speakers, if needed, and a dedicated laptop, backup drive, wireless mouse, speakers, and case. F. Nassauer will research options and report back to the BOD. The laptop will be kept by the Treasurer. The BOD also voted to buy two more patriotic bunting fans for display at LCC on the fence and gazebo.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 PM.

Submitted by E. Penaranda, Secretary