RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors – Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2020: 6:00 – 8:00 PM Via Zoom - Meeting ID 983 1355 0710

		Agenda Iter	ns	
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents
6:00	 1. Welcome & Introductions Approval of Agenda Review Action List Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting 	Information Approval	Judy Black	Minutes pre-circulated: September 24, 2020 Agenda pre-circulated
ONGOING	•		1	
	 2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers a. 2020 Meeting date confirmation b. Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations 	Ongoing Discussion	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #1
	3. Report from National Representative	Information Discussion	Patrick Kelly	n/a
	4. Outreach / Inreach Outreach requests (if applicable) InOMN (International Observe the Moon Night)	Discussion	Paul Heath Judy Black	All in-person Outreach is to be conducted according to the Nova Scotia COVID-19 guidelines
	5. RASC Halifax Centre Website	Information Discussion	Judy Black	n/a
	6. Financial Update Update: October Financial Report	Discussion	Gregg Dill	n/a
UPDATES	/ REPORTS			
	7. SCO Status a. Minutes of Members' Meeting on Requisition b. Donations received to date c. Offer from John Higgins d. Offer from Blair MacDonald	Information Discussion Decision	Judy Black (a,c,d) Gregg Dill (b)	Refer to Agenda Notes #2 Refer to Agenda Notes #3
	8. Update: The Discovery Centre	Discussion Information	Peter Hurley Wayne Harasimovitch	n/a
	9. Report: Binocular Flyer	Discussion Decision	Pat Kelly	n/a
	10. Report: Nomination Committee	Discussion Decision	Judy Black Peter Hurley	Refer to Agenda Notes #4
,	11. Update: Astroimaging Contest	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	n/a
	12. Update: RASC Calendars	Information	Judy Black	n/a
NEW BUSI				
	13. MacLennan Memorial Lecture, October 29/20	Information	Judy Black	n/a
	14. 2021 Halifax Centre Meeting Dates	Information Approval	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Note #5

DEFERRED				
	13. Status: Halifax Centre	Discussion	Judy Black	n/a
	Priority Setting	Decision		
	14. Update: Halifax Centre	Discussion	Wayne Harasimovitch	n/a
	Business Cards	Decision		
	15. Communications Strategy	Discussion	Judy Black	No meetings have been
		Decision		scheduled
8:00 PM	Adjournment			

RASC, Halifax Centre Members' Meeting

Saturday, November 7, 2020: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Via Zoom - Webinar ID 891-3105-6268

	Agenda It	tems	
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility
1:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions	Information	Judy Black
	Photo Montage		Paul Gray
	2. Outreach Opportunities	Information	Paul Heath
	Food for the Soul	,	
	3. News from the Board	Information	Judy Black
	4. What's Up?	Information	Dave Chapman
	5. Library Review	Information	Wayne Harasimovitch
	6. Video Presentation: <i>The Litchfield Discussion</i>	Video Presentation	Judy Black
	7. Youth Activity	Activity	Paul Heath
	8. Special Presentation: Glenn Roberts	Presentation	Glenn Roberts
4:00 PM	9. Adjournment		

SMU Reservation / Zoom Reservations*

At this time SMU is not in the position to offer meeting facilities in the Fall to external clients and will advise when the situation changes.

		Executive M	eeting		Member Mee	eting
Meeting Dates	Rm#	Time Booked with SMU	Actual Meeting Time (PM)	Rm #	Time Booked with SMU	•
A		eetings (in RASC Zo	oom Account) Webinar ID 891-3105-626	58		
			Vebinar ID 872-2438-899			

Zoom Board Meetings (in Halifax Centre Zoom Account)

Oct 28/20: Booked as 2-hour meeting, Meeting ID 983 1355 0710

Nov 26/20: Booked as 2-hour meeting, Meeting ID 927 7855 3222

- a) Members Meetings on the national RASC webinar account
- b) Board Meetings on the Halifax Centre meeting account
- c) Nova East Speaker Series on the Halifax Centre meeting account

