



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, June 16, 2025

Meeting ID: 850 7801 2834, Passcode: 591178

Agenda Items (sent via email)

1. Final Decision Regarding Library and Actions Required
2. Finances:
 - a- Current Balance
 - b- Summary of Expenditures
 - c- GICs:
 - confirmation of our investment renewals
 - Discussion/Decision SCOPE Fund investment
3. 2026 RASC Calendar Order (due July 15, 2025)

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

June 16, 2025 - 7:00 PM – 8:18 PM

held via Zoom - Meeting ID 829 4239 7871

Present: Tony McGrath (President), Judy Black (Secretary), Gregg Dill (Treasurer), Patrick Kelly (Hon. President), David Hoskin, David McMullin, Matt Dyer, Tiffany Fields.

Regrets: Peter Hurley (Vice-President), Jeff Donaldson, Vincent Vallee.

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm with a quorum.

a) Approval of Agenda

It was determined that although not in the previous schedule of meetings that this should be treated as another meeting of the Board of Directors because of the fiscal decisions to be made.

250606MN-Mot01

It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the June 16, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated.
CARRIED.

2. Discontinuance of the Library

Tiffany Fields joined us for this portion of the meeting. It was noted there are no RASC Halifax Centre meetings from now until September. At the June 2, 2025, Board meeting, it was determined to discontinue the Library and that an action plan for dismantling had to be determined. Jerry Black has the key to access the library in the L-shaped storage closet down the hall from AT101. The Mini-Robotic Observatory needs to be temporarily removed to access the library cart and metal shelving unit with the telescope mirror polisher. The storage shelving is not the issue; the cart does need to be removed.

One challenge is that Jerry as Librarian and our meeting IT guy and he cannot do both jobs simultaneously at the meetings; this would mean acquiring another Librarian. It is interesting to note that no one has asked about the library. Judy felt there should be a work party to go through and decide what to do with the books and the cart. All books are online and that constitutes the inventory. Signed books need to be separated out for sale at Nova East.

This process would be easier to do on the weekend. All books would have to be removed from the cart and shelving and stored elsewhere. In the short term, they could be stored at SCO to be sorted before August:

- Sort through books at SCO to identify signed copies and more valuable items for sale at Nova East
- Bring remaining books to Public meeting in September 2025

- Donate the remaining books to *Stargaze Nova Scotia* or to the retiree groups at Dalhousie and Saint Mary's Universities.

Once the books are removed, a photo of the empty cart could be taken, a price determined for it and then posted on Kijiji. It was noted the empty cart may need to be stored a little longer until it can be sold, hopefully before the fall. Tiffany stated there was no timeline for removal but sooner would be preferred to later.

A work party will be needed. Tiffany confirmed the Atrium Building should be opened on the weekend given this Saturday is a final exam day for the Spring term. It was agreed we would replace things the way we found them. Banker's boxes would be needed to carry books out to a car. Pat will meet us at SCO so that he can hand over the Registrar's Box and heater.

250616MN-Act01

Tiffany Fields and David McMullin to provide bankers boxes for packing books.

Volunteer Work Party:

Members: Tony McGrath, Judy & Jerry Black, David Hoskin, David McMullin, Matt Dyer.

Date: Saturday, June 21, 2025

Time: 11am

Place: SMU, The Atrium

Before she left the meeting, she informed members she leaves on Wednesday and is gone for the next 3 weekends. Members are to contact her should emails or other things go awry, despite her being on holiday.

2. Finances

Gregg stated the SCOPE Fund has \$18,200 and is included in our bank balance is \$32,083. The goal is to preserve the principle of the SCOPE Fund (current balance and all future additions) through investments. The interest earned from the endowment investments would be placed in the Centre's SCO Maintenance Fund (the one started with the 2022 fundraising campaign) to be used only for SCO maintenance. It was noted that donations could be made to either the SCOPE Fund or directly to the Centre's SCO Maintenance account. It was suggested that a minimum of \$500 of the Centre's monies could be put into the SCO Maintenance account to ensure a minimum balance for use when needed.

The TD Bank advised Gregg that GICs were the safest investment to be made by a non-profit such as ours. Judy Black had explained our Centre's position regarding endowment funds and the SCOPE Fund to her personal financial advisor not associated with a bank; he also suggested GICs because of their lower risk. It appears to be the safest route and the Centre shouldn't be accused of impropriety.

