

**RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Tuesday, February 1, 2022: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
 Via Zoom - Meeting ID 820 2735 4763

<b>Agenda Items</b>				
<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Support Documents / Notes</b>
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of Agenda</li> <li>• Review Action List</li> <li>• Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting</li> </ul>	Information Approval	Judy Black	Pre-circulated: Agenda: February 5, 2022 Minutes: January 4, 2022
<b>ONGOING ITEMS</b>				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 2022 Member's Meeting Date Confirmation and Format</li> <li>b. Confirm Member's Meeting agenda</li> <li>c. Guest Speakers &amp; Ideas for Future Presentations</li> <li>d. Board meeting dates</li> <li>e. Zoom/SMU Bookings</li> </ul>	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #1</b> <b>Refer to Member's Meeting Agenda</b> <b>Refer to Agenda Notes #2</b>
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<b>Next NC Meeting: March 6, 2022</b> <b>Refer to Agenda Notes #3</b>
	4. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insurance clarification</li> <li>• EPO Request 1 (Fairview Jr High)</li> <li>• EPO Request 2 (Two Rivers Wildlife Park &amp; Eastlink)</li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	Paul Heath (Judy Black)	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #4</b> <b>Refer to Agenda Note #5</b> <b>Refer to Agenda Note #6</b>
	5. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	6. Financial Update	Discussion Decision	Gregg Dill	<i>n/a</i>
<b>UPDATES / REPORTS</b>				
	7. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade Status</li> <li>• Update: Astrophoto Fundraising</li> <li>• External Funding</li> <li>• Wi-Fi connection (Wayne)</li> <li>• Update: Snapping Turtle Protection</li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	John Liddard Gregg Dill Matt Dyer Peter Hurley	<i>n/a</i>
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>				
	8. Position Description: Editor, Nova Notes	Information Discussion	Lisa Ann Fanning Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #7</b>
	9. Policy review re Election and Nomination Process	Information Discussion	Pat Kelly	<i>n/a</i>

	10. Policy review re Membership & Conflict Resolution	Information Discussion	Judy Black	n/a
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>				
	11.	Information Discussion		
9:00 PM	Adjournment (Next meeting: March 1, 2022)			

## RASC, Halifax Centre – Member’s Meeting

Saturday, February 5, 2021 – 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Via Zoom – Meeting ID 879 8374 3280

Agenda Items		
Time*	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Photo Montage	Judy Black Paul Gray
1:15 PM	<b>Presentations:</b> <i>Dr. Jennifer West – Inside the Galactic Tunnel in the Sky</i> (Introduction by Mary Lou Whitehorne) <i>Tim Doucette – Review of the Celestron Starsense Explorer Telescopes &amp; Software</i>	Mary Lou Whitehorne  Judy Black
2:45 PM	Food for the Soul	Paul Heath
2:55 PM	What’s Up? (February)	David Hoskin
3:30 PM	News from the Board	Judy Black
4:00 PM	Adjournment	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<i>Astro-Chat</i>	

\* Times are for Board of Director information only and for informing presenters of the length of their presentations; they will not be published on the Halifax Centre website. Times will be adjusted for each meeting.

## Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

February 1, 2022 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

held via Zoom Meeting ID 820 2735 4763

**Present:** Judy Black, Peter Hurley, Kathy Walker, Paul Heath, Paul Gray (until 8:00pm), Jaime Whynot, Pat Kelly, Lisa Ann Fanning (until 7:30pm), Matt Dyer, John Liddard, Mary Lou Whitehorne, David Hoskin, Gregg Dill (joined 8:10pm)

**Regrets:** Tim Doucette

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed members, especially Paul Gray who has joined us to provide an update from the National 2024 Solar Eclipse Task Team.

The Meeting Agenda had been circulated by email by Peter on January 21, 2022. The agenda was reviewed. Judy asked that agenda item 8 be moved forward so that Lisa could get away early.

#### 220201MN-Mot01

It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Paul Heath to approve the February 01, 2022, Board of Directors meeting agenda, as circulated.  
CARRIED.

The Action Lists, which were attached to the minutes of the previous meeting circulated by email by Peter on January 21, 2022, were reviewed.