^{*} Halifax Centre presentations will be booked on Zoom:



Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting October 28, 2020 - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM held via Zoom Meeting ID 983 1355 0710

Present: Judy Black, Paul Heath, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Peter Hurley, Wayne Harasimovitch, Matt Dyer, Gregg Dill, David Hoskin

Regrets: Tom Crosman, Paul Gray, Pat Kelly, John Liddard.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed members. The meeting date had been rescheduled from October 29, 2020 because the SMU Annual MacLennan Memorial Lecture in Astronomy had been scheduled for the same night. The meeting agenda was reviewed. No changes or additions were requested.

201028MN-Mot01

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the October 28, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as presented.

CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

From January 2020

Action 5: Open. Gregg Dill had sent the list of capital items provided by Judy to Ian Anderson to determine which items we need to track but hasn't heard back from him yet.

From May 21, 2020

Action 5: Closed. See item 2.

Action15: Open. John Liddard wasn't present to address this.

From September 3, 2020

Action 6: Closed.

From September 10, 2020 (Special Meeting)

Action 1: Closed. The insurance company had responded to Gregg Dill that there would be no change in the premium but that they should be informed if there was a change in the heating.

Action 4: Closed.

Action 5: Open. John Liddard and Paul Gray were not present.

From September 24, 2020

Action 1: Open.

Action 2: Open. Pat Kelly was not present.

Action 3: Closed. There was considerable discussion of the history of life membership fees. There is no revenue to any Centre from life memberships. Judy Black reminded us that we had agreed to defer review of our Centre fee until May 2021.

Action 4: Closed. Gregg Dill sent the updated budget at that time.

Action 5-11: Closed.

Action 12: Closed. Chris Young agreed to serve but Dave Chapman declined. Peter Hurley had volunteered and agreed to serve as Chair of Nomination Committee.

Action 13: Open.

Actions 14-16: Closed.

The minutes of the September 24, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting were reviewed. Comments were received from Pat Kelly by email on October 21, 2020. There were no further changes proposed.

201028MN-Mot02

It was moved by Wayne Harasimovitch and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the September 24, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as amended.

CARRIED.

The minutes for the Members' Meeting on Requisition (MMoR) held October 24, 2020 were distributed to the Board just before the meeting. It was agreed that changes would be received before midnight Friday, at which time Judy Black would circulate them to attendees of the MMoR for approval, before they are sent to the membership for information.

201028MN-Act01

Judy Black will circulate the minutes of Members' Meeting on Requisition MMoR) for approval by those members in attendance at the MMoR.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

a) 2020 Meeting date confirmation

Meeting dates for the last two meetings of the year were provided in Agenda Note #1. There has been no change in the situation at SMU regarding use of meeting facilities.

b) Guest Speakers and Ideas for Future Presentations

Glenn Roberts is scheduled as guest speaker for the November meeting. Paul Gray is scheduled to make a presentation at the December meeting on how to use the RASC Calendar. There is a list of potential speakers for 2021 in Agenda Note #1, and Nicole Mortillaro's name should be added to the list.

c) Members' Meeting Agenda and Chat Hour

Before COVID-19 and the Zoom meeting format, there would be a break during face-to-face meetings to give the Guest presenter time to set up and for social interaction. It was agreed that, given the new format, we should move the Guest speaker up first in the agenda to give them the opportunity to leave the meeting after their presentation if they wished. Judy Black reported that when she participated in a Kingston Centre Members' Meeting, they had a social hour after the meeting was adjourned. Wayne Harasimovitch indicated that Montreal Centre had done the same thing. It was agreed that we would try the same ourselves for the November meeting and that it would be added to the November meeting agenda.

