



**Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting
16 February 2018
SMU, The Atrium, Room AT306 (6:45 - 7:45 PM)**

Present: Judy Black, Sean Dzafovic, Melody Hamilton, Paul Heath, Andrew Frank, Jim Millar (Acting Treasurer). Paul Gray had notified the Secretary of a late arrival; he arrived at 7:10 PM

Regrets: Dr. Roy Bishop, John Read, Pat Kelly, Charles White.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Because of an expected late arrival by Paul Gray, Judy Black assumed the Chair to welcome members at 6:48 PM. Quorum had been met. No additions to the agenda were suggested.

021618MN – Mot01

It was moved by Sean Dzafovic and seconded by Andrew Frank 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 and will be deferred to February 2018.
- d) October 2016
Action 16 remains open and will be deferred to February 2018.
- e) March 2017
Action 4 was closed. It was determined that until Paul Gray acquired the banner, that this action could not be completed. Paul would be asked when he arrives at the meeting.
- f) May 2017
Action 3 remains open.
- g) November 2017
Action 2 remains open. Paul Heath has been in contact with the Deanery to make plans for viewing of the August Perseids, and with Ross Creek to present at two of the 5 events they have scheduled.
- h) December 2017
Actions 2 remains open.
Actions 3 is closed.
- i) January 2018
Actions 1, 2, 4 & 6 remain open.
Actions 3, 5, 7 & 8 are closed. regarding Action 3, Luigi Gallo is not available either of the proposed dates.

Members were asked if there were any errors or omissions in the previous minutes. It was noted the date cited was "9 January" and it should read "19 January".

021618MN – Mot02

It was moved by Melody Hamilton and seconded by Andrew Frank that the minutes of 19 January 2018 be RASC Halifax Centre – Minutes of Board of Directors (February 16, 2018), v2

approved as circulated with the amended date.
CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

Meeting dates for March and April 2018 have been confirmed with SMU. May (Board & Members' meetings) and June (Board meeting only) dates will have to wait until April for confirmation.

Tonight: Members' presentations - "Video: The Magnificent Sky: A weekend in Keji Dark Sky Preserve" (Halley Davies & Dave Chapman) and "Astrophotographer's Skies, Summertime Imaging" (Blair MacDonald)

March: Movie - "The Spacewalker".

April: SMU 3-D Virtual Reality Room (Rob Thacker)

May: The excursion to San Pedro de Atacama (Judy & Jerry Black, Dave Chapman, Melody Hamilton)

June: SCO BBQ

Other suggestions from a previous meeting included:

- a) Roy Bishop to readdress gravitational waves in light of the new evidence (if Dr. Gallo not addressing in his talk).
- b) A member "learns" about a topic and presents what they've learned at a Members' Meeting.

Melody Hamilton noted the Board missed two months to meet because of the SCO BBQ in June and the McLellan Lecture in October. She suggested that a 2-hour meeting of the Board be scheduled for those months to allow for more in-depth discussion. Members agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

021618MN-Act01

The Board will determine dates on a Saturday for the June 2018 and October 2018 meetings at the March 2018 Board meeting.

3. Outreach Requests

Paul Heath noted the following requests:

- a) A request came through Dalhousie University for a presentation at Park West School. he is waiting for a confirmation of the change in date.
- b) Shubenacadie Wildlife Park requested a presentation for February 17.

ITEMS FROM DECEMBER 2017 AGM

4. Nominations for Treasurer

Deferred until March 16, 2018 meeting.

UPDATES / REPORTS

5. Report from RASC National Representative

Because he would be absent from this meeting, Pat Kelly provided his report via email. The Board has implemented a more modest fee increase that will be effective March 1 of this year. The society portion of the fee will go up by \$3, youth membership will go up by \$2, and family memberships will see a \$1 increase. The full text of the announcement from Chris Gainor (RASC, 1st VP) is below:

It has been nearly three years since the RASC Board of Directors raised society dues for its members. Since that time, successive RASC Boards have managed the RASC budget amidst rising costs for member services. Last year, the Board reached a consensus that the time had come to raise RASC dues to keep the Society's expenses and revenues in balance. The Board informed National Council at its December meeting that the board was considering a substantial dues increase in 2018 and smaller dues increases in future years in line with increases in the cost of living.

Since that Council meeting, the Board has received a great deal of feedback from National Council members seeking more information about the Society's budgetary situation and expressing concern about the possible impacts of dues increases. Therefore, the board at its January meeting decided to raise the society portion of the membership fee by \$3.00 per year, effective March 1, 2018. This will have the effect of raising the annual society membership fee by \$2.00 for youth, and \$1.00 per family member and per youth in family memberships.

This increase is close to the increase in the cost of living in Canada over the past year.

The board still believes that a more substantial dues increase is necessary in the near future, but it has decided to defer such an increase until 2019. The board will supply National Council members with more information about the Society's financial position before discussing the Society's finances with National Council at the Calgary GA. These discussions will take place before the board makes any decision about dues increases for 2019 or beyond. These actions are in line with the board's belief that it is important to discuss such changes with National Council.

6. Update: RASC-HC Website - platforms used by New Brunswick & Sunshine Coast

Deferred to March 2018

7. Update: RASC Banner - Cost & Acquisition

Paul Gray stated he would have the files next week. members agreed three were to be printed.

021618MN-Act02

John Read will price and print the three RASC banners.

