



**Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting
1 June 2019
SMU, The Atrium, Room AT101 (10:30 AM – 12:30 PM)**

Present: Judy Black (Acting Chair), Paul Heath, Pat Kelly, Tom Crosman, Peter Hurley, Paul Gray arrived at 11 AM.

Regrets: Charles White, John Read, Gregg Dill, Mary Lou Whitehorne.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy Black welcomed members at 10:35 AM. Quorum had been met. Judy welcomed members and guest Jenna Hinds to the meeting. Judy requested that agenda item #19 be added regarding the use of GLPs.

190504MN-Mot01

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Tom Crosman to approve the May 4, 2019 Board of Directors meeting agenda with the amendment.
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

a) February 2019

Actions 3 remains open. Judy again noted that it would not be completed until the spring.

b) March 2019

Actions 8, 11 remain open.

c) April 2019

Action 3 remains open

Actions 7: Closed. The Board determined the cost of admission was prohibitive and that Halifax Centre would not attend this year.

Actions 8, 12 & 13 remain open.

c) May 2019

Actions 2, 4 & 5 remain open

Action 1: Closed. Judy Black admitted that Mr. Payne had been invited. The invitation will be extended to the September 7, 2019 meeting.

190601MN-Act01

Judy Black will contact Stephen Payne to extend an invitation to attend the September 7, 2019 Board of Directors meeting to a discussion regarding volunteer role with the planetarium.

Action 3: Closed. The Board list had been pre-circulated. A revised Board list was handed out at the meeting for inclusion in the Board Reference Manual.

Action 6: Closed. The storage needs had been clarified by Chris Young. This will be discussed later in the agenda.

Action 7: Closed. Judy had provided PDFs of approved Board meetings from December 2015 to April 2019.

Action 8: Closed. Pat Kelly will post the minutes of meeting on the Halifax website this coming week. It was suggested that a watermark stating the approval date be included on subsequent versions to be posted.

Action 9: Closed. Judy Black has included the announcement of the Board minutes posting in the Members' Meeting presentation of News from the Board.

Action 10 & 11: Closed. Only one person submitted potential expenses for the coming budget.

The minutes of the May 4, 2019 Board meeting were reviewed.

190601MN-Mot02

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Pat Kelly to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.

CARRIED.

Judy Black handed members the amended Board contact list from the Board Reference Manual.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

a) Meeting Dates:

Upcoming meeting dates are September 7, October 5 and November 2, with the AGM on December 7.

b) SMU Room Bookings:

Judy will contact Dan in mid-August to confirm room bookings for September to December.

c) Guest Speakers:

Judy noted that today's guest speaker would be Mark Rector about the contents of his new book "OH CANADA! Our Home and Inventive Land!" which has content about the amazing and unknown stories of inventors, inventions and firsts in technology and industry in Canada. He would cover stories of Clarence Chant and his work starting not only the RASC but also the UofT Astronomy program, getting the David Dunlap Observatory built, and his confirmation of Einstein's theory.

d) Ideas for Future Meetings:

The September meeting could be a recap of Nova East, Starmus, DSW, and member activities over the summer.

The following were suggestions for subsequent meetings:

- Dave Lane – Use of the BGO's (how-tos)
- Luigi Gallo – X-Ray Astronomy (perhaps in the fall)
- Paul Gray – equipment maintenance and collimation
- Dr. Rob Thacker
- Speaker re: status/progress of Jupiter's GRS (if still relevant)

Provided the Halifax Centre website is up and running, it should be showcased at the December AGM.

3. Report from National Council Representative

The main topics were national council composition, the Society budget, and SkyNews. The Board has proposed an increase to the society portion of the fee of \$8.00 but has not yet approved by the Board. There was also a cut to committee funding. The RASC Board is undergoing a detailed review of the budget and funding.

4. Communications Plan

Nothing new to add to the Communications Strategy. Judy inquired as to who should be responsible for submitting articles to the RASC Bulletin. Members agreed that Judy should submit an article about Nova East to the Bulletin.

190601MN-Act02

Judy Black will submit an article to the RASC Bulletin about Nova East.

5. Outreach Requests

Paul Heath reported there was one new camp request, making a total of three. Halifax Library is hosting an event on June 27 at which Melody would be presenting an activity to show how lunar craters are created; volunteers and additional telescopes are required for the event. Star finders have been received from the Society. The Science Teacher Association conference on October 25, 2019 is requesting a presentation of star lore by a RASC representative with both English and French materials available to teachers in attendance. There was also a Kentville request for a presentation on star lore (June 22-23); Chris Young was suggested for the talk.

The RASC Halifax Centre brochure has been revised and will be discussed further in Item #19. The black-and-white version is needed for the June event at the library. The colour version would be used for special events such as Saltscapes.

6. Update: RASC-Halifax Centre

Jerry Black and Dave Lane developed the Nova East site using *Joomla!*. Jerry Black, Dave Chapman, Dave Lane and Pat Kelly will develop the Halifax Centre website following completion of the Nova East website. They will also discuss the relationship between Halifax Centre and ANS and to provide clarification of their site roles when site development begins.

7. Update: SCO Clean-up

Members determined the clean-up would be conducted Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 1 PM. This will be announced at the June 1st Members' meeting as well as through the Announce list. Members are to confirm their attendance at the clean-up with Judy Black.

190601MN-Act03

Paul Gray to inform the members' Meeting of the SCO Clean-up on June 1/19 at 1 PM.