From June 1, 2021

**Action 2:** Open.

From September 28, 2021

**Action 6:** Closed. Gregg had confirmed that Superior Propane will buy back fuel that remains in the tank.

From November 2, 2021

**Action 1:** Open. Dave Lane will now replace Ian Anderson.

**Action 3, 6, 12:** Closed.

From November 30, 2021

**Action 3:** Closed.

**Action 4:** Closed. Further details under item 6, but National will provide us with the funds for our Centre Membership fee increase back to June 4, 2021.

**Action 11:** Closed.

From January 4, 2022

**Action 1:** Closed.

**Action 2:** Open.

**Action 3:** Closed. Marcin Sawicki will present on November 5, 2022.

**Action 4:** Open. Judy asked for clarification of the topic and Mary Lou confirmed that the topic suggested had been RASC History and that Peter Jedicke would be best to speak on this.

**Action 5:** Closed. Refer to meeting agenda item 9.

**Action 6:** Closed.

**Action 7:** Closed. Refer to meeting agenda item 2a.

**Action 8:** Closed. Refer to meeting agenda item 7.

**Action 9:** Closed.

The minutes of the January 4, 2022, Board of Directors meeting had been circulated by email by Peter on January 21, 2022. Mary Lou had corrected the spelling of Marcin Sawicki.

**220201MN-Mot02**

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Paul Heath to approve the January 4, 2022, Board of Directors meeting minutes, as corrected.

CARRIED.

**8. Position Description: Editor, Nova Notes**

Judy referred members to the summary presented in Agenda Note #7 for background. Although Lisa views she and John as co-editors, John has requested the title of copy editor. This posed the question whether we would need to change the position description. It was suggested that it would be easier not to do this. It was agreed that it was unnecessary to change the position description and that Lisa, as editor, could appoint John to assist her as copy editor. Lisa agreed with this.

The other issue was that paper copy subscriptions to *Nova Notes* have not been mailed out for perhaps a year, and that the cost for Lisa to do this from the USA is too expensive. Judy has obtained a list from Gregg of the paid *Nova Notes* paper copy subscriptions. It was agreed that whoever took this task on could either use Staples to print copies or use their home printer and get expenses reimbursed through Gregg. As there were no volunteers at the time, Judy agreed to do it until a volunteer could be found to take on the responsibility.

**220201MN-Act01**

Judy Black to send a letter of apology to *Nova Notes* paper copy subscribers along with the missing paper copies.

**220201MN-Act02**

Board members to suggest a volunteer to assume the responsibility of printing and posting copies of *Nova Notes* subscribers.

**ONGOING ITEMS**

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

*a) 2022 Member's Meeting Date Confirmation and Format*

Judy pointed out that the 2022 Member's meeting dates are listed in Agenda Note #1. Donald Bedard, a Defense Scientist at Defense Research and Development Canada, has agreed to present at a Member's meeting. Judy has

provided him with 3 meeting dates, April, October and November, with April being our preference. Dr. Bedard was recommended as a speaker by Lauchie Scott, also at DRDC and a previous speaker at an earlier 2021 Member's meeting. He would present on photometric characterization of satellites and space debris. This will complement the presentation in March by David Shuman on *The New Space Race*. Marcin Sawicki is scheduled for November.

Judy discussed with Dave Lane how to move from Zoom meetings back to in-person meetings with Zoom or some other medium to also provide online participation in meetings and video recordings of meetings. Dave has agreed to co-chair a committee with Bob Russell with participation from Jerry Black and Blair MacDonald to explore and recommend options to us for our March 29, 2022 Board meeting.

*b) Confirm Member's Meeting Agenda*

The next Member's meeting date is February 5, 2022. The draft agenda for the Member's meeting was attached to the Board meeting agenda. Paul Gray agreed to let Judy know by Friday evening if he had a photo montage ready. Paul Heath confirmed he would have a poem ready for *Food for the Soul*. David Hoskin confirmed that the *What's Up?* presentation was ready. There are two presenters, Dr. Jennifer West and Tim Doucette. Paul Heath asked that the National I&D Committee's Black History live stream event on February 19, 2022 be added. Judy indicated that it has already been posted in the RASC Bulletin and she has added it to *News from the Board*. Peter asked if there could be an announcement that the Discovery Centre has re-opened their Dome Theatre and that they have extended an invitation to Centre members. Judy indicated she would add that to *News from the Board* also.