d) National and Centre Zoom account usage

Judy Black indicated that we have been using the Halifax Centre Zoom meeting account for Board meetings and for other events such as virtual observing sessions and the Members' Meeting on Requisition, but that we have been using the RASC National Zoom webinar account for regular Members' Meetings. She explained that one difference of consequence between the two formats was the reports produced by Zoom and she didn't feel we needed the detail provided by the webinar format. The only other difference of consequence was that the Zoom meeting format had a maximum number of 100 participants. But it was observed that we usually didn't have more than 50 participating in a Members' Meeting. It was agreed that we would try using the Centre Zoom meeting account for the November 7, 2020 Members' Meeting instead of using National Zoom webinar account. Peter Hurley mentioned that there were Zoom training sessions planned by National Office, led by Jenna Hines, and that anyone wishing to attend those should indicate their interest to Judy Black.

201028MN-Act02

Board members are to contact Judy Black if they have an interest in attending the Zoom training session planned by National office.

201028MN-Act03

Judy Black will notify members at the November 7 Members' Meeting of the change in the order of presentations and the addition of a members' chat session (Astro-Chat).

3. Report from National Council Representative

Pat Kelly was not available to report and there had been no National Council meeting since our last meeting.

4. Outreach / Inreach

Judy Black noted that the wording under Support Documents for this agenda item had been changed because Outreach activities were happening despite COVID-19. Paul Heath reported that he had received 3 requests from Guide and Cub groups, but that he hadn't been in touch yet to get details.

Judy Black reported that the International Observe the Moon Night virtual observing event had gone very well. Judy had hosted the Zoom meeting session, Dave Chapman had narrated and navigated, and both Jerry Black and Blair MacDonald had livecast images from their telescopes to the Zoom meeting. There had been 48 participants and there had been a lot of great questions asked by the audience. A great job done by all.

5. RASC-Halifax Centre Website

Judy Black reported that there had been no changes to the Centre website.

6. Financial Update

Gregg Dill indicated he had presented a budget to the year-end at the MMoR last week and that there was nothing new in the budget. The original budget had projected a deficit of -\$1200 but with reduced expenditures as a result of COVID-19, the projected balance was now +\$300. He reported he had received \$3400 in donations for the SCO upgrade to date, not including the \$750 potentially coming from the sale of John Higgins dome. The sale of 16 calendars produced an income of \$400 and there were another 24 to be sold. There were no questions.

UPDATES / REPORTS

7. SCO Status

a) Minutes of Members' Meeting on Requisition

A report of the Members' Meeting on Requisition was presented in Agenda Note #2. In addition, minutes of the MMoR were circulated by Peter Hurley before the Board meeting and a deadline for comments by midnight Friday had been agreed. Judy Black indicated how well she thought the meeting went and that she had received communications from 4

members expressing how well they thought the meeting had gone and their appreciation to the Board for how the process was being handled. There was discussion regarding the need for an information package to be prepared for the membership.

b) Donations received to date

As reported by Gregg Dill above, donations totaling \$3400 have been received to date.

c) Offer from John Higgins

Judy Black reported that she had contacted John Higgins to communicate the Board's decision to decline his offer, and their offer to advertise the Sky-Shed Pod for him on the Centre Announce List. John has communicated to Judy that he has found a buyer, and that he will donate \$750 from the sale to the SCO upgrade fund, when the sale is completed.

e) Offer from Blair MacDonald

Judy Black explained the offer Blair MacDonald had made at the MMoR to provide astroimages that could be printed and sold to provide funds for the SCO upgrade (see Agenda Note #3). Blair also volunteered to do virtual observing sessions for local telescope shops in return for donations. There was considerable discussion and it was suggested that we needed a fundraising committee. Judy Black and Matt Dyer volunteered, and Blair MacDonald and Tony Schellinck (for marketing expertise) would be asked, and Gregg Dill would be an ex-officio member. Mary Lou Whitehorne volunteered to donate a cartoon depiction of SCO for the promotion. It was agreed that this should be ready for the upcoming Members' Meeting on November 7, 2020.

201028MN-Act04

Judy Black will contact Blair MacDonald and Tony Schellinck regarding their participation in the SCO Fundraising Committee.