Gregg had discovered there are various types of GICs on the TD Bank site that were based on different criteria with varying guaranteed returns:

- Typical GIC: 14 months @ 3.1% (this is what we received in May when we reinvested our GICs)
- TD Canadian Banking and Utilities GIC: 3 years @ 1%, 5 years @ 6.5% (1.2% per year)
- TD Canadian Banks GIC: 3 years @ 4%, 5 years @ 10% guaranteed minimum return, i.e., 10% over the five years of investment, not 10% per annum
- Top US GIC: 3 years @ 2.25%, 5 years @ 5%

More information is required about the various types of GICs and how interest is compounded. It was agreed the full amount of \$18,200 be invested and that it could be split so that initially one portion be invested now for a short term and the remaining for a longer term so that income is realized more frequently.

250606MN-Mot02

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Matt Dyer that the endowment fund be invested in GICs at the TD Bank with the term, amounts and rates to be determined by the RASC Halifax Centre Treasurer.
CARRIED.

250616MN-Act02

Gregg Dill to obtain and share the GIC investment options with the TD Bank with Tony McGrath prior to taking action.

3. RASC Calendar Order

Jenna Hinds had notified Centres that RASC Observer's Calendar bulk orders must be made ASAP. There is a minimum order of 5. Price per unit was increased this year to \$15.95 with the retail price of \$24.95. It was also noted that should Canada Post choose to strike again, the RASC will respond in the same way as last time: by sending all

parcels via courier and by delaying all letter mail (e.g. hard copy Journals, Laser Pointer certification cards, etc.). We ordered 20 last year and had 3 left in March. It was agreed we would only order 15 this year.

250616MN-Act03

Judy Black to order 15 RASC Observer's Calendars from the RASC.

4. Membership Town Hall

This is for any membership coordinators who are interested in brushing up on their Driven skills. After Driven training, there will be a short discussion about how RASC National can support Centres with their membership management. It was agreed that Tony McGrath and Judy Black would attend.

Adjournment

No further business to conduct. Tony thanked everyone for their time.

250602MN-Mot03

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by David McMullin to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm. Our next meeting is September 2, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Black, Secretary

ACTION LIST (June 16, 2025):

From September 3, 2024		
240903MN-Act011	Tony McGrath to review the documentation that Jerry Black prepared for using the Celestron 8" SCT and Hyperstar.	Open
From January 28, 2025		
250128MN-Act11	The Governance Review Committee is to develop a policy regarding travel expenses for Centre activities.	Open
From April 29, 2025		
250429MN-Act01	Tony McGrath will forward his SCO maintenance & development plan for the Board to consider.	Open
250429MN-Act04	Peter Hurley will approach Dave Robertson regarding the Announce List message regarding the need for Laser Pointer training and the Transport Canada Agreement with the RASC	Open
From June 2, 2025		
250602MN-Act01	The Governance Review Committee will change <i>Policy PD6: Position Description (appointed)</i> – RASC National Council Representative before the 2025 AGM the term limits to June 1-May 31 each calendar year and remove the lapse of one year.	Open
250602MN-Act02	Judy Black to ask Jerry Black to include a quick link to the LP Training page on the website Home page.	Open
250602MN-Act03	Judy Black will contact Gregg Dill to determine if he is available June 16, 17, 23 or 24.	Open
250602MN-Act04	Peter Hurley to contact Kejimikujik National Park & National Historic Site to determine when information will be posted to their website.	Open
250602MN-Act05	Judy Black will contact Tiffany Field as to the status of the space and how we can access it month to month at our meetings.	Open
250602MN-Act06	Judy Black will contact Paul Gray about his availability for a few of the members to go out for dinner with him.	Open

<i>From June 16, 2025</i>		
250616MN-Act01	Tiffany Fields and David McMullin to provide bankers boxes for packing books.	Open
250616MN-Act02	Gregg Dill to obtain and share the GIC investment options with the TD Bank with Tony McGrath prior to taking action.	Open
250616MN-Act03	Judy Black to order 15 RASC Observer's Calendars from the RASC.	Open

MOTION LIST (June 16, 2025):

250616MN-Mot01	It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the June 16, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated. CARRIED.
250616MN-Mot02	It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Matt Dyer that the endowment fund be invested in GICs at the TD Bank with the term, amounts and rates to be determined by the RASC Halifax Centre Treasurer. CARRIED.
250616MN-Mot03	It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by David McMullin to adjourn.