



**Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting  
7 March 2020  
SMU, Loyola Building, Room L280 (10:30 AM – 12:30 PM)**

**Present:** Judy Black, Wayne Harasimovitch, Pat Kelly, Paul Heath, Tom Crosman, John Liddard, Matt Dyer, David Hoskin, Peter Hurley, Paul Gray.

**Regrets:** Gregg Dill

**Guests:** Conner Gray

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Judy Black called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM and welcomed members.

The meeting agenda was reviewed.

**200201MN-Mot01**

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Tom Crosman to approve the March 7, 2020 Board of Directors meeting agenda as tabled.  
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

a) From November 2019

**Action 10:** Closed

b) From December 2019

**Actions 3, 7:** Remain open

c) From January 2020

**Actions 1, 11, 12:** Closed

**Action 4:** Remains Open

**Action 5:** Evaluation of capital equipment will be done later in Spring.

d) From February meeting

**Actions 1-5, 8-16:** Closed.

**Actions 6, 7:** Remains open.

The minutes of the February 7, 2020 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. It was pointed out that the correct spelling of the name of the new Executive Director of RASC is Phil Groff.

**200307MN-Mot02**

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Pat Kelly to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2020 Board of Directors meeting with the noted change.  
CARRIED.

**ONGOING ITEMS**

RASC Halifax Centre – Board of Directors Meeting (March 7, 2020)

## 2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

### a) 2020 Meeting Date confirmation:

Upcoming meeting dates were cited in Agenda Note #1 and are also listed on the Halifax Centre website. A low-key Kejimikujik Fall for the Stars event is scheduled for September 19-21, but the Dark Sky Weekend event usually held in August is cancelled due to logistics as a result of the campground closure and renovation.

### b) June meeting date:

Because several members of the Board will be attending the RASC GA in Coquitlam BC on June 5-7, it was agreed to move the June meeting of the Board to June 13.

### c) SMU Room Bookings:

It is necessary to ask for meeting space for May and June. The April Board meeting and Members meeting will be back in their usual spaces of AT217 and AT101 respectively.

### d) Guest Speakers and Ideas for Future Presentations:

- Phil Groff responded to Judy Black that he had booked plane tickets to arrive in Halifax on Saturday May 2 at 12:22 pm, thinking that the meeting was in the evening, but hoped to arrive at the meeting by 2 pm to speak any time after that.
- Speakers for the March meeting today will be Blair MacDonald and Jerry Black presenting the first of a three-part 15- to 20-minute mini-presentation series Intro to Astroimaging entitled Anatomy of an Imaging system: What Toys do you need? Part 1. In April, Blair and Jerry will present the part two of their series and Paul Gray will speak on Variable Stars. In May, Blair and Jerry will present part 3, and Phil Groff is scheduled to speak about the RASC. We have no speakers scheduled for June or September.

### e) OH Presentations:

Paul Heath will do the Observers Handbook presentation today on Dwarf Planets. Pat Kelly agreed to do the April OH presentation and Judy Black agreed to do one for May.

## 3. Report from National Council Representative

Pat Kelly had circulated material prior to the meeting today. Major points were:

- The Centre Manual has been circulated to members of the Council and is under review. The final editing may be complete by the next GA.
- The 2021 GA may be in Winnipeg.
- Three Director positions will be open at the upcoming GA in Vancouver. Nominations close on March 29 and voting will take place from May 3-13.
- National Finances are expected to break even or have a small surplus. Revenues projected to be \$938K, expenses estimated to be \$920K, and SkyNews should break even. This would result in an \$18K surplus.
- An updated version of the 2018 Mars Opposition handout is likely to be produced for the opposition this year.
- Calgary Centre has an excellent guide to binoculars its website.
- National Council requires a Chair or Vice-Chair and the Secretary position will come open at the GA. Plans for recruitment of officers are being made, prior to the election.
- The iMIS system is likely to be replaced with a new system that will be easier to maintain and allow additional tasks.
- The next National Council meeting will be March 29.

There were no questions for Pat.

### 20200307MN-Act01

Judy Black will ask Tony Schellinck to review the Calgary binocular brochure.

### 20200307MN-Act02

Judy Black will upload the brochure to our site, if approved by Tony Schellinck.

## 4. Communications Strategy

Judy Black reported that she, Pat Kelly, and Dave Chapman had not had an opportunity to meet yet.

## **5. Outreach Requests**

Paul Heath reported that he had not received any new Outreach requests. Paul suggested that this may be related to the Security Clearances that are required by the School Boards. There are similar requirements by the Scouts and Guides organization. There was a discussion of the costs of these security checks and whether they could be recovered from the School Board or whether the Centre might cover them. No conclusion was reached.

Judy Black had ordered 20 copies of EtU, and they were all purchased at Tony Schellinck's course at SCANS. She has ordered an additional 20 copies.