8. Update: Nova East

Judy Black as Chair of 2018 Nova East Planning Committee explained the committee's first meeting was the next morning (Feb 17, 2018). She explained that she had drafted a budget that had been reviewed by Jim Millar and was asking the Board to approve the budget in principal, recognizing that as the event plans progressed a more accurate budget would be presented. She noted that a maximum expense was allowed for each component of the expenses and that she was requesting the Board consequently consider providing an additional \$1,000.00 in funds for Nova East. This request was being made before the committee meeting so that decisions could be made about speakers, etc.

021618MN – Mot03

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by John Read that the draft Nova East 2018 budget be accepted with the request for the additional \$1000.00, and that a revised budget be presented at the June 2018 Board meeting.

CARRIED.

9. SCO Repairs

The SCO Report by Tony McGrath at the AGM was briefly reviewed. It was noted that \$600.00 was allowed annually for SCO repairs. members agreed the repairs should start with the electrical upgrade. A price quote would be required.

021618MN-Act03

Paul Gray will contact Dave Lane and Blair MacDonald to acquire an itemized list of the repairs required and a price quote.

10. Update: Board of Directors Manual

Judy Black forwarded the manual to Patrick Kelly and Jim Millar as promised. She was waiting for final comments from them.

021618MN-Act03

Judy Black will forward the draft Halifax Centre Board of Director Reference Manual to members within the next two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Halley Davies Video - *The Magnificent Sky: A Weekend in Keji Dark Sky Preserve*

Dave Chapman brought to the Board's attention that Halley Davies had spent an additional 3.5 hours producing the video. At a rate of \$30.00 per hour an additional \$105.00 was being requested for a total payment of \$270.00.

021618MN – Mot04

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Paul Heath that an additional \$105.00 be approved for payment to Halley Davies for the additional 3.5 additional hours spent editing the RASC Halifax Centre video *The Magnificent Sky: A Weekend in Keji Dark Sky Preserve*, and that the end payment to Halley should therefore total \$270.00.

CARRIED unanimously.

12. Halifax Centre Website "Contact Us" information

On January 29, 2018, Pat Kelly updated information in the "Contact Us" page of the RASC Halifax Centre website. The question arose as to whether or not to also include the appointed positions for Librarian, SCO Manager, Nova Notes Editor, Observing Chair, and Outreach Chair. The appointed positions would be in a separate list, from the directors list, and the appointed positions would not be cited in the list of elected Board of Directors. Members agreed there should be two lists - one for the elected Board of Directors and the other for the appointed positions.

021618MN-Act04

Judy Black will notify Pat Kelly to provide the two lists (elected Board members and appointed positions) on the RASC Halifax Centre website.

13. DRAFT: Policies Regarding Signing Authority

Members' attention was brought to Agenda Note #6 in which the draft policy regarding Halifax Centre Signing Authority was presented. The policy, based on the motion passed in January 2018, was drafted by Judy Black and Jim Millar.

021618MN – Mot04

It was moved by Andrew Frank and seconded by Paul Heath that the *RASC Halifax Centre Policies Regarding Halifax Centre Signing Authority* be approved as circulated.

CARRIED unanimously.

14. DRAFT: Policies Regarding Speaker Payment

Members' attention was brought to Agenda Note #7 in which the draft policy regarding speaker reimbursement for Halifax Centre events was presented. It was determined that further discussion was required because of the numerous components of the policy.

021618MN-Act05

Judy Black will add "*DRAFT: Policies Regarding Speaker Payment*" to the March 2018 Board of Directors agenda.

15. Communication Plan

Deferred until March 2018 Meeting

16. Approval of Outreach Events & Insurance Certificate

RASC does have liability insurance for outreach events. Tony Schellinck has raised questions of clarification for events he holds. In particular, the main question related to the level of approval required by the Centre for his events to be covered by the national liability policy. National Office was contacted, and their response was as follows:

- a) The Board should be notified of Outreach Events in advance to offer comments and to consent to their being recognized as RASC events;
- b) The leader should enter their event on the RASC Outreach Event Reporting form on the RAS website; and
- c) The leader of the event must complete the RASC Insurance Request.

Because recognition of his events is required for insurance purposes, Tony Schellinck provided the list of his upcoming events to be considered as RASC events and approval.

- March 10 presentation and possible outing at Osprey Arts Centre. Co-sponsored with Boxing Rock and the Arts Centre.
- April presentation at the Astor Theatre in Liverpool (final date to be determined)
- April presentation at the museum in Yarmouth (final date to be determined)
- Several field trips for SCANS courses in Dartmouth and Truro on clear nights:
 - The Dartmouth one takes place at the Salt Marsh Trial parking lot on Bissett Rd. The Dartmouth crowd includes 40 SCANS students and about 40 people who are not members of the SCANS class but are attending as guests of the library.
 - The Truro one takes place at the Victoria Park parking lot at the end of Young Street.
- Every location selected for the field trip has parking and is flat and clear of obstructions. He encourages people to bring flashlights and he supplies red plastic and elastic bands to convert their flashlights to red light.

17. Sympathy Card

A sympathy card had been sent to Mary Lou Whitehorne whose husband had died in January 2018. His death had not been advertised through any media as it was considered a very private affair. Acknowledgement from Mary Lou had been received.

18. Adjournment

011918MN – Mot05

It was moved by Melody Hamilton to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black
Secretary, RASC Halifax Centre
(with assistance from Melody Hamilton, Vice-President)