



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 27, 2022: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Via Zoom - Meeting ID 811 3394 7941

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents / Notes
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Agenda Review Action List Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting 	Information Approval	Judy Black	Pre-circulated: Agenda: September 27, 2022 Minutes: September 6, 2022
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2022 Member's Meeting Date Confirmation and Format Confirm Member's Meeting agenda Zoom/SMU Bookings Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #1: 2022 Member Meeting Dates & Speakers Refer to Agenda Notes #2: Approved 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Dates
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #3: report from National Council (NC)
	4. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Information	Judy Black	n/a
	5. Financial Update	Information Discussion	Gregg Dill	n/a
	6. Recruitment	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	Extend invitation to the I&D Committee for presentation
	7. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Requests 	Discussion Decision	David Hoskin	n/a
GOVERNANCE				
	8. Conflicting Bylaw & Policy re National Council Representative	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #4: National Council Representative
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	9. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Reschedule SCO BBQ 	Information Discussion Decision	John Liddard Judy Black	n/a
	10. Report: Dark-Sky Weekend (Aug 19-21)	Discussion Decision	Peter Hurley Tony Schellinck	n/a
	11. Report: 2022 Nova East (Aug 26-28)	Information Discussion	Judy Black	n/a
NEW BUSINESS				
	12.			
9:00 PM	Adjournment (Next meeting: November 1, 2022)			

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

**September 27, 2022 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
held via Zoom Meeting ID 811 3394 7941**

Present: Judy Black, Peter Hurley, David Hoskin, Lisa Ann Fanning, Kathy Walker, Matt Dyer, Pat Kelly, Jaime Whynot

Regrets: Mary Lou Whitehorne, John Liddard, Gregg Dill, Tim Doucette

1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and welcomed members. She thanked Peter for his eloquent email to Board members regarding hurricane Fiona and the meeting when he distributed the minutes and agenda.

The Meeting Agenda had been circulated by email by Peter on September 26, 2022. The agenda was reviewed, and no additions or changes were requested.

220927MN-Mot01

It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the September 27, 2022, Board of Directors meeting agenda, as circulated.

CARRIED.

The Action Lists, which were attached to the minutes of the previous meeting, were reviewed.

From November 2, 2021

Action 1: Closed. There is a newer action.

From May 3, 2022

Action 3: Open.

From September 6, 2022

Action 1: Open.

Action 2: Closed.

Action 3: Open. Judy did contact Dave and Gregg to organize the inventory of SCO equipment but Dave has been away and it hasn't been completed.

Action 4-8: Closed.

The minutes of the September 6, 2022, Board of Directors meeting had been circulated by email by Peter on September 26, 2022. Corrections had been sent by email by Pat. There were no other changes.

220927MN-Mot02

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the September 6, 2022, Board of Directors meeting minutes, as amended.

CARRIED.

Judy informed members that Wendee Levy, wife of David Levy, had passed away on September 23, 2022. She expressed her condolences to David and family.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

Upcoming meeting dates are summarized in Agenda Note #1. Judy reviewed speakers for the October Members Meeting next weekend and the fall. She reported that Marcin Sawicki had changed the title of his presentation slightly. Mary Lou will be hosting the Members meeting on November 5, 2022, which will be a hybrid meeting. Randy Attwood is the guest speaker for the meeting in November. Tiffany Field will be the guest speaker for the Board of Directors Meeting: September 27, 2022

AGM in December and the January 2023 meeting will have a Youth Day theme. Judy hasn't confirmed Hasan Ali yet and she hasn't contacted Tarek El Wazi or Jeremy Kuzub about February or March 2023. Pat volunteered to present "The Sun is not an average star, the Earth is not an average planet" in February or March, he had previously presented it to the Blomidon Naturalists Society (BNS). Judy asked for suggestions on how to tackle the new Members meeting topic "Let's Talk About" that we had discussed previously, and she had added to the agenda for October. It was agreed to delete it from the agenda. David indicated that he would be away for the October meeting but would send the *Photo Montage* and *What's Up* to Jerry. Lisa volunteered to present *What's Up*. Judy reported that, because Dave Lane was away, the first hybrid Members Meeting wouldn't be until November. Because masks will be required, it was suggested that Mary Lou might want to host the meeting from Zoom. That will have to be resolved. Pat described the equipment setup for his presentation at the hybrid BNS meeting and indicated he had sent technical notes to Dave Lane. Judy has informed SMU that we wouldn't require a classroom for the October 5 Members meeting.

3. Report from National Council (NC) Representative

Judy indicated that her report as National Council rep is included as Agenda Note #3. She had shared the Open Letter sent to the National Board of Directors with our Board members in August. The outcome had been that she and Stephen Nourse, President of RASC Ottawa Centre, have been invited to attend a National Board meeting on October 15. She indicated she felt there were changes already and that the new National President was being more open to communication with the National Council.

4. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube Channel

Judy indicated that the only changes to the Website had been updates as needed.

5. Financial Update

This item was deferred as Gregg wasn't in attendance.

6. Recruitment

Judy reminded us we had discussed inviting the National Inclusivity and Diversity Committee to make a presentation to the Board and we had agreed to leave that to the incoming Board. She pointed out that the intent was a presentation to the Board, not a Members Meeting, for the purpose of helping us increase diversity on the Board and on committees in addition to the membership. It was suggested that the topic be added to the Members Meeting agenda to raise the issues of recruitment and diversity within the Centre with our members, to stimulate discussion and solicit ideas. Advertising on the university campuses was raised. The possibility of forming a membership task team was suggested. The status of the Dalhousie Planetarium was raised and its importance to us for recruitment in the past was pointed out. Use of social media was discussed, in particular the app [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) which Pat is an administrator for. There was also discussion of the RASC Halifax Centre Facebook page. Lisa volunteered to help Pat with the Facebook group.

220927MN-Act01

Judy Black to add Recruitment to the October 5, 2022 Members meeting agenda, as an information item.

220927MN-Act02

Peter Hurley to contact Stephen Payne to enquire about the status of the Dalhousie Planetarium and enquire if RASC could help in some way.

220927MN-Act03

Pat Kelly to arrange to add Lisa Ann Fanning as an administrator of the RASC Halifax Centre Facebook page.

7. Observing & Education and Public Outreach

David reported that the Discovery Centre outreach event planned for October 1 has been rescheduled to 9am-1pm October 15 and weather permitting to include a planetary observing session on the boardwalk that evening. He

also has an event in River John rescheduled to October 21. He is working with Wayne Harasimovitch who is organizing an ARISS session with Five Bridges Junior High School, to have a radio contact with the ISS at the school in late October. He will be doing a presentation at the school with Wayne on October 7. David indicated that no plans had been set for International Observe the Moon Night. David Chapman had indicated he will be doing a community viewing event and Jaime indicated that the Queens County Astronomy group will also be hosting an event. It was agreed to encourage members to organize other informal community observing events.

GOVERNANCE

8. Conflicting Bylaw and Policy re: National Council Representative

Judy referred members to Agenda Note #4. She explained that she had noticed a discrepancy between our Centre's Bylaw #1 and our PD6: Position Description (appointed) – National Representative. She had contacted other Centre Presidents to determine how they established their National Representative and received responses from 7 Centres; 3 were elected, 3 were appointed and 1 volunteered. There was discussion of how we wanted to approach it and it was agreed to follow the bylaw that the NC rep be appointed by the Board from the elected Directors.

220927MN-Mot03

It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Pat Kelly that the wording of PD6 regarding the National Representative be changed to match that of Bylaw #1.

CARRIED.

UPDATES / REPORTS

9. SCO

John wasn't able to attend but he sent an update to the Board in an email on September 26. He indicated that changing the breaker in the power panel was more complicated than we had anticipated and so to get power back to the outlets in the roll-off in time for the BBQ, he had just replaced the faulty GFCI receptacle in the roll-off outlet. He had also checked on SCO on Sunday after the hurricane and reported that there was no damage. He also indicated the electrician will provide a recommendation regarding the GFCIs once the chaos from the hurricane has settled.

It was agreed that the BBQ that was cancelled as a result of the hurricane was important to recruitment and should be rescheduled. It was agreed that October 21 with a rain date of October 22 would work, the waning crescent moon would be set by 5pm, and the Orionid meteor shower peaks on October 20/21. Judy indicated that there was a lot of refreshments left over from Nova East, the only food we need for the BBQ is hamburgers and hotdogs, and she would coordinate with Chris Young in getting that. Judy indicated she would extend an invitation to Harden Wile, and she would contact Roy Bishop to get contact information for the person replacing John Wood, who had retired since the last BBQ. Peter offered to organize a work party to clean up SCO in preparation for the BBQ. And it was agreed that John should ask Minas Energy to leave the gate unlocked for the BBQ.

220927MN-Act04

Judy Black to obtain contact information for John Wood's replacement and invite them and Harden Wile and their families to the October 21/22, 2022 BBQ and observing event.

220927MN-Act05

Judy Black to remind members of the October 21/22, 2022 BBQ and observing night at the Members meeting on October 1, 2022 and through the Centre Announce list.

220927MN-Act06

Peter Hurley to organize a work party to clean up SCO before the BBQ on October 21/22, 2022.