## **6. RASC-Halifax Centre Website**

Judy Black had noticed that there were no dates on the website SCO page and sent a draft of changes to Roy Bishop for review. Roy provided additional material, some extra photos, and asked that the current photos be enlarged. The Nova East page has been updated.

## **7. Financial Update**

Gregg Dill was not available to present a Financial Report.

## **UPDATES / REPORTS**

### **8. Update: SCO**

John Liddard reported that a major problem had been discovered when the furnace had been serviced. It has been disabled until it can be repaired. The cost is approximately \$500.00, and the parts have been ordered and should arrive Monday. Once the repairs have been made, the tank will be refilled, and the furnace will be available for use again.

John reported that Roy Bishop had heard details from Minas Energy. A power meter will be required to monitor the use of the power at SCO, but that power may be free or that a nominal fee might be required. Two poles will likely be required to get the lines across the road and to our building. Burying the power lines is very unlikely. Because of the high voltage in the power lines, finding an appropriate transformer might be difficult but Minas Energy was exploring this. It is possible that we will only be responsible for costs from the power mast down. Roy had indicated that Minas Energy will provide us with a report for us to consider. Roy had also indicated he was very supportive of this endeavor.

### **9. Update: Meeting with the Discovery Centre**

Peter Hurley reported that Wayne Harasimovitch, with help from Peter, had conducted a site survey of the Emera parking lot across the road from the Discovery Centre on Sunday March 1. Peter and Wayne had met with Ryan Jameson, Science Education Manager, and briefly with Japna Sidhu-Brar, Dome Theatre Presenter, on Tuesday March 3. They indicated that the Board had approved moving forward with developing a collaborative program around the Sunday April 26 crescent Moon and crescent Venus event, suggested by Roy Bishop. And that they were suggesting an outdoor daytime viewing program. Peter explained why the event would work so well. Ryan indicated the Discovery Centre were already developing a special program on that date and that we were very welcome to complement that program. Details of the outdoor viewing had been discussed, in particular that they wanted the viewing to occur in the plaza area in front of the entryway and not the Emera parking lot. The possibilities of an indoor program were discussed, including the use of the Atrium area and possible use of the multipurpose area, especially as a fallback if the weather didn't cooperate. Ryan had asked about our "presence" and encouraged additional outreach activities by our members especially for a fallback. Ryan suggested that their advertising staff could handle promotion details. We had also suggested that we might be able to help promote the program by having someone available during/after a couple of live Dome presentations leading up to the event to discuss the RASC and the upcoming event.

Board members were supportive and encouraging and offered many useful and helpful suggestions. They approved Peter and Wayne proceeding in the direction they had presented, and that they should incorporate elements that had been suggested. Volunteers and a schedule would be needed quickly to give members sufficient time to work the event into their schedules.

It was pointed out that April 26 was also the weekend of SaltScapes so there would competition for members.

There was a discussion around the Centre's self-standing poster banners, once of which is broken, and it was suggested that it repair should be explored again.

**20200307MN-Act03**

Peter Hurley and Wayne Harasimovitch to continue to develop a collaborative event with the Discovery Centre as discussed, and report back at the next Board meeting.

**20200307MN-Act04**

Paul Heath and John Liddard to explore getting the broken free-standing banner repaired.

**10. Update: Library**

Wayne Harasimovitch reported that he was still reviewing options regarding replacing or rebuilding the existing cart. The Halifax Public Library system didn't have anything to lend or donate; the door is closed on a possible donation. Wayne indicated that library carts are very expensive, to buy or build. But that the matter wasn't critical, as books were all listed on the Centre website now, and some books had been removed and were stored in the storage cabinet. We have time to consider the best path. There was further discussion whether the cart needed to be locked in some way or whether we were able to lock the storage cabinet.

**11. Update: Halifax Centre Business Cards**

Wayne Harasimovitch reported that he had found quotes for business cards in colour, one-sided (\$59 for 500, \$89 for 1000) and for two-sided. Inclusion of the QRcode was discussed. It was suggested that he get another quote from another source Vista Print. It was suggested that these cards would ideal for SaltScapes. There was discussion about the date, and whether we have received a confirmation from Atlantic Photo Supply that they had purchased space and wanted us to participate.

**20200307MN-Act05**

Wayne Harasimovitch to obtain a quote from Vista Print and report back at the next meeting.

**20200307MN-Act06**

Judy Black to confirm SaltScapes participation with Alan Sutherland, APS

**12. Update: 2015 GA Video Editing**

Judy Black indicated we are still waiting to hear back from National whether we're getting funds from the Special Projects fund.

Dave Chapman had indicated that Halley Davies was available now but likely wouldn't later in the season. There were some questions around the price and amount of work, and this was clarified by reviewing Agenda Note #2 from our previous meeting. It was concluded that there wasn't a rush and we should wait until we hear back from National before proceeding.

**13. Update: Halifax Centre Priority Setting**

Judy Black had circulated a draft questionnaire prior to the meeting. She asked that Board members to review and provide comments back to her by Friday March 27.

