



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

**Present:** Paul Gray, Paul Heath, John Read, Sean Dzafovic, Pat Kelly, Gregg Dill. Judy Black and Melody Hamilton arrived at 6:55 PM.

**Regrets:** Dr. Roy Bishop, Andrew Frank, Charles White.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Paul Gray welcomed 5 members at 6:45 PM.

**092118MN-Mot01**

It was moved by John Read and seconded by Pat Kelly to approve the September 21, 2018 Board of Directors meeting agenda.  
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

a) November 2017

**Action 2** remains open as organization of events is in progress.

b) February 2018

**Actions 3** remains open. An update was not available at this time,

c) March 2018

**Action 7** is closed.

d) April 2018

**Action 1** is closed. Gregg Dill did contact Jim Millar, and Gregg will submit it the T2 to CRA.

e) May 2018

**Action 3** is closed. The RASC 150 Star Party was held at Bishop's Landing.

d) June 2018

**Actions 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 10 and 12** are closed.

**Actions 2, 6, 7 and 11** remain open.

Judy Black assumed her role as Secretary.

It was noted that only the minutes of the May 11, 2018 meeting could be approved. Because there was no quorum for the June 9, 2018 meeting, only a report of meeting could be made, and the report did not require approval.

**092118MN-Mot02**

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by John Read to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2018 Board of Directors meeting.  
CARRIED.

## **ONGOING ITEMS**

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

**September 21:** Traditionally, members are invited to provide updates on Nova East (Aug 10-13), Keji Dark-Sky (Aug 17-19), RASC 150 Star Party (Sept. 15), and other events attended by members during the summer.

**October 12:** The SMU McLellan Lecture does not conflict with Halifax meetings

**October 19:** Laura McLarnon - Deep Sea Hydrothermal vents and the origin of life.

Speakers for November and December will be determined. It was suggested that a SMU grad student could present at one of these meetings.

#### **092118MN-Act01**

Paul Gray is to contact Rob Thacker to inquire about a speaker for November 2018 Members' meeting.

Meeting dates for January to April 2019 will be confirmed with SMU in November.

### **3. Outreach Requests**

Paul Heath noted a few requests had just come in from the Young Naturalists, a group in Springhill and one from East Hants. Judy Black brought members attention to the fact that Paul was now a published author. Paul clarified that thanks to friends and family he is the published author of *Food for the Soul: Poems for Stargazers*. Members applauded his success.

### **4. Update from National Representative**

Pat Kelly reported there had been a meeting on September 16, 2018 and he a few things to highlight from the meeting:

a) RASC GA 2019 - It will be held in Toronto at York University on June 15-16, 2019 in conjunction with the AAVSO meetings. A Centre has not stepped forward for 2020. It was noted that the national RASC office would be responsible for the development of the GA website.

b) Finance Report - The membership fee has a deficit of only \$3.00 per member; this would mean a \$4.00 to \$5.00 hike in membership fees for the upcoming year.

c) National Awards - Nominations are due by December 31, 2018.

d) National GLP Committee - Charles White is a member of committee that has been struck to examine this issue.

### **5. Communications Plan**

Melody Hamilton thanked John Read for developing a fillable form for Melody's use and for forwarding to those members responsible for the various social media.

## **UPDATES / REPORTS**

### **6. Update: Status of RASC-HC Website Development**

Andrew Frank has developed a Beta version of the site. Further discussion was deferred to the October 19, 2018 meeting.

### **7. Halifax Centre Policy Manual**

Judy Black had forwarded a document outlining the changes to the Policy Manual discussed at the non-quorum June meeting. Because of the agenda this month, she suggested discussion be relegated to the section regarding a change to Bylaw #1. It was recognized that from time to time urgent business arises that requires Board

approval between meetings and that a mechanism to do so is required. The suggested revision to Section 6 - Board of Directors in Bylaw #1 reads: "The Board of Directors may choose to conduct business via electronic media according to procedure determined from time to time by the Board. Such procedure shall set out rules for making, seconding, discussing, and voting on motions. The Secretary shall record successful motions made in this manner, and the results shall be read into the minutes of the next following Board of Directors meeting."

**092118MN-Mot02**

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Paul Heath that Recommendation B for Revision to Bylaw #1 regarding between meeting voting be approved.

Discussion followed the motion. It was agreed that this should be investigated further before the amendment was approved and subsequently brought to members for consideration. Recognizing that if an amendment was developed for the October meeting that it would provide ample time for member notification and subsequent presentation at the November meeting or at the AGM. The motion was withdrawn by Judy Black.