*c) Guest Speakers and Ideas for Future Presentations*

Judy indicated that the suggested speakers list was in Agenda Note #1. She suggested that if Donald Bedard agreed to present in April, then we would need presenters for September and October, and suggested that perhaps Marcin Sawicki had post-docs that might be able to present.

Judy reminded us that members had indicated in the Members' survey that they were interested in presentations about new equipment and equipment reviews. Judy reported that she had asked Alan Sutherland of Atlantic Photo Supply if he be willing to present something about equipment that they carry. Alan had indicated that he was very interested, but due to supply issues he could likely do something in April or later once they receive new inventory. Judy indicated that she would contact Brian Giffin at Ivan's Camera in Moncton to ask if he could do something similar. Judy also indicated she would make an invitation to the membership at the Member's meeting to volunteer to make equipment review presentations at future meetings.

*d) Board Meeting Dates*

See Agenda Note #2. There was no discussion.

*e) Zoom/SMU Bookings*

There was no discussion.

### **3. Report from National Council (NC) Representative**

Judy indicated that she had nothing to report, and the next National Council meeting is on March 6, 2022.

Paul Gray had joined the meeting to report on the 2024 Solar Eclipse RASC task team. Judy indicated that there was a note from Paul in Agenda Note #3. Paul indicated that he was serving as the Halifax Centre contact on the task team, not a committee member. The task team is in the process of determining what each Centre is planning to do for the eclipse, recognizing that each Centre will approach it differently largely determined by how close the Centre is to the path of totality. Paul suggested that unlike in 2017, he thought it likely many of our members may travel the 4-5 hours to reach a site on the path of totality, and not be available for outreach activities here. There was discussion about where the path of totality would be and what opportunities might be available in New Brunswick, PEI and Cape Breton.

The basic questions at this point are:

- who and how many will be available for outreach on April 8, 2024?
- what might we do?
- will we be partnering with Discovery Centre again?
- do we need to order eclipse-viewing glasses and how many?

Paul indicated that ordering glasses through the bulk order with National would be much more affordable. Paul Heath indicated that he thought he still had several packages (perhaps 50) that should still be usable, but he needed to determine that. Mary Lou made several points:

- it is a deep-partial eclipse viewed from Halifax (94.29%<sup>1</sup>);
- our weather in April is usually not very good (this day has been cloudy 70% of the time since 2000<sup>1</sup>), so contingencies need to be included in any plans;
- we should ask members who will travel/stay and who might be interested in participating in outreach activities

- Discovery Centre will need a firm commitment
- April 8 is a Monday and totality will occur in late afternoon (duration 2 hours, 16 minutes, 49 seconds, maximum at 4:38:03ADT<sup>1</sup>).

Paul Gray, Paul Heath and Judy all indicated that they hope to travel to be at totality. Peter indicated that he had already spoken with Discovery Centre and they are interested in a collaboration. Paul Heath suggested that Wayne Harasimovitch should be included in planning, because of his involvement with the Discovery Centre event in 2017 and if we wanted to communicate with someone remotely who was on the path of totality. Paul Heath suggested that ordering more glasses than we needed for the eclipse likely wouldn't be a waste because we are entering an active solar period and solar outreach events are likely to increase. It was agreed that organizations that we partner with for outreach events (such as The Deanery) should order their own eclipse-viewing glasses, not expect to obtain them from us. We would need to work this out with the Discovery Centre, and it depends upon whether we initiate an outreach event whether we would provide glasses. Judy will indicate at the Member's meeting that we are starting to make plans and to ask members to think about it and if they are planning an event themselves. She will also send out an email to members. Paul Gray noted we need to provide a number to the task team in the next month or two. It was agreed at this point that we would tentatively order 300 glasses. Paul Gray will ask about the drop-dead date to order additional glasses after that.

**220201MN-Act03**

Judy Black to ask at the Member's meeting if there is anyone interested in participating in outreach activities associated with the 2024 Solar Eclipse.

**220201MN-Act04**

Paul Gray to ask the 2024 Solar Eclipse task team what the final date is for ordering additional eclipse-viewing glasses from the National office.