201028MN-Act05

Judy Black will circulate an information package approved by the SCO Fundraising Committee to members via the Announce List on or before the November 7, 2020 Members' Meeting.

8. Update: The Discovery Centre

Wayne Harasimovitch and Peter Hurley reported there had been no further plans with the Discovery Centre but a meeting to review the September 26/27, 2020 Astronomy weekend event and discuss future events was still planned.

9. Report: Binocular Flyer

Deferred to the next meeting. Pat Kelly wasn't present to discuss this item.

10. Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee, consisting of Peter Hurley (Chair), Chris Young, and Judy Black (ex-officio) provided a report (see Agenda Note #4). Ian Anderson will be asked to serve as Auditor. John MacPhee and Jerry Black had agreed to be co-editors of Nova Notes, but John Reid has indicated that Lisa Ann Fanning would like to do the layout for Nova Notes, so Jerry removed his name from nomination as Co-Editor. Tony Schellinck declined taking the chair of the Dark-Sky Preserve Committee, so Dave Chapman has agreed to stay on for one more year. A chair for the Nova East Planning Committee is still needed. Kathy Walker has agreed to stand for election as a Director, and Tim Doucette was also approached and will let us know by next week if his name can also stand for election. The call for nominations was made at the Members' Meeting but Policy G6 specifies the timelines for nominations and elections. The call for 2020 nominations should be made by midnight November 4, 2020 to the Centre Announce List for all positions, and closure of all nominations is midnight November 24, after which the list of nominations will be published on the Centre Announce List and the Centre website. Nominations can be made at the AGM. The quorum for an AGM is 15 members. We will decide on Board appointed positions at the next Board meeting for announcement at the AGM.

201028MN-Act06

Judy Black will remind members via the Centre's Announce List of the closing date of November 24, 2020 for nominations to the Board.

201028MN-Act07

Judy Black will post the slate of nominations to the RASC Halifax Centre on November 25, 2020.

11. Update: Astroimaging Contest

Judy Black confirmed to the Board that Allen Sutherland of Atlantic Photo Supply has been in touch with the Astroimaging contest winners regarding their prizes.

12. Update: RASC Calendars

Gregg Dill confirmed that payment for 16 calendars had been received for an income of \$400, and that 24 remained in stock. Judy Black indicated she would send an email message reminder to the Centre Announce List and that there would be mention at the next Members' Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

13. MacLennan Memorial Lecture - October 29, 2020

Those who had registered for the event through Eventbrite had all received an acknowledgement but there was no link to a Zoom session yet. No one had any additional information about the event.

14. 2021 Halifax Centre Meeting Dates

Judy Black referred Board members to Agenda Note #5 for a list of proposed Board meeting dates and Members' Meeting dates for 2021. She indicated that the incoming Board could change Board meeting dates to another evening than Thursday if they chose to, this was just to get a schedule in place.

201028MN-Mot03

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the list of Members' Meeting dates, as presented.

CARRIED.

201028MN-Act08

Judy Black will add the Members' Meeting dates to the Halifax Centre website and announce them at the November 5, 2020 Members' Meeting.

DEFERRED

Items 15 to 17 were deferred.

Adjournment

Paul Heath indicated that he had not received a hard copy of Nova Notes since April. Judy Black indicated that she would check with Charles White.

There being no further business, Judy Black adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment at 8:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Peter Hurley, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of October 28, 2020):

