



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting
 Tuesday, September 28, 2021: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
 Via Zoom - Meeting ID 962 4867 0847

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	Judy Black	Pre-circulated: Agenda: Sept 28, 2021 Minutes: Sept 7, 2021
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2021 Meeting date confirmation & approval b. Confirm Members' Meeting agenda c. Zoom/SMU Bookings d. Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Note #1
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Patrick Kelly (June 27) Judy Black (Sept 25)	Refer to Agenda Note #2
	4. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach Requests (if applicable) • InOMN (Oct 16/21) 	Discussion Decision	Paul Heath Peter Hurley	<i>n/a</i>
	5. RASC Halifax Centre Website	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	6. Financial Update	Discussion Decision	Gregg Dill	<i>n/a</i>
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	7. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade Status 	Discussion Decision	John Liddard Gregg Dill	<i>n/a</i>
	8. Member Survey - Reposting	Discussion Decision	Judy Black Pat Kelly	<i>n/a</i>
GOVERNANCE				
	9. SCO Use Guideline	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	10. National Forums	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Added to agenda
NEW BUSINESS				
	11. SCO Keys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change locks • key fee implementation 	Information Discussion	John Liddard Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	12. Snapping Turtle Nest Protection	Information Discussion	John Liddard	<i>n/a</i>
	13. Astroimaging Contest	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Added to agenda
	14. RASC Visioning Exercise & SW Nova RASC GA	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Added to agenda
9:00 PM	Adjournment (Next meeting: November 2, 2021)			

RASC, Halifax Centre – Members’ Meeting

Saturday, October 2, 2021: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Via Zoom – Webinar ID 946 0349 3051

Agenda Items		
Time*	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Photo Montage- 2021 Calendars & ETU Guides for sale	Judy Black Paul Gray
1:10 PM	1. Main Presentation: <i>David Hoskin – Hydrogen Alpha Solar Imaging</i>	David Hoskin
2:10 PM	2. Main Presentation Patrick Kelly -	Patrick Kelly
2:35 PM	3. Outreach / Inreach Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requests Received• Food for the Soul	Paul Heath
2:55 PM	4. What's Up? (October)	Dave Chapman
3:20 PM	5. Members' Question Period	Various
3:45 PM	6. News from the Board	Judy Black
4:00 PM	7. Adjournment	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<i>Astro-Chat</i>	

* 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.

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting September 28, 2021 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM held via Zoom Meeting ID 962 4867 0847

Present: Judy Black, Peter Hurley, Gregg Dill, Tim Doucette, Kathy Walker, Pat Kelly, Mary Lou Whitehorne, David Hoskin, Matt Dyer, John Liddard (joined at 7:59pm)

Regrets: Wayne Harasimovitch, Paul Heath, Lisa Ann Fanning

1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and welcomed members.

The meeting agenda was reviewed. Three items were added: 10. National Forums, 13. Astroimaging Contest, 14. Visioning Exercise.

210928MN-Mot01

It was moved by Patrick Kelly and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the September 28, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as amended.
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

From January 2020

Action 5: Open.

From January 7, 2021

Action 7: Open. Gregg needs Judy's signature on the documents.

From June 1, 2021

Action 1: Closed. Fifteen responses had been received. Reposting of the survey will be discussed in Item 8.

Action 2: Open. The Centre's discussion lists will be discussed in Item 10.

From September 7, 2021

Action 1-7: Closed.

Action 8: Open.

Action 9: Closed.

Action 10: Open.

Action 11: Closed.

Action 12: Open

The minutes of the September 7, 2021, Board of Directors meeting had been circulated by email by Peter on September 24, 2021. No changes were proposed.

210928MN-Mot02

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the September 7, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as circulated.
CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

a) 2021 Meeting date confirmation and approval

Judy pointed out that the meeting dates are listed in Agenda Note #1. Next Board meeting is November 2, 2021 noting there are no Board meetings in October.

b) Confirm Members' Meeting agenda

Judy pointed out that our next Centre Members' meeting is on October 2, 2021. Presenters will be David Hoskin speaking on "Hydrogen Alpha Solar Imaging" and Pat Kelly will be speaking about "*The Instability Gap and Cosmic Distances*, a look at stars that become unstable and how their pulsations lead to determining the size of the Milky Way and the existence of other galaxies". Judy pointed out that the agenda was in error, the "What's Up" presentation will be for October not September.

210928MN-Act01

Judy Black to confirm with Paul Gray that he will have a Photo Montage for the October 2, 2021, Members' meeting

c) Zoom/SMU Bookings

It was agreed we would forego contacting SMU about meeting space for now given the present COVID-19 situation.

d) Guest Speakers and Ideas for Future Presentations

Judy reported that Chris Young has confirmed he will speak on Astronomy Lore for the November 6, 2021 Members' meeting. Tim indicated that he had emailed Dr. Leslie Rogers again asking if she and Dr. Sarah Seager might be available to speak later this year or early next year. It was agreed that early next year would be better. Judy had spoken to Keegan Oickle about presenting in the future about the RASC Youth Committee and its projects and he had been quite positive.