190601MN-Act04

Judy Black to announce the SCO Clean-up session on June 1 via the Announce List.

AGM REQUIREMENTS

8. Nominations Committee

In light of the email received from Charles White, Judy Black emphasized the need for leadership. A President and perhaps a Vice-President should be actively sought.

190601MN-Act05

Paul Gray will work Chris Young and Dave Chapman to determine a President and perhaps a Vice-President for approval at the September 7 Board of Directors meeting

FOCUS: BUDGET

9. Budget Discussions

Members discussed the budget as presented by Gregg Dill via email. Ways to increase income and to reduce deficit were discussed:

- a- Gregg was working to reduce the SCO insurance costs.
- b- Nova Notes reproduction and mailing cost to members should be re-examined given the costs are greater than what is being charged to members for the service.
- c- Halifax Centre has never had a RASC surcharge; this might be something to consider in the 2019-2020 budget to assist in defraying operational expenses and to provide funds for SCO upgrades.
- d- It was also questioned as to why the Centre was providing funds for the Keji Dark-Sky weekend, especially if it was a Parks Canada event.

190601MN-Mot03

It was moved by Paul Gray and seconded by Pat Kelly that the GIC due in July be closed with \$2000.00 being put into the Halifax Centre Bank account and \$2000.00 being reinvested in a 1-year GIC, and that the GIC due in December be converted to a 1-year renewable term.

CARRIED unanimously.

The budget should be revisited in September. Members suggested that budget should be included at each meeting September to December 2019.

190601MN-Act06

Judy Black will include "Budget" on each Board meeting agenda for September to December 2019.

UPDATES / REPORTS

10. Vanderburg Eye Pieces (deferred from March 2/19)

Judy Black informed members that Chris Young had determined the Vanderburg and other eyepieces were in metal cases. Because the warm room was drier and locked, it would be the best place to store the eyepieces, with the key to the boxes being kept in the key lockbox in the warm room. A method of drying the eyepieces after use needs to be determined.

11. Nova East (NE)

Judy Black, 2019 Nova East Chairperson, stated a meeting had been held last night (May 31, 2019). It was hoped the website would go live tomorrow morning before the Members' Meeting. A revised prize structure for the photo contest was being developed in discussion with Allen Sutherland of Atlantic Photo Supply.

12. Photo Release Form (deferred from March 2/19)

Photo release statements have been included in our Centre and Nova East sites. Members agreed to a minor revision to the statement (change "will be taken" to "may be taken"):

"Pictures and videos may be taken as a means of recording events. RASC Halifax Centre may use your voice, likeness and/or photograph for inclusion in our newsletters and/or website."

13. Social Media Replacement (deferred from March 2/19)

These items were deferred to September 7, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting.

14. Update: Sale of ETU Guides

At the April 6/19 Members' Meeting, Paul Gray had requested a show of hands of members interested in purchase of the Guide. Given the response, it was agreed a box of 15 should be ordered. If Tony Schellinck requires copies for sale at SCANS astronomy events, additional copies will be ordered. Pat Kelly agreed the 15 copies could be brought back from the RASC GA in mid-June.

190601MN-Act07

Judy Black will include "ETU Guides" in the agenda for the September 7th Members' Meeting.

15. UPDATE: Posting of Board Minutes

Judy Black stated that as noted in discussion of the action list that PDF versions of approved Board minutes had been sent to Pat Kelly for posting. This should be accomplished this coming week.

16. RASC Laminated ID tags

These items were deferred to September 7, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting.

17. Kejimikujik National Park Invitation

Dave Chapman thought it would be good for RASC Halifax to participate in the Keji meeting being held at White Point Beach Lodge on Wednesday June 12. Parks Canada and the Mi'kmaq are updating the management plan for Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site, which includes Kejimikujik National Park Seaside. Management plans are key instruments for ensuring that Parks Canada delivers on its commitments to the people

of Canada. This gathering will bring together Mi'kmaq and a variety of key stakeholders and partners to share their perspectives on the future of Kejimikujik.

Dave cannot attend but thankfully Tony Schellinck is knowledgeable, interested, available, and living nearby, so he is the ideal candidate. To make it official, he requested the Board pass a motion for Tony to attend on our behalf and report back.

190601MN-Mot04

It was moved by Paul Gray and seconded by Peter Hurley Halifax Centre ensures a representative attends the Parks Canada meeting and reports back to the Board of the proceedings and outcome.
CARRIED

190601MN-Act08

Dave Chapman will ask Tony Schellinck to attend the Parks Canada meeting on our behalf.

18. SCO BBQ

Judy Black and Chris Young will co-lead the planning of this event. Chris has been involved with the BBQ for numerous years. Members agreed to a 7 PM start time, i.e. hot food would be available at this time. Chris and Judy will be making plans for the BBQ in the coming weeks and Halifax Centre members notified of the details via the Announce list.

19. Halifax Centre Brochure

Judy has revised the Centre's brochure using Pages (not Publisher). A full colour and black-and-white version has been completed. She had questions about changing the quote in the middle panel of the outside of the brochure. Two quotes had been provided by Dr. Roy Bishop for consideration. It was agreed to the shorter quote: "Nature offers no greater splendor than the starry sky on a clear, dark night." Other needed edits were noted.

190601MN-Act09

Judy Black will make the required edits to the Halifax Centre brochure, and have it printed at SMU in time for the June 27 library outreach event.

Adjournment

190601MN-Mot05

It was moved by Paul Heath to adjourn.

Adjournment at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Black, Secretary