



## RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, January 7, 2025: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Via Zoom – Meeting ID 898 2728 3250

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents / Notes
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Agenda</li> <li>Review Action List</li> <li>Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting</li> </ul>	Information Approval	Tony McGrath	Pre-circulated: Agenda: January 7, 2025 Minutes: December 3, 2024 AGM Minutes: December 3, 2024
<b>ONGOING ITEMS</b>				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of 2025 Board Meeting Dates</li> <li>Confirm Member's Meeting agenda</li> <li>Zoom/SMU Bookings</li> <li>Guest Speakers &amp; Ideas for Future Presentations</li> <li>Elected Position Vacancies</li> <li>Appointed Positions – Approval, Nominations</li> </ol>	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Tony McGrath  Judy Black	<i>Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Speakers &amp; Approved 2025 Public Meeting Dates</i>  <i>Refer to Agenda Notes #2: Proposed 2025 Board Meeting Dates</i>  <i>Agenda Notes #3: Elected Position Vacancies</i>  <i>Agenda Notes #4: Appointed Positions – Approval &amp; Nominations</i>
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>NC Meeting, February 9, 2025)</i>
	4. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion	Judy Black	
	5. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Status</li> <li>Dave Lane Bequest</li> <li>Auditor Report</li> </ul>	Discussion	Gregg Dill Tony McGrath	n/a
	6. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outreach Requests</li> <li>Business card proposal</li> </ul>	Discussion	David Hoskin Judy Black	n/a
<b>RASC HALIFAX CENTRE – GOALS &amp; OBJECTIVES</b>				
	7. 2025 Goals & Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritize next steps</li> <li>Develop Action Plan</li> <li>Centre Membership Status</li> </ul>	Ongoing Discussion	Tony McGrath  Judy Black	Form a task team to develop an action plan
<b>UPDATES / REPORTS</b>				
	8. Business Cards	Decision	Judy Black	
	9. RJSC & By-Law No. 1	Information	Judy Black	
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>				
	10.			n/a
<b>Adjournment</b>				
9:00 PM	Adjournment			(Next meeting: January 28, 2025)

## RASC, Halifax Centre – Member & Public Meeting

Saturday, January 11, 2025: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM  
Via Zoom - Meeting ID 846 0017 9740

Time	<i>Member &amp; Public Meeting</i>		
1:45 PM	Item		
	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo Montage</li> <li>• ETU Guides for sale</li> </ul>	Information	David Hoskin
	2. <b>Special Presentation:</b> <i>Charles Ennis</i> – World Asterism Project	Presentation	Charles Ennis
	3. Outreach Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food for the Soul – <i>Painted Images</i> (reprise from Nov 2022)</li> </ul>	Information	David Hoskin Paul Heath
	4. News from the Board	Information	Tony McGrath
	5. What's Up in January?	Information	David Hoskin
4:00 PM	Adjournment		

## AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
<b>Agenda Note #1 re: Speakers &amp; 2025 Public Meeting Dates</b>	<p><b>2024/5 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events</b> Members' Meeting dates were approved at the November 2023 Board of Directors meeting. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p> <p><b>Confirmed Location &amp; Speakers for 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (AT101) January 11 – Charles Ennis (World Asterism Project)</li> <li>• (AT101) February 1 – Dr. David Turner (The Indian Point Meteor Crater)</li> <li>• (AT101) March 1 – Robyn Foret (RASC/CASCA Awards)</li> <li>• (LA171) April 5</li> <li>• (AT101) May 3</li> <li>• (AT101) June 7</li> <li>• (AT101) September 6</li> <li>• (AT101) October 4</li> <li>• (AT101) November 1</li> <li>• (AT101) December 6</li> </ul> <p><b>Suggested Speakers / Special Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dave Chapman, NE Birds</li> <li>• Tony Schellinck, NE Women in Astronomy</li> <li>• David Hoskin, NE</li> <li>• Pat Kelly (Telling Time in Scotland: From Stones to Sundials)</li> <li>• Blair MacDonald (Black Holes)</li> <li>• Dan Falk</li> <li>• John Badowski</li> <li>• Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster)</li> <li>• SMU Astronomy and Physics           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grad students</li> <li>• Tiffany Fields</li> <li>• Rob Thacker</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="https://rasc.ca/find-speaker">https://rasc.ca/find-speaker</a></li> </ul>
<b>Agenda Notes #2: Tentative 2025 Board Meeting Dates</b>	<p><b>Board Meeting Dates (no meetings July/August):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 28</li> <li>• February 25</li> <li>• April 1</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 29</li> <li>• June 3</li> <li>• September 2</li> <li>• September 30</li> <li>• October 28</li> <li>• December 2</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Notes #3: Elected Position Vacancies</b>	President	Tony McGrath
	Vice-President	VACANT
	Secretary	Judy Black
	Treasurer	Gregg Dill
	Director	Jeff Donaldson
	Director	Matthew Dyer
	Director	David Hoskin
	Director	Peter Hurley
	Director	Vincent Vallee
	Director	VACANT
<b>Agenda Notes #4: Appointed Positions – Approval &amp; Nominations</b>	Honorary President	Pat Kelly
	Auditor 2023-2024	Dave Chapman
	National Council Representative	Judy Black
	Education & Public Outreach (EPO) Chair	David Hoskin
	Observing Chair	David Hoskin
	Communications Committee Chair	VACANT
	Nova East Planning Committee Chair	VACANT
	Dark-Sky Preserve (DSP) Committee Chair	Peter Hurley, Tony Schellinck
	Nova Notes Co-Editors	Lisa Ann Fanning, John McPhee
	St. Croix Observatory Manager	VACANT
	Governance Committee Chair	Judy Black
	Nominating Committee Chair	VACANT
	Webmaster	Jerry Black
Librarian	VACANT	

## Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

**Present:** Tony McGrath (President), Judy Black (Secretary), Gregg Dill (Treasurer), Peter Hurley, David Hoskin, Matt Dyer, Vincent Vallee (left at 7:59 PM).

**Regrets:** Jeff Donaldson, Patrick Kelly.

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Tony called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and welcomed Board members. He asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda which had been circulated by email by Judy earlier in the day. Judy indicated two items were added: 1e. Elected Position Vacancies and 1f. Appointed Positions – Approval, Nominations. She also noted the AGM date cited in the agenda should have read December 7, 2024, and that these minutes will not be approved until the December 2025 AGM.

#### 250107MN-Mot01

It was moved by Vincent Vallee and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the January 7, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda, as amended.

CARRIED.

Judy reviewed the action list on Tony's behalf. The Action List, which was attached to the minutes of the previous meeting and circulated by email by Peter on December 1, 2024, was reviewed.

From January 10, 2023

**Action 10:** Closed.

From June 18, 2024

**Action 4:** Open.

From September 3, 2024

**Action 4:** Closed. Peter has the reports prepared for submitting to the national site.

**Action 11:** Open.

From October 1, 2024

**Action 2:** Closed.

From December 3, 2024

**Action 1:** Open.

**Action 2:** Closed. All meeting dates and confirmed speakers are listed on our website.

**Action 3:** Closed. Rooms for all our public meetings have been approved.

**Action 4:** Closed.

**Action 5:** Closed.

**Action 6.** Closed. The agreement has been signed.

Tony asked if there were any changes or corrections that needed to be made to the minutes of the previous Board meeting held on December 3, 2024 which had been circulated by email by Peter on January 3, 2025. Pat Kelly via email had inquired as to the meaning of "CGL" as cited in **241203MN-Mot05**. Members agreed there was clarification required. The motion was amended to read: "It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Judy Black that we accept the insurance quotes from Nguyen and Associates for Commercial General Insurance (CGL) for SCO and for Directors and Officers Liability Insurance."

**250107MN-Mot02**

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the December 3, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as amended.

CARRIED.

**ONGOING ITEMS**

**2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers**

The list of meetings was presented in Agenda Notes #2 of the agenda.

**250107MN-Mot03**

It was moved by Peter Hurley and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the 2025 Board of Directors Meeting dates as presented.