**4. Education and Public Outreach**

• **Insurance Clarification**

Judy indicated that she had contacted Phil Groff to ask for clarification regarding the phrase "RASC event" when it comes to the liability insurance that RASC National office provides for EPO activities. The response from Phil appears in Agenda Note #4. Judy summarized that the definition of event is largely up to us to determine but should refer to activities that have involved the Centre in some way. An EPO activity by a Centre member that did not involve the Centre in some way would not be covered. There was considerable discussion, and it was suggested that an activity should at a minimum be vetted by the Centre Executive. Pat provided a link to the NS Provincial Legislation Volunteers Protection Act ([https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/58th\\_2nd/3rd\\_read/b098.htm](https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/58th_2nd/3rd_read/b098.htm)). There was discussion of the term "due care" as used in the Act. It was agreed that if Centre participation was requested by another group, then their insurance would be required to provide that insurance (i.e. schools, Guides and Scouts, Young Naturalists, etc.). There was a suggestion that we should not use and not rely upon "waivers" alone. There was also discussion of lead time required if a response or certificate was required from the insurer. Judy agreed to contact Phil Groff again for additional details and to draft a response, not a policy.

**220201MN-Act05**

Judy Black to draft a Board document for consideration regarding liability insurance coverage and RASC Halifax Centre EPO activities.

• **EPO Request 1**

Judy indicated that we had received two EPO requests. The first was from a science teacher at Fairview Jr. High requesting help with an astronomy activity. There was discussion of what might be provided, and it was agreed that Paul would contact them.

**220201MN-Act06**

Judy Black to respond to Fairview Jr High teacher to indicate that Paul Heath will be in contact with him and to suggest the teacher purchase the publication *SkyWays: Astronomy Handbook for Teachers* from RASC National office and download our binocular brochure from the Centre website.

**220201MN-Act07**

Paul Heath to contact science teacher at Fairview Jr. High School to obtain further details of the planned activity and to provide suggestions and possibly some assistance.

There was discussion of the publication *SkyWays: Astronomy Handbook for Teachers* that Mary Lou had put together and that is available through RASC National office. Paul indicated that he always recommended it in cases like this one and that he would do so. It was also suggested that Paul could provide copies of *SkyNews* back issues.

• **EPO Request 2**

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<sup>1</sup> data from <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/canada/halifax?iso=20240408>  
Board of Directors Meeting: 01 February 2022

The second request came from Stan Williams at Two Rivers Wildlife Park requesting RASC Halifax Centre involvement in an Eastlink astronomy program. Discussion included pointing out that we need to be cautious about overcommitting the Centre, but that this might be an opportunity to enlist more volunteers in EPO activities if we were to pursue this.

**220201MN-Act08**

Judy Black to contact Stan Williams for further details regarding the request for Halifax Centre involvement in an Eastlink astronomy program.

**5. RASC Halifax Centre Website**

Judy indicated that there was nothing to report.

**6. Financial Update**

Gregg indicated that he had received an email from Phil Groff indicating that there would be a Zoom meeting of all Centre Treasurers to address their concerns with the financial reports that are available from the new Driven! system. Gregg reported that at present it was still impossible for him to reconcile the finances, but that National office seemed to be depositing more than he expected. Judy reported that Phil Groff had indicated that the issue with our increased Centre membership fees would be addressed, and funds would be deposited to cover this back to June 4, 2021. Matt confirmed that new memberships were now renewing at the increased rate.

Gregg reported that he had declined two new riders that the insurance company had added to our policy renewal, at a savings of almost \$200. We currently have \$4,900 in our bank account. As he hadn't been present for the discussion, Judy informed him of the agreement regarding copying and mailing of *Nova Notes* back issues, and Gregg confirmed that only the front page should be printed in colour.

**UPDATES/REPORTS**

**7. SCO**

- **Upgrade Status**

John reported that the propane tank had been filled and Gregg confirmed that he had received and paid the invoice. The power meter shows that 6kWh have been used to date.

- **Update: Astrophoto Fundraising**

Judy confirmed with Gregg that there had not been any further astrophotos purchased.

