



**Council of Halifax Centre - Minutes of Meeting
21 April 2017
SMU, The Atrium, Room AT306 (6:30 AM - 7:30 PM)**

Present: Judy Black, Art Cole, Sean Dzafovic, Andrew Frank, Paul Gray, Melody Hamilton, Paul Heath, John Read, Tony Schellinck.

Regrets: Dr. Roy Bishop, Andy Hasler, Tony McGrath, Jim Millar.

Guests: Chris Young, Dave Lane

1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy Black assumed the Chair in Paul Gray's absence and welcomed members. She asked if members had other items to add to the agenda; none were suggested.

170421MN – Mot01

It was moved by Tony Schellinck and seconded by John Read that the agenda be approved.
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

- a) April 2016
Action 2 remains open.
- b) May 2016
Action 3 remains open.
- c) September 2016
Action 3 remains open.
- d) October 2016
Action 16 remains open.
- e) January 2017
Action 1, 3 closed
Action 2 remains open.
- f) February
Action 5 closed.
- g) March 2017
Action 1, 2 closed.
Action 3, 4, 5, 6 remain open

170421MN – Mot02

It was moved by Sean Dzafovic and seconded by Paul Heath that the minutes of March 17, 2017 be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.

Paul Heath noted that the Centre's registration with HalCon may not have been processed.

170421MN-Act01

Paul Heath is to inquire with HalCon as to whether the payment had been received.

170421MN-Act02

Judy Black is to ask Jim Millar if the payment had been forwarded to HalCon.

Andrew Frank expressed the need to design a cleaner, user-friendly form of communication, starting with the website. This will be brought forward as an agenda item at the next meeting.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

Judy Black informed members that rooms AT 101 and AT 306 were confirmed for May and June Members' and Council meetings respectively. Council then discussed the potential topics and speakers for the remainder of 2017.

April (tonight): Laura Mclarnon (speaker at February MAG meeting); Ruining Zhang re her visit to Beijing Observatory Science Academy

May: Randall Rosenfeld

June: BBQ at SCO

Sept: Solar Eclipse presentations by members in Nebraska and elsewhere; summer activity recap (two DSW week-ends, Nova East, Starmus)

Oct: SMU's MacLennan Lecture (Sarah Seager)

Nov: Dr. Luigi Gallo re Black Holes

Dec AGM: unknown.

It was noted that Dave Turner had offered to host Randal Rosenfeld. Paul Heath suggested "Who Wants to be a Gazer?" at the AGM.

170421MN-Act03

Judy Black will confirm with Paul Gray that Randall Rosenfeld is the presenter at the May Members' meeting.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

3. RASC Halifax Centre Meeting with Keji Staff

Tony Schellinck noted that Jonathan at Keji did recognize there were shortcomings and will address them. Where from here? The legal document (agreement) has yet to be signed by both parties as streamlining it is required. Wayne Mansfield & Tony will use the Seaside Adjunct for viewing. September 22, 2017 is the premier of "Dark Beer" at Keji.

4. RASC 2011 Cultural Connections

Deferred as Paul Gray was not present to address it.

5. Saltscapes re Volunteers

Paul Heath noted all volunteer positions for Saltscapes were filled except Sunday morning. He also noted we might be charged for a table as RASC was not officially registered as a vendor with APS.

6. Purchase of RASC Banner

Sean Dzafovic is still waiting to hear if it is OK to add "RASC Halifax Centre" to the banner. Ted Dunphy at New Brunswick Centre designed the banner.

7. RASC Solar Viewers

Paul Heath is to request 200 solar glasses from RASC. There are 40 remaining from the transit of Venus.

8. Nova East

Melody Hamilton reported highlights of the Nova East Committee's progress to date and noted that the report will be forwarded with the minutes of meeting. T-shirt logo was designed by John Read; a photo of the Orion Nebula in a maple leaf on a backdrop of a photo taken by the Hubble Telescope will be printed on charcoal grey fabric. The BBQ is well organized with Paul Gray as the chef; she has received some comments about not being able to give the \$5.00 donation towards the BBQ. The photo contest will be adjudicated by Blair MacDonald, Mary Lou Whitehorne, and Allen Sutherland (in Brian Giffin's absence). Melody noted that a PA system was required for Nova East and that the Committee recommended that Council approve the costs of rental to cover Nova East plus the two Dark Sky Week-ends at Keji.