220927MN-Act07

John Liddard to contact Minas Energy for permission to open the gate to SCO for the BBQ on October 21/22, 2022.

220927MN-Act08

David Hoskin to obtain the Sky-Watcher Newtonian telescope from SCO for donation to the group in River John.

10. Report: 2022 Dark-Sky Weekend

Deferred.

11. Report: 2022 Nova East

Peter had distributed the Nova East report from Judy with the meeting agenda and minutes in the September 26, 2022 email. Judy indicated that the financial report would be added by Gregg and she asked members to let her know if there were any changes or additions, as this will appear in the AGM report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Judy adjourned the meeting at 8:17pm. She reminded us that the next meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Hurley, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of September 27, 2022):

From May 3, 2022		
220503MN-Act03	Judy Black to raise the concerns to the GA Working Group regarding the GA and AGM potentially being held separately and to determine if members have received any feedback from their members.	Open
From September 6, 2022		
220906MN-Act01	Peter Hurley and Tim Doucette to discuss light pollution abatement, where it best fits within the DSP Committee or as a separate entity, and report how best to go forward at the October Board meeting.	Open
220906MN-Act03	Judy Black to contact Dave Lane and Gregg Dill to organize the inventory of SCO equipment.	
From September 27, 2022		
220927MN-Act01	Judy Black to add Recruitment to the October 5, 2022 Members meeting agenda, as an information item.	Open
220927MN-Act02	Peter Hurley to contact Stephen Payne to enquire about the status of the Dalhousie Planetarium and enquire if RASC could help in some way.	Open
220927MN-Act03	Pat Kelly to arrange to add Lisa Ann Fanning as an administrator of the RASC Halifax Centre Facebook page.	Open
220927MN-Act04	Judy Black to obtain contact information for John Wood's replacement and invite them and Harden Wile and their families to the October 21/22, 2022 BBQ and observing event.	Open

220927MN-Act05	Judy Black to remind members of the October 21/22, 2022 BBQ and observing night at the Members meeting on October 1, 2022 and through the Centre Announce list.	Open
220927MN-Act06	Peter Hurley to organize a work party to clean up SCO before the BBQ on October 21/22, 2022.	Open
220927MN-Act07	John Liddard to contact Minas Energy for permission to open the gate to SCO for the BBQ on October 21/22, 2022.	Open
220927MN-Act08	David Hoskin to obtain the Sky-Watcher Newtonian telescope from SCO for donation to the group in River John.	Open

MOTION LIST (September 27, 2022):

220927MN-Mot01	It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the September 27, 2022, Board of Directors meeting agenda, as circulated. CARRIED.
220927MN-Mot02	It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the September 6, 2022, Board of Directors meeting minutes, as amended. CARRIED.
220927MN-Mot03	It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Pat Kelly that the wording of PD6 regarding the National Representative be changed to match that of Bylaw #1. CARRIED with one abstention (Judy Black)

RASC, Halifax Centre – Member’s Meeting

Saturday, September 10, 2021 – 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Via Zoom – Meeting ID 842 7600 7085

Agenda Items		
Time*	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions Photo Montage	Judy Black David Hoskin
1:15 PM	Presentations: Dr. Donald Bedard & Jim Johnston - Photometric Characterization of Satellites and Space Debris Objects Dave Chapman – What’s in a name? How celestial objects are named	Dr. Donald Bedard Jim Johnston Dave Chapman
2:55 PM	What’s Up? (September)	David Hoskin
3:30 PM	News from the Board	Judy Black
4:00 PM	Adjournment	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Astro-Chat	

* 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.