**20200307MN-Act07**

Members of the Board are to provide comments regarding the priority setting document to Judy Black by March 27, 2020.

**14. Report: Nova East Planning Committee**

Judy Black had circulated a report of the NEPC with the meeting agenda. She highlighted three areas:

- a) Budget: Version 2 of the Budget had been revised to show a lower profit margin because of the costs of bringing in the keynote speaker. Members agreed to the modified budget.
- b) Meander River Farm & Brewery: They had inquired whether they could provide a tasting at Nova East. They were asked to discuss this with the Park and to acquire any licensing necessary to do so. They were told no alcohol at the park. Consequently, they will provide marketing materials and tasting certificates for registrants. The Brewery requested they be included as a 'contributor'. Following a brief discussion, members agreed they could be included on the Nova East website as a contributor.

- c) Changes to Nova East *Etiquette*: Judy noted there have been edits made to three parts of *Etiquette*. Use of Green Laser Pointers had been edited to state only official Nova East programs by designated speakers who have completed the RASC online GLP training could use GLPs. Because of situations that arose at last year's Nova East, the statement regarding pets was edited to include a Nova East requirement, and a new statement was added regarding non-campers not being allowed to use the observing field for parking.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **15. Policy G8: RASC Halifax Centre Astroimaging Contest Criteria**

Judy Black had circulated a document with the meeting agenda. Last year, the Board approved the administration of the astrophoto contest from Nova East to Halifax Centre and also approved the criteria. The document was geared to the 2019 contest. The contents of the 2019 document were reformatted to be similar to other Centre policy documentation. The criteria in this format must be approved by the Board for inclusion in the Halifax Centre Policy Manual as Policy #G8: RASC Halifax Centre Astroimaging Contest Criteria.

#### **200307MN-Mot03**

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by David Hoskin to accept the document Policy G8: RASC Halifax Centre Astroimaging Contest Criteria as tabled.  
CARRIED.

### **16. RASC Upgrading Centre Storage**

Judy Black had included information under Agenda Notes #3 regarding this item. National is exploring ways to centralize how they store files. It is an information item only; no action is required from us. They will be in touch when they require action from the Centres.

## **Adjournment**

#### **200307MN-Mot04**

It was moved by Paul Gray to adjourn.

Adjournment at 12:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter Hurley, Secretary

## ACTION LIST (as of March 7, 2020):

<b>From December 2019</b>		
191207MN-Act03	<b>Paul Gray</b> will contact Dave Lane to determine the feasibility of using SMU post-graduate students as speakers.	Open
191207MN-Act07	<b>John Liddard</b> will investigate the best method of drying the Vanderburg eyepieces following their use in the observatory.	Open
<b>From January 2020</b>		
200111MN-Act04	<b>Gregg Dill</b> to contact Chris Young regarding the Baader film.	Open
200111MN-Act05	<b>Gregg Dill and John Liddard</b> will establish the value of capital equipment when the inventory is complete.	Open
<b>From February 2020</b>		
200201MN- Act 06	<b>Pat Kelly</b> will circulate the RASC Centre Manual to members for comment when it has been received.	Open
200201MN-Act07	<b>Paul Heath</b> to report back to the Board with details regarding the paperwork required by Parks Canada.	Open
<b>From March 2020</b>		
200307MN-Act01	<b>Judy Black</b> to ask Tony Schellinck to review the Calgary binocular brochure.	Open
200307MN-Act02	<b>Judy Black</b> will upload the brochure to our site, if approved by Tony Schellinck.	Open
200307MN-Act03	<b>Peter Hurley and Wayne Harasimovitch</b> to continue to develop a collaborative event with the Discovery Centre as discussed, and report back at the next Board meeting.	Open
200307MN-Act04	<b>Paul Heath and John Liddard</b> to explore getting the broken free-standing banner repaired.	Open
200307MN-Act05	<b>Wayne Harasimovitch</b> to obtain a quote from Vista Print and report back at the next meeting.	Open
200307MN-Act06	<b>Judy Black</b> to confirm SaltScapes participation with Alan Sutherland, APS	Open
200307MN-Act07	<b>Members of the Board</b> are to provide comments regarding the priority setting document to Judy Black by March 27, 2020.	Open

## MOTION LIST (March 7, 2020):

200307MN-Mot01	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Tom Crosman to approve the March 7, 2020 Board of Directors meeting agenda as tabled. CARRIED.
200307MN-Mot02	It was moved by <b>David Hoskin</b> and seconded by <b>Pat Kelly</b> to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2020 Board of Directors meeting with the noted change. CARRIED.
200307MN-Mot03	It was moved by <b>Pat Kelly</b> and seconded by <b>David Hoskin</b> to accept the document Policy G8: RASC Halifax Centre Astroimaging Contest Criteria as tabled.
200307MN-Mot04	It was moved by <b>Paul Gray</b> to adjourn.