170421MN – Mot03

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Art Cole that up to \$80.00 be approved for the rental of a PA system to cover the costs of Nova East plus the two DSW weekends at Keji.
CARRIED.

Chris Young and John Read reported on door prizes and a request for additional funding. They had drawn guidelines for making their decisions about the prizes contained in their prize "shopping list" that was circulated at the meeting:

1. To have a prize for about half the attendees, approx. 30 prizes (a 1 in 2 chance of a prize - good odds!).
2. Prizes should be of reasonable quality.
3. They should encourage and support astronomical activities.
4. The interests of new observers should be considered for some of the prizes.
5. To match the most compatible prize with a recipient we suggest having several prizes "on the table" for each winner to choose from, which has been done in the past.

Council and the NE Committee had allowed \$500 for prizes. The circulated list showed what could be purchased for \$600, that an additional \$300 could include a mid-sized telescope (e.g. a 5 inch Newtonian or a six inch Dobsonian), and, if possible, another \$100 could provide for an additional 5-10 small prizes, for an all-in budget of \$1000. They noted that the list could be culled again. They asked Council to give consideration for their proposal to request additional funds.

170421MN – Mot04

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Tony Schellinck to increase the budget for prizes for Nova East from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00.
CARRIED unanimously.

9. Purchase/Arrival of Parallelogram Mount for Thurlow Binoculars

Chris Young was asked to update Council on the arrival of the mount. He reported the parallelogram mount should be shipped this week. The Thurlow binoculars and the mount will be brought to the next meeting to demonstrate to members.

170421MN-Act04

Chris Young will contact Tony McGrath to request the binoculars be brought to the next meeting.

Paul Gray arrived at 7:10 PM.

10. Sale of Centre's Dobsonian

Paul Gray informed Council the Centre's 17" Dobsonian had been sold for \$1200.00 to Chris Novak of Montreal. Members gave thanks to Paul for his lead role in the sale and to Judy & Jerry Black for delivering it to Truro for pick-up.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Halifax Centre Laptop

One of the outcomes of discussion at the NE Committee meeting was the recommendations for a laptop replacement. Chris Young, as a guest, asked to address the Council regarding the purchase a second-hand laptop from Brilliance Computers on Kempt Road. Brilliance does all his office maintenance, software issues and supply of hardware. Both Paul Heath and Chris had bought laptops there in the past few months. He can vouch for their service, etc. Brilliance gets leasebacks, office lots, etc., cleans them up, and puts new operating systems in them. Chris obtained a Lenovo with 8 gigs of ram, high end video card and very good chip for \$399.

For software, Chris recommend the Centre get an annual subscription for Office so that software remains current. Five licenses can be obtained for \$99/year which I can be moved from one computer to another. He suggested the President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Representative, and Outreach Coordinator each get a copy. The software distribution is controlled by the one subscriber. The Centre may be able to mix and match Windows and Mac versions. Judy stated she already had MS Office so would be willing to offer her license to the Nova Notes Editor.

Members questioned about how much to approve for purchase of the laptop. Because the laptop is used primarily for Outreach, it was recommended that both VGI and HDMI ports be included, and that the warrantee be at least 90 days but that longer was preferred.

170421MN-Act05

Chris Young will explore the features, cost and extended warrantee of a laptop for presentation at next meeting.

170421MN-Act06

Chris Young will inquire about the \$99.00 cost of the 5 licenses and their usage by the President, Treasurer, National Representative, Nova Notes Editor, and Outreach Coordinator.

12. Telescope Donation & Storage Space

Dave Lane had requested to make these requests.

a) Dave noted that a 13" truss telescope was being donated to the Centre, if they are interested. A long-time astronomy enthusiast (but not a club member) designed and built it before he died. It's based on all good parts (Novak, Coulter 13 mirror, etc.) that he had been collecting for decades. There is a ServoCAT goto control system for it. Dave has seen it and can confirm its of good quality but not completed. The unit requires a light baffle and the rocker box has not been addressed. It could be used as a regular DOB versus using the goto.

170421MN – Mot05

It was moved by Tony Schellinck and seconded by Paul Heath to obtain the unfinished Dobsonian as presented by Dave Lane.
CARRIED.

b) Dave made a request to regain some storage space in the room where the library is stored. He requested the club's mirror grinding machine either be moved (someone take it), or disposed of by him or another member. This request was deferred until a further meeting.

13. Adjournment

1670217MN – Mot06

It was moved by John Read to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black
Secretary