

**Minutes**  
**Landscape Ontario Nursery Industry Sector Group Meeting**  
**Tuesday January 9, 2024 – 5:00-6:00pm**

**Present:** \*non-voting attendees

<b>Names</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Rob Vanderkruk	Connon Nursery
John Bisaillon Christi Garneau	JB Landscape
Ben Kobes	Kobes Nursery
Philip Pieper	Pieper Nursery
James Somerville	Somerville Nurseries
Richard Suk	South Pelham Nursery
Jeff Winkelmolen	Winkelmolen Nursery
Richard Worsley Harry Worsley	Uxbridge Nursery
Jeanine West	Landscape Ontario*

**Record of Discussion**

**A. Short Course Status**

- Venue confirmed but need action to get contract, catering, registration and advertising.
- Guelph Arboretum a good choice for this year, but look for larger venue for 2025 (to allow for >120 attendees). Consider the Guelph Legion?
- Want a good lunch, don't want to have it recorded, door prizes keep to bigger ticket items to keep it simple and do them at lunch if possible (not at end of day)

**B. Invasive Species**

- Support Jeanine's continued role on this file, agree we need to have a presence at OIPC, MNRF
- Support participating in MNRF project to increase awareness of new regulations and develop framework for communications at the garden centre
- Interest in having a webpage that growers and retailers can point to – what we are doing, our policy, alternatives, etc.

**C. Nursery Scout/Surveillance Position**

- Strong support for the scout, want this position filled for 2024 and going forward but under certain conditions – namely that our OMAFRA specialist is behind it/supporting the scout
- Concern that OMAFRA direction is moving away from having the nursery specialist on the ground, connecting with farms
- Evolved into larger discussion of what is our sector's contribution to the economy? How big is our voice – we believe we have sufficient justification to ask for more from OMAFRA.
- Jeanine/Joe Salemi (i.e., LO) to review our impact, and ask for more – talk to Minister Lisa Thompson (OMAFRA)? Invite key OMAFRA people to a nursery for a tour? What else can be done?

**D. Events & Upcoming Meetings**

- LOGG January 30<sup>th</sup> Financial Review by Joe Sabatino (LO Controller) – Noon by Zoom
- Short Course at Guelph Arboretum Feb 7<sup>th</sup>
- IPM Workshops – Dates to be announced (Feb 27, 28, 29)
- Golf Tournament? Lots of interest there for a fundraiser? For 2025, might be too late for this year.
- James at Somerville indicated it's their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year – would like to host or sponsor something, golf would be great
- Christi and John would love to host a BBQ this summer – perhaps first week of June?
- Ski day in February? Need to get on this quickly! Dutchmaster etc. very keen!

**E. New Project Idea**

- How can LO support growers and associated GC members on the marketing and merchandizing side?
- During COVID, sales increased – there is potential and opportunity – how do we get that back?
- Need LO to help our sector group here – value of plants and gardens, etc.

**F. New Item – Stormwater Fees**

- Hamilton Stormwater Issue – Is there still time for Council intervention/delegation? Is OFA involved? Is there possibility for Drainage Act exemption?

***New/Outstanding Action Items:***

1. Cassie to summarize minutes of the research/minor use meetings by end of January
2. JW to push for LO action on short course planning, looking for a different venue 2025
3. Proceed with MNRF proposal/project
4. Joe (ED) and JW to develop plan of action for OMAFRA engagement
5. JW to arrange financial zoom call with Joe (C) and LOGG
6. Cassie to send out details of IPM Workshops
7. JW to see what other events can be planned for 2024 (ski, golf, BBQ/tour)
8. Joe (ED) and JW to connect about options for market growth project
9. JW to follow up with Hamilton regarding stormwater fees.

Completed items will be removed from next minutes.