- **External Funding**

Matt reported on his progress with reviewing the HRM funding source he was familiar with. He indicated that there were some criteria we might meet; it was for the HRM area, but he argued that our membership was largely from HRM. We might qualify as a leisure group. There was discussion that we wouldn't likely qualify for physical upgrades to meet code, but there was a suggestion that connecting the storage room/bathroom to power might qualify. Matt indicated that 50% of the scoring was based on benefits to the public, and it was pointed out that there was very limited public outreach conducted at SCO and since we rely upon the privacy and anonymity of the site, that might be a hard sell. There was discussion of whether funding for a plaque(s) (or other artwork or posters) recognizing SCO history and contributors might qualify under history. Matt indicated that applications were due by the end of March. Judy offered to help him prepare an application.

**220201MN-Act09**

Matt Dyer to take the lead on developing an HRM grant application.

- **Wi-Fi connection**

Judy hadn't heard back from Wayne Harasimovitch.

- **Update: Snapping Turtle Protection**

John reported that Peter had contacted several conservation groups and authorities and determined that human foot traffic over snapping turtle nests would not damage the eggs. Peter indicated that he and John were concerned that turtle nest cages placed over the nests to protect the eggs from predators might pose a tripping risk to members using SCO and they were looking at alternatives.

Judy also reported that she had sent an email to John Woods at Minas Energy reminding him of our standing invitation to our annual BBQ and/or some other special observing occasion to show our appreciation of all his support and efforts. Judy indicated that COVID restrictions had prevented us from proceeding but that we would as soon as we were able.

**GOVERNANCE**

**8. Position Description: Editor, *Nova Notes***

Moved above Item 2 in the minutes.

## 9. Policy Review re: Election and Nomination Processes

Pat explained that during the election process this past year, we found Policy G6 described procedures regarding nominations, elections and appointments that were not in line with those procedures as described in Bylaw #1. Consequently, the Governance Review Committee has revised Policy G6. The revised document was circulated to the Board by email by Judy on January 27, 2022. Pat described all the changes that had been made to G6. There were no questions.

### 220201MN-Mot03

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by David Hoskin to adopt amended Policy G6, as presented.  
CARRIED.

### 220201MN-Act10

Judy Black to post the amended Policy G6 on the Centre website and notify the members at the Member's meeting and by email through the Announce List.

## 10. Policy review re: Membership and Conflict Resolution

Judy reminded us that Policy G11 which had been drafted and approved last year required changes following a discussion at RASC National Council regarding membership conflict. Consequently, there were substantial changes to the document. Judy thanked Mary Lou for circulating the document on mediation from Justice Canada (<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/dprs-sprd/res/drrg-mrrc/04.html>) and she indicated it would be attached to the new policy.

Judy briefly described the history behind the request from National Council. The conclusion the Governance Review Committee reached was that inclusion of how to expel a member from the Centre into Policy G11 was too complicated and that it should be dealt with in a separate policy. Policy G12 is to be drafted once the revisions to G11 are approved. The revised Policy G11 was also circulated by Judy by email on January 27, 2022 and she asked that members review the document and provide feedback to her by Friday February 4, 2022. Approval would occur at the March Board meeting. Judy indicated that she had also sent the revised policy to Phil Groff and Mike Watson for review to ensure in particular that the RASC double process described was in fact correct.

## 11. Adjournment

There being no further business, Judy adjourned the meeting. She pointed out that the next Board meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2022.

Adjournment at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter Hurley, Secretary

## ACTION LIST (as of February 1, 2022):

<b>From June 1, 2021</b>		
210601MN-Act02	<b>Judy Black</b> to contact Phil Goff to indicate that Halifax Centre will continue to use its own discussion list for Centre communication and request that they inactivate the Halifax Centre forum on the National site.	Open
<b>From November 2, 2021</b>		
211102MN-Act01	<b>John Liddard</b> , in consultation with Ian Anderson and Gregg Dill, to establish the value of Halifax Centre capital equipment.	Open
<b>From January 4, 2022</b>		
220104MN-Act02	<b>Gregg Dill</b> to provide Judy with wording for the topic on glass used in astronomy instruments.	Open
220104MN-Act04	<b>Judy Black</b> to contact Peter Jedicke to determine if he would make a presentation on the history of RASC at a Member's meeting.	Open
<b>From February 1, 2022</b>		
220201MN-Act01	<b>Judy Black</b> to send a letter of apology to <i>Nova Notes</i> paper copy subscribers along with the missing paper copies.	Open
220201MN-Act02	Board members to suggest a volunteer to assume the responsibility of printing and posting	Open