CARRIED.

The Public Meeting agenda was reviewed. The following were noted:

- the start time should be changed to 1:00 PM
- Paul Heath's poem title was confirmed
- Because Tony could not attend the January 11 Public meeting, Judy Black would address "News from the Board" in his place.

Peter Hurley had all meeting rooms confirmed with SMU. Judy noted all meetings were in AT101 except April 5 which is in LA171.

Charles Ennis was confirmed as our speaker on January 11 and Robyn Foret was confirmed for March 1.

Judy noted that Dr. David Turner stepped forward to volunteer to present at the February 1 meeting on “The Indian Point Meteor Crater”; it was noted that he may not be able to attend the meeting due to health reasons but would consequently present at the April meeting. It had been agreed that the three speakers at the 2024 Nova East would also present to our membership. David Hoskin agreed to do his presentation (All-in-one Smart telescopes) in September as his presentation required an overhaul. It was also agreed that Dave Chapman (Celestial Birds, their Lore and Wonder) and Tony Schellinck (Women in Astronomy) would be contacted about the May and June meetings. If Dr. Turner does present in February, we will arrange for speakers for the April meeting at the February 25, 2025 Board meeting.

**250107MN-Act01**

Judy Black to contact Tony Schellinck and Dave Chapman to confirm their presentations for the May and June public meetings.

**Appointments**

Peter Hurley agreed to be appointed Vice-President.

**250107MN-Mot04**

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the nomination of Peter Hurley as Vice-President.  
CARRIED.

The Board will now be looking for volunteers to fill the two vacant positions of “Director”.

The list of nominations for appointed positions was reviewed.

- Honorary President - Patrick Kelly
- Auditor 2024-2025 - Dave Chapman (approved at the AGM of December 7, 2024)
- National Council Representative - Judy Black
- Education & Public Outreach (EPO) Chair - David Hoskin
- Observing Chair - David Hoskin
- Dark-Sky Preserve (DSP) Committee, Co-Chairs - Peter Hurley, Tony Schellinck
- Nova Notes, Editors - Lisa Ann Fanning, John McPhee
- SCO Manager - Tony McGrath
- Governance Review Committee, Chair - Judy Black
- Webmaster - Jerry Black

**250107MN-Mot05**

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the appointed position nominations as presented.  
CARRIED.

Peter agreed to continue his role as Nominations Chair until positions have been filled. The Board will seek a replacement Chair later in the year. Jeff Donaldson had stated he was interested in the Communications Chair role. Judy commented she had had a preliminary chat with Chris Young and Gary Weber about the Nova East Planning Committee.

**250107MN-Act02**

Peter Hurley is to contact Jeff Donaldson about the Communication Committee Chair position.

**250107MN-Act03**

Judy Black to contact Chris Young and Gary Weber about the Nova East Planning Committee and the requirement for budget, reports to the Board about ongoing planning, and the Annual Report for the AGM.

Members agreed that until the status of the Centre’s Library is determined, there would be search for a Librarian.

**3. Report from National Council Representative**

Judy indicated the next meeting was February 9, 2025. She brought members’ attention to the recently

received *RASC Monthly Bulletin*. The RASC had met its fundraising goal and with the matched dollar-for-dollar by two generous anonymous donors, a total of \$40,357 was raised. It was noted that orders placed December 23 – January 6 will be mailed this week. Also noted was that the Centre's Annual Report and the Treasurer Report are due March 7, 2025.

#### **4. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube**

Judy reported that Jerry has been updating the website as needed. Judy noted the October 29 Board meeting minutes had not been uploaded to the website. It was noted the meeting date of the AGM on the website was incorrect.

##### **250107MN-Act04**

Judy Black to ensure the approved Board meeting minutes of October 29 and December 3 are uploaded to the Centre website.

##### **250107MN-Act05**

Judy Black to correct the date on the draft AGM minutes and repost them.

#### **5. Financial Update**

Gregg reported that there was presently \$13,000 in the bank account; this does not include \$1700 of outstanding cheques. Tony McGrath noted he had to handover the cheque from Michelle prior to his departure later this week; he agreed to hand it to Peter who in turn would give it to Gregg at the meeting on Saturday.