210928MN-Act02

Judy Black to contact Keegan Oickle to determine if he would be availability to present at the November 6, 2021 Members' meeting about the RASC Youth Committee and its activities.

Pat indicated that he hadn't heard back from Kaja Rotermund. It was agreed that we could have 3 speakers if we did have that many available but that it depended more upon how time the speakers required. Judy indicated that generally main speakers were asked to plan for 35-40 minutes with 15 minutes for Q&A and other speakers to plan for 20 minutes with 10 minutes for Q&A. It was also agreed

that we should remove Nicole Mortillaro from the list of potential speakers given news of her health status.

3. Report from National Council Representative

Pat indicated that there was nothing to report from the June 27, 2021 meeting. He hadn't taken notes from the meeting and minutes hadn't been distributed yet. There had been discussion about future General Assembly meetings, and it had been agreed that the GA in 2022 would likely be a virtual meeting and possibly in 2023. There had been discussion about the cost of GA meetings and using university vs. convention centre venues.

Judy reported on the last Council meeting held on September 26, 2021, and she indicated that elections had occurred and that she was now co-chair of the National Council, a 1-year position that involved 4 meetings. She reported that RASC has found a new office location with a 10-year lease. The telescope museum will be incorporated into the new office space. The draft lease has gone for legal review and will then go to the Board for approval. The office is presently operating in COVID mode with most staff working from home and they are developing a vaccination policy. Three staff have left; Renata in the summer for health reasons, and both Adela and Katerina to return to school. Three new staff have been hired: one will work Monday to Friday, a student from the Youth Committee who is a Montreal Centre member will work Saturday to Tuesday; and someone to work on Light Abatement. Much of the meeting involved discussion of security screening and police checks, and a draft document of best practices is being prepared and can potentially be incorporated by Centres once the Board has approved it. This will include a risk mitigation statement that will appear on all Society registration material in the future. EPO security checks were also discussed, and a draft is being prepared by the EPO group to cover just those working with at-risk or vulnerable groups. There will be a Town Hall meeting to discuss Board insurance. Randy Attwood agreed to chair a working group to develop a GA manual. The next National Council meeting is December 5, 2021. Judy proposed to include her National Council meeting report as Agenda Note #2 and to circulate it to Board members.

210928MN-Act03

Judy Black to provide her National Council meeting report to Peter Hurley to be incorporated into the agenda as Agenda Note #2, and to distribute it to Board members.

4. Education and Public Outreach

Paul Heath wasn't in attendance to report on Outreach requests received. It was assumed that there were none or that Paul had dealt with them himself.

210928MN-Act04

Judy Black to check with Paul Heath if he has a Food for the Soul poem for the October 2, 2021 Members' meeting.

Peter indicated that he hadn't done anything further regarding International Observe the Moon Night as a consequence of the COVID situation, that Dave Chapman had indicated that he wasn't going to organize anything, and that to his knowledge Paul Heath hadn't organized any activity. It was agreed that it was best that we do not organize any activities.

5. RASC Halifax Centre Website

Judy Black reported no changes other than meeting updates on the site.

6. Financial Update

Gregg Dill reported that the Centre currently has \$5200 in the bank but that the monthly reporting from RASC National office received previously hasn't appeared from the new Driven! System. Gregg also indicated that the balance of funds raised for the SCO upgrade was \$639.34, which was included in the \$5200. Gregg indicated that he had sent several emails, including one to Phil Groff, requesting that the reports be generated, and indicated that he would send another to Phil. Gregg indicated that after the insurance has been paid, our balance of funds available would be approximately \$3000.

210928MN-Act05

Gregg Dill to email Phil Groff, with a copy to Judy Black, requesting a monthly financial report from National office.

UPDATES/REPORTS

7. SCO

John Liddard wasn't present when we got to this agenda item. Judy suggested we come back to it when John was able to join the call. We returned to this agenda item after John had joined the meeting.

Judy reiterated for John's benefit that there is \$639.34 left in the SCO upgrade fund and approximately \$3000 in the general budget (less the SCO fund). John reminded us of items that remained from our original SCO upgrade plan were the installation of the electric heater in the warm room and the installation of the power line to the storage room/bathroom. He indicated that he had been trying to get an updated quote from the electrician but hadn't received one yet. The earlier quote had suggested this work would cost in the order of \$800. John suggested that the line to storage room/bathroom could be put off until next year, but it would likely cost more then so there could be some savings by doing it now. It would need to be done before the water in the conduit froze. John indicated he felt installing the electric heater should be seriously considered. He has already purchased the electric heater. The propane tank was 45% full and he questioned whether the tank could go to 0%, and that he was uncertain that the present propane would be sufficient to last through the winter. A refill of the tank would then put us in a place of wanting to use that fuel before replacing the furnace. Gregg said he thought Superior Propane would buy back any propane in the tank but that he would confirm that. John indicated that those are the only remaining aspects of the electrical upgrade that needed to be finished.