	copies of <i>Nova Notes</i> subscribers.	
220201MN-Act03	<b>Judy Black</b> to ask at the Member's meeting if there is anyone interested in participating in outreach activities associated with the 2024 Solar Eclipse.	Open
220201MN-Act04	<b>Paul Gray</b> to ask the 2024 Solar Eclipse task team what the final date is for ordering additional eclipse-viewing glasses from the National office.	Open
220201MN-Act05	<b>Judy Black</b> to draft a Board document for consideration regarding liability insurance coverage and RASC Halifax Centre EPO activities.	Open
220201MN-Act06	<b>Judy Black</b> to respond to the Fairview Jr High teacher to indicate that Paul Heath will be in contact with him and to suggest the teacher purchase the publication <i>SkyWays: Astronomy Handbook for Teachers</i> from RASC National office and download our binocular brochure from the Centre website.	Open
220201MN-Act07	<b>Paul Heath</b> to contact science teacher at Fairview Jr. High School to obtain further details of the planned activity and to provide suggestions and possibly some assistance.	Open
220201MN-Act08	<b>Judy Black</b> to contact Stan Williams for further details regarding the request for Halifax Centre involvement in an Eastlink astronomy program.	Open
220201MN-Act09	<b>Matt Dyer</b> to take the lead on developing an HRM grant application.	Open
220201MN-Act10	<b>Judy Black</b> to post the amended Policy G6 on the Centre website and notify the members at the Member's meeting and by email through the Announce List.	Open

**MOTION LIST (February 1, 2022):**

220201MN-Mot01	It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Paul Heath to approve the February 01, 2022, Board of Directors meeting agenda, as circulated. CARRIED.
220201MN-Mot02	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Paul Heath to approve the January 4, 2022, Board of Directors meeting minutes, as corrected. CARRIED.
220201MN-Mot03	It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by David Hoskin to adopt amended Policy G6, as presented. CARRIED.



## AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
<p><b>Agenda Note #1 re: 2022 Member Meeting Dates &amp; Speakers</b></p>	<p><b>B) 2022 Approved Member Meeting Dates and Events</b> Members' Meeting dates were approved at the November 30, 2021, Board of Directors meetings. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p> <p>Members were asked at the December 2021 meeting to consider the format of our meetings, i.e., change in day of week and the time; use of Zoom, YouTube, etc., for livestream of meetings before and after meetings are conducted face-to-face again, etc.</p> <p><b>C) Approached (??) and Confirmed Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 5, 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ David Shuman (The New Space Race: A Look at the Current Launch Vehicles and Human Spaceflight)</li> <li>○ Chris Young (Sky Lore)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• April 2, 2022 ?? Donald Bedard, CD, PhD Defence Scientist, Assistant Deputy Minister (Defence Research &amp; Development Canada) / Ottawa Research Center National Defence / Government of Canada I would be more than happy to give a talk to the RASC Halifax Centre. In fact, I gave one last year to the St-John's Centre with one of their members, Mr Jim Johnston (copied). My research interests are focused on the photometric characterization of satellites and space debris objects. I use telescopes to collect photometric measurements in various colour bands to study the reflectance properties of these objects to see if we can gain a better understanding of their nature and operational state. In one of my projects, Jim Johnston is helping me collect these observations of the Intelsat 10-02 spacecraft that was serviced by a mission extension vehicle (MEV-2) last year. <p>Please let me know if you are still interested in hearing about this topic. If you don't mind, I will extend an invitation to Jim since I really like our collaboration and would like to highlight how he is contributing to my effort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 7, 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Randy Attwood (2024 Total Solar Eclipse)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• June 4, 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Karim Jaffer + Students (Montreal Centre)</li> <li>○ ?? Keegan Oickle</li> </ul> </li> <li>• September 10, 2022 (Labour Day = Sept 5) ?? Donald Bedard, CD, PhD</li> <li>• October 1, 2022 (Thanksgiving = Oct 10) ?? Donald Bedard, CD, PhD</li> <li>• November 5, 2022 Marcin Sawicki, SMU (NIRISS – Near InfraRed Imager &amp; Slitless Spectograph)</li> <li>• December 3, 2022</li> </ul> <p><b>D) Suggested Speakers</b> Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keegan Oickle</li> <li>• Dr. Leslie Rogers &amp; Sara Seager</li> <li>• Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster)</li> <li>• <a href="https://rasc.ca/find-speaker">https://rasc.ca/find-speaker</a></li> <li>• Dr. Samantha Lawler: New to the U of R and very busy rebuilding the astronomy program. She also has her core research and took on a leadership role in the StarLink issues and lobbying the federal government about it.</li> </ul> </li></ul>
<p><b>Agenda Note #2 re: Approved 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Dates</b></p>	<p><b>Approved Board Meeting Dates, 2022</b> Member Meeting dates for 2022 were approved by the Board. However, Board meeting dates need to be reaffirmed by the newly elected Board. The following dates are all on Tuesday evenings unless otherwise noted.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 1</li> <li>• March 29</li> <li>• May 3</li> <li>• May 31</li> <li>• Sept 6 (Labour Day = Sept 5)</li> <li>• Sept 27</li> <li>• Nov 1</li> <li>• Nov 29</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Note #3 re: National Council Solar Eclipse Task Team</b></p>	<p><b>National Council Meeting Report</b> (next meeting March 6, 2022)</p> <p><b>2024 Solar Eclipse Task Team:</b> Paul Gray is our Centre's representative on the team. He writes:</p> <p>Totality in 2024 is not that far away! At this time before 2017 many of us already had our campgrounds booked!</p> <p>Has Halifax RASC given any thought yet to what will take place in 2024 in Nova Scotia? Granted we are not in the path of totality except for the very tip of Cape Breton near meat cove, not an eclipse destination. We will have a pretty deep partial eclipse though and much public attention. So what are we to do?</p> <p>Things to consider?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Will many of the workers/core be traveling away to the USA or NB to see totality? Will there be anyone here to do anything with the public?</li> <li>2) If we do plan our own event, what can we expect for numbers?</li> <li>3) Will we once again try to partner with Discovery Centre?</li> </ol> <p>The most important part right now about doing our own event is pre-ordering eclipse viewers which is being organized by a national eclipse team. They will be for centre use and distribution only. If discovery centre wants some, they will have to order their own from their own sources. (Are they even aware of the event yet?)</p> <p>Mostly at this time we need to start thinking about it but should also get in an early order on viewers.</p>
<p><b>Agenda Note #4 re: Insurance Clarification</b></p>	<p><b>From Phil Groff (December 7, 2021):</b></p> <p>It's up to you and your Centre as to what constitutes a RASC event. I don't think it requires "vetting" but does require some ability to justify that the Centre had organized the event. For example, was the event advertised to the membership and/or public in some way? Was it on your website or from an email address associated with your Centre? Logo use? None of these are necessary and sufficient conditions, it's more about common sense. Was this an event by some Halifax members or was it an event by RASC Halifax? Ultimately, you'll need to be able to answer the insurance adjuster's questions after the incident.</p>
<p><b>Agenda Note #5 re: EPO Request 1 (Fairview Jr. High)</b></p>	<p>My name is Ashley Morton, and I'm a Science teacher at Fairview Junior High School in Halifax.</p> <p>The school has 500 students in grades 7, 8 &amp; 9, and has a very high proportion of refugees, recent immigrants and other new Canadians - there are 50+ home languages among the school's students, with a particularly strong representation of Arabic home-language students.</p> <p>As you're unavoidably aware, I'm sure, the pandemic has taken a great toll on many aspects of school and youth life. Clearly, when "picking its battles", our education system has focussed on the most basic aspects of student health and wellness as a first priority, followed closely by academics. That's as it should be, of course. However, the need to prioritise those two has led to most, if not all, extra-curricular activities being cancelled at most schools. They were nearly non-existent last year. This year did start fairly well, with some school sports and some clubs re-starting, albeit under significant restrictions. The positive reaction from students was really striking - many, many students expressed an opinion to the effect of "Things still aren't wonderful, but at least there are some things to do, again, other than just academics and the Internet." However, with the latest wave of COVID-19, even those upstart groups have generally been cut out entirely, all over again. This left me feeling like I would really like to be able to facilitate some sort of school-</p>

