



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 28, 2024: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Via Zoom - Meeting ID: 843 2553 4099

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	Tony McGrath	Pre-circulated: Agenda: May 28, 2024 Minutes: April 30, 2024
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Member's Meeting Date Confirmation and Format Confirm Member's Meeting agenda Zoom/SMU Bookings Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Tony McGrath Judy Black	<i>Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Speakers & Approved 2024 Member Meeting Dates</i> <i>Refer to Agenda Notes #2: 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Dates</i>
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>Next NC Meeting: June 9, 2024</i>
	4. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	5. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Status 	Discussion	Gregg Dill	<i>n/a</i>
	6. Member Welcome Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership Changes 	Discussion	Tony McGrath	<i>n/a</i>
	7. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Requests 	Discussion	David Hoskin	<i>n/a</i>
RASC HALIFAX CENTRE – GOALS & OBJECTIVES				
	8. 2024 Goals & Objectives	Ongoing Discussion	Tony McGrath	<i>n/a</i>
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	9. Governance Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update 	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>Document pre-circulated by Judy on May 22, 2024</i>
	10. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Members observing night 	Discussion	John Liddard	<i>Observing night: Friday June 7, 2024</i>
NEW BUSINESS				
	11. Board membership			
Adjournmen2				
9:00 PM	12. Adjournment (Next meeting: June 18, 2024)			

RASC, Halifax Centre – Member’s Meeting
 Saturday, June 1, 2024 – 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 Via Zoom – Meeting ID 897 5810 0253

Agenda Items		
Time*	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions Photo Montage EtU guides for sale Astroimaging Contest	David Hoskin (MC)
	Presentation: What’s it like to be a BGO Astronomy Technician	Tiffany Fields
	Social Break	
	Presentation: Changes in Astroimaging	Blair MacDonald
	Food for the Soul:	Paul Heath
	What’s Up? (May)	David Hoskin
	News from the Board	Tony McGrath
	Telescopes on display for discussion	
4:00 PM	Adjournment	

* 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)
Agenda Note #1 re: Speakers & 2024 Member Meeting Dates	<p>2024 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events Members’ Meeting dates were approved at the November 2023 Board of Directors meeting. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p> <p>Confirmed Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 1, 2024 – Tiffany Fields (What it's like to be a BGO Astronomy Technician); Blair MacDonald (Changes in Astroimaging) • September 7, 2024 - BBQ in lieu of meeting • October 5, 2024 – Luigi Gallo (<i>JAXA’s XRISM satellite</i>) • November 2, 2024 – Charles Ennis (World Asterism Project) • AGM December 7, 2024 – Lisa Ann Fanning (Stereoscopy) <p>Suggested Speakers / Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Badowski • Dave Chapman • Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster) • SMU Astronomy and Physics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grad students • Tiffany Fields • Rob Thacker • https://rasc.ca/find-speaker
Agenda Note #2 re: Approved 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Dates	<p>2024 Approved Board Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 18 • September 3 • October 1 • October 29

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

May 28, 2024 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

held via Zoom - Meeting ID 843 2553 4099

Present: Judy Black, Gregg Dill, Jeff Donaldson, Matt Dyer, David Hoskin, Peter Hurley, Tony McGrath (President), Dave Robertson, Mary Lou Whitehorne

Regrets: Lisa Ann Fanning, John Liddard

Absent: John Nangreaves

1. Welcome & Introductions

Tony called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and welcomed Board members. He asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda which had been circulated by email by Peter on May 26, 2024. Judy indicated that there was information from Michelle Lane to be discussed, and an update from Jerry Black on the SCO C8. There were also minutes from the in-camera session from the March 26, 2024 Board meeting to approve, and Peter indicated he had received a question from Jenna Hinds regarding the Qilak award plaque for Tony Schellinck. The Qilak award was discussed, and it was agreed that Tony McGrath would ask Tony Schellinck his choice of receiving the plaque directly himself in the mail or having it presented to him during Nova East.

240528MN-Act01

Tony McGrath to ask Tony Schellinck his choice of receiving his Qilak award plaque directly himself in the mail or having it presented to him during Nova East.

Matt indicated that he hadn't received the meeting agenda and there was a brief discussion of other issues that have been reported with emails to the Board email distribution list and emails to the Centre Rascals email distribution list.

240528MN-Act02

Tony McGrath to discuss problems with the Centre email distribution lists with Tiffany Fields.

It was agreed that the information from Michelle Lane and the update from Jerry would be discussed under agenda item 9 SCO Update.

240528MN-Mot01

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the May 28, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda, as amended.
CARRIED.

The Action List, which was attached to the minutes of the previous meeting circulated by Peter on April 29, 2024, was reviewed.

From January 10, 2023

Action 10: Open.

From September 5, 2023

Action 1: Closed. John and Tony would deal with this when they review the Auditor's report with Dave Chapman.

Action 4: Closed. Gregg reported that the account was \$7 in the hole.

Action 5: Open.

