

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Halifax Centre
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday, December 5, 2020 – 1:00-1:40 PM
via Zoom ID# 996 2912 8249

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Judy Black welcomed the 29 members to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She then provided opening remarks.

1. Approval of 2020 Agenda

201205AGM-Mot01:

It was moved by Blair MacDonald and seconded by Joanne Cook to approve the 2020 AGM agenda as circulated.
CARRIED.

2. Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes

The minutes of the 2019 AGM had been pre-circulated to members.

201205AGM-Mot02:

It was moved by Mary Lou Whitehorne and seconded by Paul Heath to approve the minutes of the 2019 AGM as circulated.
CARRIED.

3. Appointment of a New Auditor

Gregg Dill spoke with Ian Anderson, the Auditor for 2019-2020. Ian has agreed to have his name forwarded for re-appointment for 2020-2021.

201205AGM-Mot03:

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Dave Lane to appoint Ian Anderson as Auditor for 2020-2021.
CARRIED.

Board Reports

(Note: Reports in their entirety will included in the Jan/Feb 2021 edition of Nova Notes)

Judy Black noted the reports from the Board and the appointed positions had been circulated as part of the AGM agenda circulated on December 1, 2020. She apologized to Paul Gray for not including his report in the collated report.

201205AGM-Mot04:

It was moved by Mary Lou Whitehorne and seconded by Bob Russell to accept the pre-circulated executive and appointed position reports as they were sent by email.
CARRIED with 1 Abstention.

Dave Chapman stated how proud he is of the Centre for all the observing programs followed and certificates earned. The Centre, which is a medium-sized Centre that only represents 1/15 of the population of the RASC, accounts for 25% of all certificates earned across Canada – an amazing achievement. Members noted the Centre's success in this regard was on his shoulders, i.e., his continuing involvement in and promotion of observing and the RASC programs in his *What's Up?* and in outreach and media events he attends. Dave thanked members for the shout-out.

Judy Black noted the Treasurer's and Auditor's reports were missing from the compilation. Gregg Dill is working with Ian Anderson and that this is an unbalanced financial report but once a re-audit has been done, the numbers will probably not change much. He noted that Judy will forward both the Treasurer's and Auditor reports to members following the meeting. He proceeded to highlight the following on the income and expense statements:

A) Income:

- Membership fee revenue had increased probably to the time of year that members renewed.
- Educational Activities income due to GA video edits by Halley Davies that received a special RASC grant.
- Sale of merchandise had an increase, a majority from sale of ETU Guides; kudos to Tony Schellinck who sold more than his share of this publication.
- Nova East shows a negative \$100 was due to purchase of door prizes prior to cancellation of the event.

B) Expenses:

- Meeting treats have decreased due to no face-to-face meetings since April.
- There was the added expense of a Zoom subscription that balanced the lack of treats.
- Legal expenses were none last year due to their inclusion in office expenses.
- Educational Activities included \$500.00 of the \$832.00 for payment to Halley Davies. In essence, there was only \$332 compared to almost \$1,200 the year before.

C) Balance Sheet:

The Centre had \$14,000 in GIC investments at the beginning of the year. With \$6000 of the GICs cashed in, cash was up to \$9,496.99 bringing us in essence to the same place as last year as far as the bank is concerned. There is no comparative between 2019 and 2020 offered until a re-evaluation has been conducted early in 2021.

Ian Anderson had provided a letter with an attached Auditor's report. Accounting programs and accounting procedures had been discussed. Ian has not seen the hard copy of the books, but he was forwarded records and transaction reports of all accounts, the general ledger, bank statements and RASC reports via email. Ian also noted that he and Gregg will correct errors from 2018, 2019 and 2020, and will provide a 3-year report in the Jan/Feb 2021 edition of Nova Notes. Gregg stated he appreciated Ian's commitment to trying to make the most of what was presented to him and to Dave Lane for his work two years ago.

Gregg stated the Centre is not sustainable as an organization. We have been cashing in our GICs to maintain the Centre's activities. Without new sources of revenue, we will continue mining our investments. There are numerous Life members (20 of the 173 (11.5%) of members) who do not contribute fees to the Centre. Gregg was thanked for the hard work he has done as Treasurer to get us back on track. It was noted there have been periods of spend and save, and that one of the revenue streams suggested was a key fee. The possibility of increasing membership fees was suggested. Judy Black noted the Board had discussed this earlier in the year but, given the pandemic and the possibility of some members losing jobs, it was felt the increase would be left for discussion in May 2021.

201205AGM-Mot06:

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Mary Lou Whitehorne to accept the financial and auditor reports as presented.
CARRIED.

Call for Nominations and Election of 2019 Board of Directors

The Board had approved appointments at their deliberations of November 26, 2020. Judy Black stated Mary Lou Whitehorne continues to be the Honorary President until December 2023. The list of individuals who were appointed was also noted:

National Council Rep	Judy Black
DSP Committee, Co-Chairs	Dave Chapman, Tony Schellinck
Observing Chair	Dave Chapman
Outreach Chair	Paul Heath
SCO Manager	John Liddard
Librarian	Wayne Harasimovitch
Nova Notes, Co-Editors	John McPhee, Lisa Fanning
Nominating Committee	Peter Hurley
Governance Committee	Judy Black
NE Planning Committee	vacant

The Nova East Planning Committee requires a Chairperson to begin the planning process for Nova East 2021 in February/March 2021. Additional members to the planning committee were also welcomed.

Judy Black explained that according to Bylaw #1 (2017) now enacted, there could be no less than five and no more than 10 on the Board. She thanked Tom Crosman and Paul Gray who are stepping down from the Board for their service and commitment to the Centre's work and Objectives.

There were 3 call for nominations from the floor for the 2020 Board of Directors. The slate of nominees for the 2020 Board of Directors was then presented as follows and included two new members (*):

Executive Committee

President – Judy Black
Vice-President – Patrick Kelly
Recording Secretary – Peter Hurley
Treasurer – Gregg Dill

Directors

Paul Heath
Matthew Dyer
Wayne Harasimovitch
David Hoskin
Tim Doucette*
Kathy Walker*

There being no further nominations, the 2020 Board of Directors positions were approved by acclamation.

Adjournment

071218AGM-Mot07

It was moved by Joanne Cook to adjourn the AGM.

Members were invited to socialize and enjoy the Christmas treats provided.