	<p>sanctioned extra-curricular club or group that was more "pandemic-proof". In thinking about this, I was struck by the number of students in my classes (I teach Grade 8 &amp; 9 Science - so, 13- &amp; 14-year-olds, generally speaking) who are fascinated by topics associated with space.</p> <p>I mean, space is obviously cool (says he, preaching to the choir), but I do believe that this school has an even-greater-than-normal number of students who agree with that assessment. (I'm only in my second year of teaching, though, so feel free to take that analysis with a grain of salt!)</p> <p>As a result, over the next couple of weeks, I'll be starting a group at the school called the "Fairview Astronomy &amp; Space Team" (not least because "FAST" is a good solid acronym...).</p> <p>My concept is that the group will meet once every 2 weeks, with every 2nd meeting (so, roughly once a month) being outside in the evening, intending to do some observing. As we will meet outside, we will not be blocked by the school's pandemic restrictions. (The other meetings will be online, hoping to bring in a guest speaker.)</p> <p>I'm writing to you this evening in the hopes that I might be able to ask for some support. I'm not looking for funding - most of what I hope we will do will be effectively cost-free - but I wonder whether there might be people associated with the Halifax RASC who might be able to help us out on the observing evenings, or who might even be willing to do some brainstorming with the student leadership of the club and me about events and speakers (for the non-observing nights).</p> <p>Honestly, I would be open to advice, suggestions or any other form of support, too - I've never tried to do something quite like this, before, so I may not even know what I need help with!</p> <p>If this sounds like something that you might be able to offer any assistance with, I would greatly appreciate it, and I would love to chat. Please feel free to respond to this email with specific suggestions, or maybe a time when we could have a phone or video conversation.</p> <p>Any assistance (even if it's nothing more complicated than some advice!) would be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Ashley Morton, P.Eng, B.Ed. Teacher - Science 8 &amp; 9 // Healthy Living Fairview Junior High School</p>
<p><b>Agenda Note #6 re: EPO request 2 (Two Rivers Wildlife Park &amp; Eastlink)</b></p>	<p><b>From Stan Williams, Two Rivers Wildlife Park.</b></p> <p>My observatory is open to the public all summer long, free of charge, every clear night to show people the wonders of the night sky. I also work at Eastlink.</p> <p>I was talking to Dave about the doing the same thing here in Nova Scotia that Charles and Bruce do out west with Sunshine Coast, they have 6 seasons on Eastlink community TV called Night Lights Astronomy. I understand that it was talked about before with Eastlink about doing something here, but the parties couldn't come together to make anything happen. I was wondering if there was any more thought about this or if there was any interest from members of the Nova Scotia RASC members for such a project.</p> <p>I think this would be a great thing for local astronomy and awareness for what is done locally to get more people interested in this great hobby.</p>
<p><b>Agenda Note #7 re: Clarification regarding Nova Notes Editor and Copy Editor</b></p>	<p><b>Following Discussion between Lisa Ann Fanning and Judy Black:</b></p> <p>The current position description (<a href="https://halifax.rasc.ca/images/documents/PD7_Editor_NN.pdf">https://halifax.rasc.ca/images/documents/PD7_Editor_NN.pdf</a>) suggests one person is Editor. Item 6 in the responsibilities section stipulates they can "select other members of the Halifax Centre to assist him or her, when required." Lisa Ann Fanning and John McPhee have come to an agreement that Lisa Ann would be identified as the "Editor" and John as the "Copy Editor".</p> <p>What this infers is that Lisa Ann should be identified as the Editor of the newsletter. John would be identified as the assistant identified in #6. However, in reality, they consider themselves Co-editors.</p> <p>It has also come to our attention that mailing of the newsletter has not happened since perhaps the January/February 2021 issue. John had temporarily stepped away from the role for family reasons and had assumed this task had been taken over by another member of the Centre. Conducting the mailout would mean printing the newsletter (in-home or professionally) then mailed</p>

	<p>to the members who paid. We would have to contact National Office to acquire the list of those who paid.</p> <p>There are now two questions for the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1- Does the position description need to include a statement that would allow for Co-Editors, not just a person assisting as it reads now?</li><li>2- Because Lisa Ann resides in New Jersey, the expense of mailing to members from there is high. Who can be asked to do the copying and mailings from here?</li></ol>
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Approved March 1, 2022