From January 2, 2024

Action 10: Open.

240528MN-Act03

Judy Black to send GLP documentation and report form she has received to Tony McGrath and Peter Hurley.

From February 27, 2024

Action 1: Closed.

From March 26, 2024

Action 1-4: Closed.

Action 5: Closed. Judy has to-do list, has to talk to Jenna, 12 new maybe, 5 re-trained, to add to material sent to Peter and Tony.

Action 6,7: Closed.

From April 30, 2024

Action 1-4: Closed.

Action 5,6: Open.

Tony asked if there were any changes or corrections that needed to be made to the minutes of the previous Board meeting held on April 30, 2024 which had been circulated by email by Peter on May 26, 2024.

240528MN-Mot02

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the April 30, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as presented.

CARRIED

Tony asked if there were any changes or corrections that needed to be made to the minutes of the in-camera session from the March 26, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting which had circulated by email by Peter on May 20, 2024.

240528MN-Mot03

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Jeff Donaldson to approve the minutes from the in-camera session of the March 26, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting, as presented.

CARRIED

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

Tony reviewed meeting dates and pointed out that we just have the June 1 meeting before the summer break. Everything looks good for that meeting, Tiffany Fields and Blair MacDonald are the speakers. The meeting agenda was reviewed. Judy indicated that Paul Heath should be removed from the agenda. It was also pointed out that What's Up title should be updated to June. There was a discussion of the telescope display at the last Members meeting and there was general agreement that it had been successful. David suggested that since Blair was speaking about Astroimaging, the telescope display should focus on astroimaging, He indicated he would bring 2 different portable astroimaging set-ups and that Peter would bring a ZWO Seestar to show an example of the new smart telescopes that produce astroimages. Peter confirmed that the SMU room booking had been done. Tony noted that we have guest speakers through to the end of the year.

3. Report from National Council Representative

Judy indicated that there was nothing new to report and that the next National Council meeting would be on June 9, 2024. She asked that the AGM date of June 23, 2024 2-5pm ADT be added to News from the Board at the upcoming Members meeting and that all members be encouraged to attend, admission was free, and the meeting would be online using Zoom.

4. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube

Judy indicated there was nothing new to report.

5. Financial Update

Gregg reported that there was presently \$9325 in the bank account and that he had got the bank to reverse the bank fee when our GIC had been renewed. Matt asked if the Auditor's report had been finished and it was pointed out that his report had been presented. There was a list of recommendations, the biggest having to do with the SCO inventory which will be dealt with by John and Tony and reported on at a later date.

6. Member Welcome Package

Tony suggested that tracking the number of new members who have joined and members who have not renewed would be useful information to have presented at each Board meeting. Peter explained some of the details of member tracking he had learned through the tutorial that Jenna Hinds had provided and why membership turnover might appear higher when using the Driven membership reports.

240528MN-Act04

Peter Hurley to provide an update on the number of new members and number of members that didn't renew at each Board meeting.

Tony indicated that he would like to send the Member Welcome Package to new members on an ongoing basis. Jerry is working on how to send an email with the Package attached to new members sent from the President's email

address alias and Peter is working on how to provide a list of new members to Tony/Jerry each month.

7. Education and Public Outreach

David reported that he and Dave Chapman had introduced 80 Dartmouth High students to solar observing on Saturday May 11. The following Saturday, 6 volunteers (David, Peter, Matt, Michael Boschat, Wayne Harasimovich and Gerry Broski) had been present at the Discovery Centre for Astronomy Day, probably the most successful astronomy event there so far. Although the weather prevented the planned solar observing during the day and the evening observing on the boardwalk, approximately 200 visitors to the Discovery Centre were introduced to astronomy, the use of star-finders and the RASC Halifax Centre. David indicated that he had another school event later in June and he needed help with an event in Berwick in late July and that he might need help with that, possible volunteers were discussed. There was also a request from Blockhouse to present on solar activity and he had been asked to present at the annual WISE camp at Acadia. Matt asked about previous outreach events with Atlantic Photo Supply and there was a discussion about APS then and now. Matt asked if an observing event at York Redoubt might work, there was discussion about how to make that location work and it was agreed that it was a good venue, we just needed volunteers. Jeff indicated that Courthouse Hill (Bortle 2) was also a great viewing site. Jeff indicated he had been approached by a vineyard, a school and others and that there was clearly interest out there for outreach. David asked Jeff to send an email subject outreach to the discussion list so we can track Centre outreach activities better.

RASC Halifax Centre Goals and Objectives

8. 2024 Goals and Objectives

Tony indicated that as discussed previously, the Members Welcome Package would be sent out to new members. He hoped we could encourage members to indicate if they saw an opportunity to volunteer for activities.