From January 2020		
200111MN-Act05	Gregg Dill and John Liddard will establish the value of capital equipment when the inventory is complete.	Open
From May 21, 2020		
200521MN-Act015	John Liddard to obtain price quotes from 3 electricians once the electrical requirements for SCO are determined.	Open
From September 10,	2020	
200910MN-Act05	John Liddard and Paul Gray will test whether a small jack hammer can handle digging a trench to the required 14 inches depth.	Open
From September 24,	2020	
200924MN-Act01	Judy Black to ask Paul Gray to make a presentation at the December Members' Meeting on how to use the RASC Calendar.	Open
200924MN-Act02	Pat Kelly to contact Mike Watson to get clarification regarding expelling National and Centre members.	Open
200924MN-Act013	Gregg Dill to ask lan Anderson if he will serve as Auditor.	Open
From October 28, 20	20	
201028MN-Act01	Judy Black will circulate the minutes of Members' Meeting on Requisition MMoR) for approval by those members in attendance at the MMoR.	Open
201028MN-Act02	Board members are to contact Judy Black if they have an interest in attending the Zoom training session planned by National office.	Open
201028MN-Act03	Judy Black will notify members at the November 7 Members' Meeting of the change in the order of presentations and the addition of a members' chat session (Astro-Chat).	Open
201028MN-Act04	Judy Black will contact Blair MacDonald and Tony Schellinck regarding their participation in the SCO Fundraising Committee.	Open
201028MN-Act05	Judy Black will circulate an information package approved by the SCO Fundraising Committee to members via the Announce List on or before the November 7, 2020 Members' Meeting.	Open
201028MN-Act06	Judy Black will remind members via the Centre's Announce List of the closing date of November 24, 2020 for nominations to the Board.	Open
201028MN-Act07	Judy Black will post the slate of nominations to the RASC Halifax Centre on November 25, 2020.	Open
201028MN-Act08	Judy Black will add the Members' Meeting dates to the Halifax Centre website and announce them at the November 5, 2020 Members' Meeting.	Open

MOTION LIST (October 28, 2020):

201028MN-Mot01	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the October 28, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as presented. CARRIED.
201028MN-Mot02	It was moved by Wayne Harasimovitch and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the September 28, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as amended. CARRIED.
201028MN-Mot03	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the list of Members' Meeting dates, as presented. CARRIED.

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
Agenda Note #1 re Item #2: 2020 Approved Meeting Dates and Events	 A) 2020 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events November 7 – Glenn Roberts (Chronicle Herald) December 5 (AGM) - Paul Gray re How to Use the RASC Calendar 2021: Kaja Rotermund (gravitational lensing by a galaxy or the formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster) Dave Chapman & Melody Hamilton (RASC Double Stars Observing Program) Luigi Gallo (topic TBD) Luigi's student(s): topic(s) TBD Nicole Mortillaro B) Suggested Speakers Contacted Luigi Gallo re: use of students in a specific month of the year for presentations. Need to provide meeting dates for his students to consider and he offered to give a talk as well. Representative for Canso Spaceport Subject to address: Great Debate of Shapley & Curtis – 100 years later: the true nature of the cosmos as we know it C) Members' Meeting Agenda Chat Hour D) National & Halifax Centre Zoom account usage
Agenda Note #2 re Report of Members' Meeting on Requisition (MMoR)	Members' Meeting on Requisition October 24, 2020 – 1:00-2:00 PM Via Zoom – ID # A Members' Meeting on Requisition (MMoR) was called by the Board for members to be apprised of the proposal to upgrade the electrical capabilities at SCO. Members had been notified of this meeting 30 days in advance as per the RASC Halifax Centre Bylaw #1. Twenty-seven members registered for the Zoom meeting; 25 registrants attended plus Nathan Gray; the President/host of the session was not counted in these numbers (16% of membership in attendance). Regrets received from Matt Dyer. Brief presentations were made on SCO's history and criteria for an observatory (Dr. Roy Bishop), the Board's process that got us to that day's meeting (Judy Black), review of the description of the proposal (John Liddard), the current financial situation of the Centre (Gregg Dill). Refer to the attached financial report. Questions were received from the floor and answered throughout the session.

A motion was made by Bob Russell and Seconded by Mary Lou Whitehorne that electrification of the St. Croix Observatory proceed, and the donations be received from members by December 31, 2020. Carried.