**092118MN-Act02**

Judy Black and Pat Kelly will amend the proposed revision for presentation at the October 2018 Board of Directors meeting.

**8. RASC-*HC Astronomy Community TV Series***

Due to the absence of Charles White, this was deferred to the October 2018 meeting.

**9. Update: *Nova East***

Judy Black reported that the 2018 Nova East Star Party could be considered a success. There had been some challenges with the t-shirt order and with campsite bookings with NS Parks, but they were easily addressed before and at Nova East. The Nova East Planning Committee will be holding its wrap-up meeting on October 13, 2018. A final report with recommendations for 2019 will be provided to the Board on October 19, 2018.

**10. Update: *SCO BBQ***

Chris Young had provided a report of the supply list, what was consumed and recommendations for 2019. The report had been attached to the agenda for members to review. It will be the basis for planning the 2019 BBQ. The status of the Vanderburg eyepieces will be determined.

**11. RASC *National Star Party***

Melody Hamilton expressed her disappointment at not have the opportunity to use her GLP for this event despite having approval to do so due to fog rolling in 20 minutes into their presentation. The 20 or so in attendance did stay for another 1-1.5 hours despite the fog for discussion and general socializing.

Paul Heath stated Bishop's Landing was a huge success., with over 250 people stopping by to talk to the RASC members with scopes and binoculars. The moon, Jupiter (before it set behind the buildings) and Mars were viewed. Many nationalities visited - France, Mexico, Netherlands, Germany, USA, and others. Many families and young adults attended, and there were many very inquisitive members of the public.

**12. *SCO Repairs***

Ongoing planning being done by Paul Gray, Dave Lane & Blair MacDonald.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**13. Change of Members' Meeting date**

The Chair was relinquished to Vice-President Melody Hamilton so that Paul Gray could address the change in the date of members' meetings. A discussion document had been pre-circulated to members for their consideration prior to discussion this evening. He noted that in the past 6 months there have been 40-50 in attendance at each meeting. This would also present an opportunity for the Board to meet for a longer meeting prior to the members meeting, if desired. Judy Black had verified with SMU that space would be available for a Saturday time slot. The change in date and time would be for a 6-month trial period. members had suggestions for changing the format of the meeting as well; these will be discussed more fully at a subsequent meeting.

**092118MN-Mot03**

It was moved by Paul Gray and seconded by Pat Kelly to move the members' meeting to the first Saturday of each month as of the January 2019 meeting.

CARRIED (6 - yes, 1 - no)

**092118MN-Act03**

Paul Gray will notify members at the Members' Meeting of the change in meeting date beginning in January 2019.

**092118MN-Act04**

Judy Black will contact SMU to request a change of meeting dates and times for January to June 2018, and to remove any tentative bookings Friday evenings for that time frame.

**14. Approval of 2018 Auditor**

Paul Gray reassumed the Chair.

Judy Black noted that because Jim Millar had been Treasurer for part of the timeframe being audited, another auditor was to be sought. As requested, Dave Lane agreed to be auditor for 2017-2018. Jim Millar could be approached for the auditor in the coming year.

**092118MN-Mot04**

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Paul Heath to approve the appointment of Dave Lane as the Auditor for 2017-2018.

CARRIED unanimously.

**092118MN-Act05**

Judy Black will contact Dave Lane regarding his appointment as RASC, Halifax Centre Auditor.

**15. Photo Release Form**

Deferred to November 2018 Board meeting.

**16. Librarian**

Halifax Centre has not had a Librarian for about 1 year. John Read has agreed to act in that capacity.

**092118MN-Mot06**

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the appointment of John Read as the RASC, Halifax Centre Librarian.

CARRIED unanimously.

Judy Black noted that the key is missing.

**092118MN-Act06**

Judy Black will contact Dave Lane and Andrew Hasler regarding the location of the Library key.

**For Information Only**

**17. 4 TB Hard Drive Purchase**

Judy Black noted the hard drive had been purchased and is now in use. Gregg Dill confirmed that Dave Chapman had been reimbursed for the purchase.

**18. Nelson Education License Fee**

Gregg Dill confirmed the receipt of \$300.00 for the use of the Halifax-Centre produced video on how to use a star finder.

**19. Florian Film**

Tony Schellinck worked with Florian Film at Kejimikujik National Park.

## **20. Adjournment**

### **092118MN-Mot06**

It was moved by Pat Kelly to adjourn.

Adjournment at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black  
Secretary, RASC Halifax Centre