Updates/Reports

9. Governance Review

Judy thanked Gregg and Pat Kelly for their work on the Governance Committee. She indicated that she had circulated a compilation document by email on May 21, 2024 that outlined all the proposed changes to the Centre Position Descriptions. She emphasized that these changes do not need to go to the members for approval, just the Board, because they are not policy. She indicated that there are some instances where these changes will have an impact on our Bylaw #1, that the intent is not change but rather clarification. She asked if there were any questions regarding the proposed changes. She showed us that there were embedded links in the document to help us to see the changes. Judy indicated where changes had been made. She explained the difference between public meetings and business meetings and the consequences and indicated that they had tried to make the documents gender neutral. It was agreed that we would revisit these at the June 18, 2024 Board meeting to give us all sufficient time to review them. She indicated that the Governance Committee would meet again on June 11, 2024 to review policy changes, which would be presented at our June 18, 2024 Board meeting for approval at the September Board meeting. There was a question about removal of reference to Robert's Rules of Order and Judy suggested that Bylaw #1 should cover that, but she indicated that the Committee would make sure it was covered, we do need that for Board meetings and the AGM. Approval was required at the September Board meeting so we could inform members in the required time before the AGM in December.

10. SCO

Tony reminded us that the next SCO Members observing night was scheduled for June 7, 2024 and that we had been clouded out for the last couple of dates.

240528MN-Act05

Peter Hurley to post a reminder to members on the Centre Announce List of the SCO Members Observing event on June 7, 2024.

Judy indicated that she wouldn't be able to do an introduction to the Explore the Universe certificate as previously suggested. Tony noted that John had indicated he had made a change to the lock on the SCO driveway.

Tony reported that he and Judy had met with Michelle Lane this morning and discussed an event at SCO in July for a Celebration of Life, more a toast to Dave to include a small group of close friends of Dave, by invitation. There will also be an open Celebration of Life held at St. Margarets Sailing Club on September 21, 2024. It was agreed that we should make our membership aware of that date. Mary Lou indicated that Michelle is considering how to make a gift to the Centre, a restricted fund for the maintenance of SCO. This might include a sale of Dave's books at Nova East to go into the fund.

Mary Lou indicated that she would be withdrawing as Honorary President at the end of the year and would

concentrate on helping Michele get Dave's legacies off the ground. Judy indicated that we would need to review Policy 14 regarding the development of an endowment fund and how to protect it. Gregg indicated that he would like to be involved in developments as Treasurer, and that we should consult legal and accounting advice. There was considerable discussion about this topic. It was agreed that we would get it done.

Jerry Black had sent a couple of updates to the Board about his progress with the Howard-donated Celestron Edge 8" SCT with Hyperstar. We agreed to encourage Jerry and to wait for developments, that it looked promising, and we were confident in what he was doing. There was discussion about how to refer to this telescope.

11. Board membership

It was agreed to leave this until another meeting.

There was some discussion about replacement of Board positions. Mary Lou had indicated that she was going to resign as Honorary President and Peter is reaching the end of his 5-year term as Secretary. Peter agreed that the Nominating Committee would deal with this. Mary Lou suggested several candidates for the next Honorary President.

12. New Business

There was none brought forward.

13. Adjournment

There being no other business, Tony adjourned the meeting at 8:39pm. He reminded us that our next meeting was scheduled for June 18, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Hurley, Secretary

ACTION LIST (May 28, 2024):

From January 10, 2023		
230110MN-Act01	Peter Hurley to work with David Hoskin to create a list of volunteers to help with observing and outreach requests that are remote to the HRM ar	Open
From September 5, 2023		
230905MN-Act05	The Governance Committee to provide a recommendation to the Board regarding retention and disposal of historical documents.	Open
From January 2, 2024		
240102MN-Act010	Peter Hurley and Tony McGrath to put together a proposal how to proceed with training and certifying other members for GLP use.	Open
From April 30, 2024		
240430MN-Act06	John Liddard to draft a new breaker shut-off checklist for SCO, circulate it to the Board for comment, and then send it to the SCO keyholders email list and affix a copy to the wall in the warm room at SCO.	Open
From May 28, 2024		
240528MN-Act01	Tony McGrath to ask Tony Schellinck his choice of receiving his Qilak award plaque directly himself in the mail or having it presented to him during Nova East.	Open
240528MN-Act02	Tony McGrath to discuss problems with the Centre email distribution lists with Tiffany Fields.	Open
240528MN-Act03	Judy Black to send GLP documentation and report form she has received to Tony McGrath and Peter Hurley.	Open
240528MN-Act04	Peter Hurley to provide an update on the number of new members and number of members that didn't renew at each Board meeting.	Open

240528MN-Act05	Peter Hurley to post a reminder to members on the Centre Announce List of the SCO Members Observing event on June 7, 2024.	Open
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MOTION LIST (May 28, 2024):

240528MN-Mot01	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the May 28, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda, as amended. CARRIED.
240528MN-Mot02	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the April 30, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as presented. CARRIED
240528MN-Mot03	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Jeff Donaldson to approve the minutes from the in-camera session of the March 26, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting, as presented. CARRIED

Approved June 18, 2024