



Wilfrid Hall Board of Management

Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Location: C20695 Brock Rd.

Minutes

Absent: Annette Bond, Chris Shier, Edie Bond, Faye Wilkinson, Keith Shier

Absent: Dorothy Shier, Jessie Dickson, Richard McIntyre

1. Call to Order

- Chair Faye called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

- Moved by Annette, Seconded by Keith that the minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting be approved as corrected. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Treasurer's Report

- No action on the account since Keith's last report of \$534.25 on April 18th. The new treasurer, Annette reported on her discussion with CIBC Beaverton re new signatures on the account. Many steps are required by the bank due to our board's name change. Annette reviewed the monthly service charges and the need for new cheques and recommended that we run with just a petty cash account. Discussion continued, then was tabled until the next meeting.

4. Correspondence

- With the new garbage receptacle behind the hall and no blue box pickup by the township, the blue boxes have been removed. Renters must now put all garbage into garbage bags in the receptacle.

5. General Items

- Dorothy sent a history of Wilfrid Community Hall which will be included with the minutes of this meeting.
- Quilt plans – Edie and Faye reported on a discussion with the Cannington Historical Society. The quilt was too young for them to accept. Keith and Chris reported on a discussion Dorothy had with the Sunderland Historical Society who are interested in hanging the quilt in their building.

- Our next event is the York Region Police Men's Chorus on June 24th from 7 - 9 pm. Edie and Faye reported on meeting with Lowell McClelland on April 26th to look at the hall and stage, discuss the Green Room be in the kitchen, what to serve pre-concert to the presenters, and introduction speeches. Then at this meeting, ideas were shared re food, ticket sales and advertising.

6. Others

- 1) Next Meeting – June 20th at 6:45 pm at Wilfrid Community Hall. In Faye's absence, Vice-Chair Richard will have to chair the meeting.

HISTORY OF WILFRID COMMUNITY HALL

In April 1830 **Jeremiah** Hart, his wife Hannah and nine children left England for Canada to settle on land in the township of Brock in Upper Canada arriving July 3 1830. This farm is pt. lot 1 & 2 con 11 where the Shier's now live. Soon after claiming this land and building a home they donated land for a cemetery and there the first church was built on the cemetery property.

This Church located in the present Hart Cemetery, was called the, Wesleyan Methodist Church, Union Methodist, Prospect Church. The Archives also state the church was named New Connection in 1851. In 1854 the name of church Ways Neighbourhood congregation, then in 1865 the Ways Neighbourhood is traced to the church called Mount Gilead or sometimes as in 1872-73 Gilead. When it united with the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The similarity of names among the subscribers list to the Missionary Funds does not guarantee that this is the Wilfrid New Connection Church under other names but our (archives) experience is that this is a fair indication that this is so.

It was moved after the present Wilfrid United Church was built in 1888, and became the Wilfrid Community Hall. Matt Nealon was the main person to push to get this completed.

It took three years to move this building from the Hart Cemetery to its present location in the village. They had to do it during the winter when the ground was frozen so they could get it over the river. They used horses and logs to skid the building to its present location, and it became a Temperance Hall.

When digging the foundation beneath the stage the men used horses and sluice scrappers to remove the dirt. This was done around 1925-1928 and the stage was built onto the east end of the Hall. Under the stage there was a kitchen with a dirt, later cement floor, wood cook stove, and large harvest table. Water had to be carried from the pump in the church yard, to heat to cook the food and to wash the dishes. Food was prepared and cooked in this kitchen or in homes, carried up the stairs to the main part of the hall where the meals were served. Two openings were put into the front of the stage where food could also be passed through.

In Secretary Notes from the Women's Aid it says that at the July meeting in 1943 a motion was made to bring the cupboard and dishes from basement and put them up in the hall. Mrs. Chambers, Mrs. Meek and Mrs. Doggitt be a committee to see that it is done. Bill for painting and repairing cupboard 5.70 remaining paint to be used to paint storm door of parsonage.

The hall was heated with a large upright wood stove, for many years Mel Meek was caretaker and would start this wood stove early in the day to have the building warm enough for the functions in the evening. Viktor and Judith Tinkl bought this stove in the 60's. It is still working in their home. Electric heat was put in the Hall.

Around 1952 hydro was put in the Church and Hall. Mel Raines and his son Ted installed the hydro. Ted said he can remember climbing around the rafters of the church, with the bats, helping his father with the wires but was not sure which building they did first. They installed four lights with 300 watt bulbs in each hanging on a chain which hung about 5 feet from the ceiling. We still have the original lights in the church but the lights have changed in the hall.

In the early 1950's insurance had become very expensive and it was very hard for the communities to pay for this thus the local council took them over, setting up a hall board to help run the halls.

It was around 1967 that the Wilfrid community decided to start fund raising by holding many events especially doing live plays seventeen in all to get enough money to build a new kitchen. Orville Westgarth was on Brock council and helped to get council approval when needed.

The ceiling has also been lowered in the main part of the hall. Gas heat was installed in 1999. A health inspection in 2005 required that up grades be done, painting in washable paint of the walls and cupboards. Some cupboards changes and others moved to allow the two electric stoves to be put on south side. Fridge moved into kitchen and new ceiling painted. A lot of volunteers hours by the hall board and the local community, Keith Shier Mayor also helped with council and health requirements.

In the main part of the hall the lights were changed to new florescent lights put up in the ceiling. Many organizations use this hall for meeting, musical evenings, dancing classes, it is a very busy hall being used allot.