The poll vote results were as follows: 24 said yes via poll, 1 emailed response of yes. One member did not respond in any way. 100% of respondents said yes to going forward with the proposal.

Actions going forward as identified by members included:

- Make a commitment to Minas Energy that the project will be going forward
- Members notified of the outcome of the MMoR and deadline for donations and purchase of astrophotos
- Provide email and mailing address to members to send their donations

Blair MacDonald made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 PM ADT.

Financial Report (submitted by Gregg Dill)

A. Estimated Project Cost \$15,000

B. Source of Funds for the Project

RASC Halifax Contribution \$7,500 Fundraising Campaign \$7.500

C. RASC Halifax Bank Funds

Bank Balance (Oct 24) \$10,257

Source of Bank Funds

2019-2020 Transactions \$4,257 (income & expenses)

Redeem GICs <u>\$6,000</u>

Balance \$10,257

Expenses

Insurance + Minimum Balance \$2,600 (insurance policy (est. \$1600) + minimum balance (\$1000) to avoid banking fees)

• Available Cash \$7,657

D. RASC Halifax GICs

October 2019 Balance \$14,000

Redeemed March 2020 -\$ 4,000 Redeemed Sept. 2020 -\$ 2,000

GIC Balance Oct 2020 \$8,000

This is a reasonable cushion to have available for future and unexpected expenses.

Comments:

- 1. RASC Halifax Centre does not have charitable status and therefore cannot issue charitable receipts.
- 2. All funds raised to meet and those raised above the amount required will be reserved for SCO improvements.

Agenda Note #3 re Offer from Blair MacDonald

Email from Blair MacDonald:

In terms of fund raising for the SCO upgrade, I mentioned selling astrophotos and that I would donate any images the Centre wishes to use.

Every year we hold a public observing event for Atlantic Photo Supply and this year that is unlikely to happen. Given how well our virtual observing sessions have gone, I was wondering if

we might offer to do one for APS. We would bring our observers and Zoom account to the table, and we could ask them to give us some free printing for the astrophotos we would then sell to raise some money for SCO. There are other telescope shops around as well, Ivan's in Moncton and I think there is one on PEI as well. We could offer them a session and maybe some advertising in return for donations.

Agenda Note #4 re Nomination Committee

Report of the Nominating Committee

The members of the Nominating Committee are Peter Hurley (Chair), Chris Young, and Judy Black (*ex officio*).

Elected Positions:

Stepping down from the Board is Tom Crosman. Re-offering their names to stand for re-election are:

President: Judy BlackSecretary: Peter HurleyTreasurer: Gregg Dill

Directors: Matt Dyer, Wayne Harasimovitch, Paul Heath, David Hoskin

Agreeing to have their names forwarded for election are:

• Vice-President: Patrick Kelly

• Director: Kathy Walker. One more director could be brought forward for election.

Appointed Positions:

Agreeing to have their names forwarded to the Board for re-appointment are:

• Honorary President: Mary Lou Whitehorne

• Librarian: Wayne Harasimovitch

• Manager, SCO: John Liddard

• Observing Chair: Dave Chapman

Outreach Chair: Paul Heath

Pat Kelly is stepping down as the Centre's representative to National Council. Agreeing to have their name forwarded for appointment:

• Representative, National Council: Judy Black

Positions yet to be filled via appointment are:

- Auditor (2020-2021)
- Co-Editors, Nova Notes John McPhee, Jerry Black
- Chair, Dark-Sky Preserve Committee Dave Chapman
- Chair, Nova East Planning Committee

Respectfully submitted, Peter Hurley, Chair Nominating Committee

Agenda Note #5 re Halifax Centre Meeting Dates

Board Meetings (Thursday)	Members' Meetings (Saturday)
January 7	January 9
January 28	February 6
February 25	March 6
March 25	April 3
April 22	May 1
May 27	June 5
June 24	
September 2 (Labour Day weekend = Sept 4- 6)	September 11
September 23	October 2

November 25 Dec 4 (+ AGM)