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
<p>Agenda Note #1 re: 2022 Member Meeting Dates & Speakers</p>	<p>A) 2022 Approved Member Meeting Dates and Events 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>NOTE: We have space confirmed with SMU for the October through December meetings. However, we will not be hosting our first hybrid meeting until November. Therefore we will be cancelling AT101 for the October meeting.</p> <p>B) Confirmed Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 1, 2022 (Thanksgiving = Oct 10) via Zoom Marcin Sawicki, SMU (NIRISS – Near InfraRed Imager & Slitless Spectograph) Chris Young (Sky Lore) • November 5, 2022 (Hybrid meeting) – Host: Mary Lou Whitehorne Randy Attwood (2024 Total Eclipse) Dave Chapman (What's in a Name? How celestial objects are named) • December 3, 2022 (+ AGM) (Hybrid meeting) Tiffany Field (SMU & the BGO) • January 7, 2023 (Hybrid meeting) Youth Day – Keegan Oickle, Silas Eastwood, (?)Hasan Ali <p>C) Suggested Speakers Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Leslie Rogers & Sara Seager ○ Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster) ○ https://rasc.ca/find-speaker ○ 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. Samantha.Lawler@uregina.ca ○ SCANS Gary Welch – Life in Space ○ For the AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair, Observing Committee (Blake Nancarrow): “Observing. Looking up.... now and in the future” RASC programs now and in the future. ○ (from Dave Chapman/Peter Jedicke) Prof. Philip McCausland (also a Handbook contributor) on the topic of the Golden Meteorite. He runs the Canadian Fireball Reporting Centre. email: pmccausl@uwo.ca
<p>Agenda Note #2 re: Approval of 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Dates</p>	<p>Approved Board Meeting Dates, 2022 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"> • Sept 27 • Nov 1 • Nov 29
<p>Agenda Notes #3: Report from National Council</p>	<p>From Judy Black, National Council (NC) Representative for Halifax Centre, and NC Chair</p> <p>The last meeting held was September 11, 2022 via Zoom. Next meeting is December 4, 2022. Approved 2023 NC Meeting Dates: March 5, June 4, placeholder for the GA (May/June), Sept 24, Dec 3.</p> <p>Michael Watson, 1st VP, noted the <i>Open Letter to the Board from the National Council</i> was taken seriously; hence, the invite of the NC Chair to the next Board meeting. “NC has 4 meetings per year whereas the Board meets every month; however, a strong feeling remains that we need to communicate, not just more but earlier, before we make decisions, and we’re not giving the impression that it only appears like a consultation.” Answers to the FAQ will be forthcoming.</p> <p>The value of Centre Reports was discussed. It was decided to have this item as an ongoing item so that should a Centre want an issue raised, there is a placeholder for it to be raised.</p> <p>The final touches are being put on the RASC Centres Manual. The EPO Committee is working to having it prepared for circulation to the Centre and the Board for comments prior to approval later this fall. It will be a “declassified” area of the website for all to access, perhaps under “About Us”.</p>

	<p>Comments about the Manual will be received from the NC and the Board until September 30, 2022.</p> <p>ACTION for Halifax Centre Board: Review the RASC Centres Manual and provide your input by September 30, 2022. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oXXTBQBrxaJCU1CABqiQD3uZP21Sr6px</p> <p>Also, EPO is in the process of creating 1-pager from EPO committee to the board. It was noted it does not apply to everybody; if parents/guardians are not present, then a police check should be done. EPO will send out a letter so it should not be a cost to the local Centre. EPO has money in their budget in case it is not done for free. The goal is to put the RASC, children, and members at less risk. Security is only for select situations.</p> <p>The Board will be forwarding two proposals to the National Council in the coming months, one related to SkyNews and the other regarding a portable planetarium for British Columbia area as a pilot.</p> <p><u>Consequent to the NS Meeting:</u> Changes to a couple of policies have been made at the suggestion of National Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a- <i>Policy C4: Finance Committee</i> membership has been changed to include 3 additional members who are Centre Treasurers. Gregg was forwarded the invitation should he be interested in being one of the three. b- <i>Policy C12: National Council Terms of Reference</i> now cites the Chair, Vice-Chair and Council Recorder as being elected from its membership. Michael Watson noted that it does require total revision. A draft of the NC Terms of Reference will also be attempted but will be rewritten following discussions with the Board on October 15, 2022. It was noted several times throughout the meeting that the role of the NC needs to be redefined. <p>Because no one stepped forward or was nominated to be the Recorder nor the Vice-Chair, Judy Black agreed to draft position descriptions for Chair, Vice-Chair, Council Recorder and Centre Representative to the NC.</p> <p>Transport Canada has of course been dealing with covid and not meeting in person. However, we are still operating under a certificate, so we can continue. Centres are the local authorizing body. To use GLPs, it must be a Centre-approved event. Training slide package has gone out to all Centres.</p> <p>Regards, Judy Black, NC Representative</p>
<p>Agenda Notes #4: National Council Representative</p>	<p>From Judy Black</p> <p>In preparing documentation for the National Council, it was recognized there was a discrepancy between our Centre's Bylaw #1 and our <i>PD6: Position Description (appointed) - National Representative</i>. The two documents read as follows:</p> <p><i>Bylaw #1:</i> in 7.2.1 The National Council Representative(s) must be a director and will be appointed by the Board.</p> <p><i>PD6: Position Description (appointed) - National Representative:</i> In Qualifications: May be an elected Director on the RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors or be appointed as the National Council Representative by the Board of Directors.</p> <p>I have contacted my fellow Centre Presidents. Responses received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belleville – elected annually for a 1-year term but can be re-elected for an indeterminate number of terms. • Kingston – elected and sits as a director on the Board • Ottawa – appoints the NC rep but not required to be a director <p>Our Board needs to discuss which of these versions will be accepted and which version will consequently require change.</p>