Tony Schellinck also donated \$5000 to the SCO Fund. Discussion was held about whether to include it in the matching fund initiative as suggested by Michelle Lane or to keep it separate. Judy noted the agreement signed with Michelle stipulated only the \$5000. She questioned what would happen should only a portion of that be raised. It would be a sorry state if we lost Tony's donation because it was not matched, and that perhaps it should in fact be kept as a separate entity. Matt Dyer also suggested that perhaps Tony's donation could be a matched donation up to an additional year.

##### **250107MN-Act06**

Tony McGrath to discuss the matched fund with Michelle Lane regarding inclusion of the donation of Tony Schellinck.

Gregg Dill stated he has the books prepared for presentation to 2023-2024 Auditor Dave Chapman later this week. He will request the audit be prepared by the February 25, 2025 Board meeting.

#### **6. Education and Public Outreach**

David Hoskin reported that his outreach session at York Redoubt with the Dal Retirees group had gone well and that they had expressed interest in doing it again, likely in March. His outreach session at Oceanstone Resort had gone well, they had made a \$130 donation to the Centre in return and had expressed interest in doing the same again on a regular basis. He had also done sessions at Halifax Independent School with grades 6+7 and with a group of Embers and Sparks (ages 6-8).

Peter asked if there had been a date suggested for a public outreach session at Atlantic Photo Supply. There was strong support, and it was agreed that sooner would be better, because twilight was still early to suit family attendance.

##### **250107MN-Act07**

Judy Black to contact Alan Sutherland to set a date for a public outreach session at Atlantic Photo Supply at their Burnside site.

Tony reported he had reached out to the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, and they are interested in airing the Wilfred Buck film and we would cooperate with them. We will wait to hear from the Friendship Centre as to the air date and advertise on our website and Facebook pages.

The Board agreed that Wayne Harasimovitch should be commended for his hard work and dedication to the Centre business card project. It was through Wayne's efforts that this project is going forward. Judy noted there had been an email sent earlier this evening outlining the criteria by which a photo was

chosen, the wording that would be overprinted on the image and the contents of the reverse side. She and Wayne will be going to R&M Rubber to approve the photo and overprint positions and the reverse side contents.

## **RASC Halifax Centre – Goals and Objectives**

### **7. 2025 Goals and Objectives**

Tony requested that members review the Centre Plan and determine one priority. It was suggested the Centre's plan and the results of the survey conducted be sent to Board members again, especially in light of a new Board member who would not have been privy to them.

#### **250107MN-Act08**

Tony McGrath to forward the Centre's Action Plan and the results of the Members' Survey to all Board members.

#### **250107MN-Act09**

All Board members are to review the documents and provide Tony McGrath with their choice for first action priority.

Peter summarized some of the insights into patterns he was seeing in our membership increases and decreases over the last few years. He expressed again his frustration with the Driven membership database and indicated that he would find the link to the training session Jenna had given last year hoping that it would provide him with some help.

#### **250107MN-Act10**

Peter Hurley to provide the link to the Driven membership database training given by Jenna last year.

## **Updates/Reports**

### **8. RJSC & By-Law No.1**

Consequent to member approval of the recommended changes to our Centre's By-Law No. 1 at the 2024 AGM, documentation was forwarded to the Registry of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC) on December 9, 2024. We were apprised on December 12 that our amendments had been accepted by the RJSC. Consequently, we now have a new By-Law No. 1 that has been enacted as of December 12, 2024.

## **New Business**

### **9. Minutes & Meeting Notifications**

Judy noted the format of the National Council meeting agenda. The link to the meeting was in the agenda header with the full meeting details (link, Zoom meeting ID and passcode) included at the end. She suggested this be done with our agenda so that only one document would be required. She also suggested the action items from the previous meeting be included as an agenda note so that members were not frantically searching the minutes to reference the actions and motions. Members agreed.

