



**Council of Halifax Centre - Minutes of Meeting  
12 May 2017  
SMU, The Atrium, Room AT306 (6:30 AM - 7:30 PM)**

**Present:** Judy Black, Andrew Frank, Paul Gray, Melody Hamilton, Paul Heath, John Read, Tony Schellinck, Jim Millar, Pat Kelly.

**Regrets:** Dr. Roy Bishop, Andy Hasler, Tony McGrath, Sean Dzafovic, Art Cole.

**Guests:** Chris Young, Dave Lane, Randall Rosenfeld, Mary Lou Whitehorne.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Paul Gray welcomed members. He asked if members had other items to add to the agenda; none were suggested.

**170512MN – Mot01**

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Pat Kelly that the agenda be approved as circulated.  
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

- a) April 2016  
**Action 2** remains open.
- b) May 2016  
**Action 3** remains open.
- c) September 2016  
**Action 3** remains open.
- d) October 2016  
**Action 16** remains open.
- e) January 2017  
**Action 1, 3** closed  
**Action 2** remains open.
- f) February  
**Action 5** closed.
- g) March 2017  
**Action 1, 2, 5** closed. Paul Heath had requested the solar glasses; RASC will send what they can once orders from all the Centres have been received.  
**Action 3, 4, 6 remain open**
- h) April 2017  
**All Actions 1- 6** closed.

**170516MN-Act01**

Paul Heath will post a request for volunteers for HalCon closer to the date

**170512MN – Mot02**

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Andrew Frank that the minutes of April 21, 2017 be approved as circulated.  
CARRIED.

## **ONGOING ITEMS**

### **2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers**

**May (tonight):** Randall Rosenfeld

**June:** BBQ at SCO

**Sept:** Solar Eclipse presentations by members in Nebraska and elsewhere; summer activity recap (two DSW weekends, Nova East, Starmus)

**Oct:** SMU's MacLennan Lecture (Sarah Seager)

**Nov:** Dr. Luigi Gallo re Black Holes

**Dec AGM:** unknown; "Who Wants to be a Gazer?"

## **ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

### **3. RASC 2011 Cultural Connections**

Randall Rosenfeld (RASC Archivist) spoke briefly about the RASC 2018 Cultural Connections. This provides an opportunity for creative partnerships between astronomical groups and arts organizations. The RASC 2018 Working Group encourages centers to undertake co-operative projects combining astronomy with the arts, thus introducing aspects of astronomy to new audiences and enriching your own experiences.

Paul Heath stated that the RASC Halifax Centre has done a number of programs with the Deanery Project centred around the Perseids meteor shower. (Our members added the science to their art and nature program.) The Deanery Project, in Musquodoboit, is a not-for-profit organization with focus on the environment, youth and community, natural building and the arts. This group offers programs and projects connected to a wide variety of learning, recreational, and research opportunities making it a potential fit for Cultural Connections 2018.

It was noted that Jim Hessler had agreed to assist in this project.

### **4. Purchase of RASC Banner**

Sean Dzafovic is still waiting to hear if it is OK to add "RASC Halifax Centre" to the banner. Ted Dunphy at New Brunswick Centre designed the banner.

### **5. Halifax Centre Laptop**

Chris Young presented a reconditioned laptop from Brilliance Computers on Kempt Road for Council to consider purchasing. Specifications: HP Ultrabook, Intel Core i5 2nd Gen CPU, 4 Gigs DDR3, 128 Gig Solid State Drive, Win 10, 13" Screen, and 1 Year Warranty for \$299.00 plus HST.

#### **170516MN-Mot03**

It was moved by Jim Millar and seconded by Tony Schellinck to purchase the HP Ultrabook laptop (as suggested by Chris Young) from Brilliance Computers for the stated price of \$299.00 plus HST.

CARRIED unanimously

## **UPDATES / REPORTS**

### **6. Nova East**

Melody Hamilton reported that there are 23 registrations to date and "the hill" sites have all been assigned. Other sites below the hill are still available. There have not been any photos submitted for the astrophotography contest thus far. RASC Halifax Centre has a rich resource of astrophotographers so please consider submitting your favorite!

A second Nova East Committee meeting is suggested for June 17/17 and the members will be contacted by email. John Read reported that NE prizes have been purchased from Canadian Tire and Atlantic Photo Supply. Chris Young will order more from Amazon. Paul Gray had a contact from Ontario Telescopes asking if they could donate a prize. Paul said yes but there are no details yet.

### **7. Arrival of Parallelogram Mount for Thurlow Binoculars**

The parallelogram mount for the Thurlow binoculars has arrived. Chris will bring both to the Members' Meeting later this evening to demonstrate it to members.

## **8. Donation of Incomplete Dobsonian Telescope to RASC Halifax Centre**

Dave Lane and Chris Young will pick up the 13" truss telescope that is being donated to the Centre. A volunteer who is capable and interested will be needed to complete this project.

### **170516MN-Act02**

Chris Young and Dave Lane will pick up the donated telescope components.

Tony Schellinck asked about the possibility of having a solar scope for SCO. The general feeling was that at present it would not be needed as most of the observing at SCO is done after dark.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **9. RASC Halifax Centre Website**

Andrew Frank expressed the need for a cleaner, user-friendly website. An ad hoc committee will be formed to update the Centre website making the structure and layout easier to use. The current site was designed in 2005 and the Astronomy NS site in 2009.

Paul Gray raised two issues:

- 1) need a volunteer to lead this committee, and
- 2) decide on a content management system.

Andrew Frank and Paul Gray volunteered to serve on this committee and Dave Lane agreed to be an advisor. Paul Gray will ask for further volunteers at the general meeting. This committee will meet a couple times over the summer.

### **170526MN-Act03**

Paul Gray, Andrew Frank, and Dave Lane (advisor) have volunteered to serve on the committee to upgrade the RASC Halifax website.

### **170516MN-Act04**

Paul Gray will ask at the general meeting if there are any interested members who would like to serve on this Committee to upgrade the RASC Halifax website.

## **10. SCO BBQ (Friday, June 16/17)**

Jamie Carmichael is to be invited to the BBQ.

### **170516MN-Act 05**

Melody Hamilton will email Tony McGrath and ask him to invite Jamie Carmichael to the BBQ in June.

Items for the menu were discussed: beef burgers and more veggie burgers than last year, sausages instead of hot dogs, salad, chips, with fruit and veggie trays.

Rain date is Saturday, June 17/17. A decision will be made on the evening of June 15 if the weather is questionable. The BBQ is a social event and can still take place even if it is cloudy. In the event of rain on both evenings then the June meeting is cancelled.

The possibility of a June Council Meeting was discussed, would we need one or not? "It may be worth looking at our list of items and seeing what we can do by email" is a suggestion made by Paul Gray.

## **12. SCO Repairs**

The damage noted at SCO is determined to be old but still needs to be repaired. Tony McGrath was not present to comment. SCO has a separate budget. It was suggested that a sign be posted on the building that reads: "Nothing of commercial value is stored here."

## **13. Library Cart Repairs**

Dave Lane noted that the library cart wheels need repair. Paul Heath volunteered to make these repairs.

**170516MN-Act06**

Paul Heath will make the necessary repairs on the library cart wheels.

**14. Adjournment**

**170512MN – Mot04**

It was moved by Jim Millar to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melody Hamilton  
Councilor  
(on behalf of Judy Black)