### **10. SMU Liaison**

It was brought to the Board's attention that SMU informed Tiffany Field she was to be their 'representative' in contact with our group. It was recognized that because she is not a RASC member, she cannot be on the Board; however, if she agreed to be the SMU Liaison she could attend meetings as a guest and would be there to provide insight from the University's perspective and would also know what's happening in our Centre. It would also mean she did not have to attend the public meetings in the liaison role but could if she wished.

#### **250107MN-Act11**

Tony McGrath to contact Tiffany to discuss her interest in the liaison role.

In light of the expense of purchase and shipping of one copy of the Observer's Handbook (OH), Tiffany personally contacted Judy about whether Halifax Centre sold the OH. Judy suggested she would look into it and asked if Board members knew where a copy could be acquired. Tony McGrath said he had a second copy he would be happy to give to the BGO.

**250107MN-Act12**

Tony McGrath to provide Tiffany with a copy of the Observer's Handbook.

**Adjournment**

No further business to conduct.

**250107MN-Mot06**

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin for the meeting to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm. He reminded us that our next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Black, Secretary

**ACTION LIST (January 7, 2025):**

<b>From June 18, 2024</b>		
240618MN-Act04	<b>Jeff Donaldson, John Liddard and Tony McGrath</b> to explore the possible benefits of using tech tools available to nonprofit organizations through TechSoup and report back to the Board.	Open
<b>From September 3, 2024</b>		
240903MN-Act011	<b>Tony McGrath</b> to review the documentation that Jerry Black prepared for using the Celestron 8" SCT and Hyperstar.	Open
<b>From December 3, 2024</b>		
241203MN-Act01	<b>The Governance Committee</b> to provide a document for the March Board meeting regarding the retention and disposal of historical documents.	Open
<b>From January 7, 2025</b>		
250107MN-Act01	<b>Judy Black</b> to contact Tony Schellinck and Dave Chapman to confirm their presentations for the May and June public meetings.	Open
250107MN-Act02	<b>Peter Hurley</b> is to contact Jeff Donaldson about the Communication Committee Chair position.	Open
250107MN-Act03	<b>Judy Black</b> to contact Chris Young and Gary Weber about the Nova East Planning Committee and the requirement for budget, reports to the Board about ongoing planning, and the Annual Report for the AGM.	Open
250107MN-Act04	<b>Judy Black</b> to ensure the approved Board meeting minutes of October 29 and December 3 are uploaded to the Centre website.	Open
250107MN-Act05	<b>Judy Black</b> to correct the date on the draft AGM minutes and repost them.	Open
250107MN-Act06	<b>Tony McGrath</b> to discuss the matched fund with Michelle Lane regarding inclusion of the donation of Tony Schellinck.	Open
250107MN-Act07	<b>Judy Black</b> to contact Alan Sutherland to set a date for a public outreach session at Atlantic Photo Supply at their Burnside site.	Open



250107MN-Act08	<b>Tony McGrath</b> to forward the Centre's Action Plan and the results of the Members' Survey to all Board members.	Open
250107MN-Act09	<b>All Board members</b> are to review the documents and provide Tony McGrath with their choice for first action priority.	Open
250107MN-Act10	<b>Peter Hurley</b> to provide the link to the Driven membership database training given by Jenna last year.	Open
250107MN-Act11	<b>Tony McGrath</b> to contact Tiffany to discuss her interest in the liaison role.	Open
250107MN-Act12	<b>Tony McGrath</b> to provide Tiffany with a copy of the Observer's Handbook.	Open

### **MOTION LIST (January 7, 2025):**

<b>250107MN-Mot01</b>	It was moved by Vincent Vallee and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the January 7, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda, as amended. CARRIED.
<b>250107MN-Mot02</b>	It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the December 3, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as amended. CARRIED.
<b>250107MN-Mot03</b>	It was moved by Peter Hurley and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the 2025 Board of Directors Meeting dates as presented. CARRIED.
<b>250107MN-Mot04</b>	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the nomination of Peter Hurley as Vice-President. CARRIED.
<b>250107MN-Mot05</b>	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the appointed position nominations as presented. CARRIED.
<b>250107MN-Mot06</b>	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin for the meeting to adjourn.