210928MN-Act06

Gregg Dill to verify that Superior Propane will buy back unused propane in the tank.

John indicated that the door casing on the Storeroom also needs to be replaced because it is getting difficult to set the deadbolt. He has made a temporary repair. The door itself is sound. There is some exterior painting that needs to be done but it could wait until a work party was available in the spring.

John reported that he had replaced the faulty GFI outlet in the roll-off and that it was still working but that he would include installing a GFI breaker into the electrical panel, in the quote in case the GFI outlet failed again.

John reported that the power meter showed at his last visit that 6 kwh of power has been used, which at the stated rate would cost us \$0.60.

John reported he had received an email from Jamie Carmichael indicating that he retires officially on October 31, 2021, but that last Friday was his last workday. His assistant Harden would be replacing him which will provide continuity. Jamie will be staying close as he is moving into his parents' home at the end of the paved road. John sent an email to Jamie thanking him for all his help and support of Halifax Centre. John stated strongly what a tremendous asset Jamie has been to SCO and the Centre, and in particular for suggesting that power could be installed at SCO. It was agreed that Judy would send Jamie a card congratulating him on his retirement and thanking him for all he has done, on behalf of the Board and all our members.

210928MN-Act07

Judy Black to send a retirement and thank you card to Jamie Carmichael on behalf of the Board and the members.

210928MN-Act08

John Liddard to obtain a quote from the electrician for the remaining work at SCO and email it to the Board.

210928MN-Act09

John Liddard to determine whether he has been reimbursed for the electric heater yet.

Judy suggested that, since we likely don't have sufficient funds remaining in the SCO upgrade fund, we should again consider offering astroimages contributed by the members for sale before Christmas to raise additional funds. She proposed that we would use a similar mechanism to handle funds and mailing if Gregg and Blair MacDonald were willing to. Gregg indicated that it had worked well last year, and he

agreed. Judy indicated that she would confirm with Blair before the Members' meeting on October 2, 2021, so she could announce this plan then.

210928MN-Act10

Judy Black to contact Blair MacDonald to request that he would handle the mailing of astroimages again this year.

210928MN-Act11

Judy Black to contact all members to inquire if other members would like to contribute their images for fundraising.

8. Member Survey – Reposting

Judy indicated that we had received 15 responses from members when the Member Survey had been posted in June. It was agreed that the information was very important to obtain, and that we should re-post the survey. It was agreed to announce at the Members' meeting on October 2, 2021, that it will be posted that day and would close on October 9, 2021.

210928MN-Act12

Judy Black to arrange with Jenna Hinds to have the Members' Survey posted on Survey Monkey from October 2-9, 2021.

GOVERNANCE

9. SCO Use Guidelines

Judy thanked Kathy and David for all their efforts in drafting SCO use guidelines. It was agreed that we should be cautious and not make any changes at this point. There was considerable discussion about how to approach Proof of Vaccination when this requirement comes into effect generally in the province. It was agreed that Kathy would draft new guidelines, to be reviewed by David, which would then be circulated to the rest of Board for approval. Judy will announce at the Members' meeting on October 2, 2021, that the present guidelines may change following the Province's health announcements scheduled for October 4, 2021.

210928MN-Act13

Kathy Walker and David Hoskin to draft revised SCO use guidelines to incorporate a requirement for Proof of Vaccination and circulate them to the rest of the Board for approval.

10. National Forums

Judy proposed that we start to use the newly created Halifax Centre Executive Forum on the new National Driven! system, to be amended to include all our elected and appointed positions, as a test. There was considerable discussion, and it was agreed that we would not use any of the new National Forums at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

11. SCO Keys

Judy reminded us that we had discussed a SCO key fee previously. John has now handed out all the keys that he had so it is time to consider options. The use of digital locks had been suggested previously. This and other options were discussed, and it was concluded that for the moment, and given the budget situation, it was easiest to have additional keys cut for the existing lock and maintain the system we have been using with the implementation of a \$10 fee to offset the cost of getting keys cut. John should get 5 keys cut now. We could revisit the subject again in the future.

210928MN-Act14

John Liddard to get 5 copies of the SCO key cut.

12. Snapping Turtle Nest Protection

John Liddard had observed at SCO last week the hatching of 44 snapping turtles from a nest located on the site, which he helped to the lake. He had shared photos of this on the Halifax Centre Discussion List.

The snapping turtle is protected in Nova Scotia under both the Wildlife Act and the Endangered Species Act. The species is listed on the national Canadian Species at Risk Act as a “special concern” and is listed as vulnerable under the provincial Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act. Snapping turtle nests have been observed on the SCO site previously but have not been protected. John indicated that occasional foot traffic over the nests might not pose a problem, but the major risk is predation of the nests, primarily by racoons. He proposed to contact a wildlife biologist in the Department of Natural Resources so that we can approach this in a more informed and scientific method. He had watched a video online that showed how to construct and install simple but effective turtle nest protectors based on a design from the Canadian Wildlife Federation and proposed that we consider installing these boxes on nests next spring. Peter indicated that he was also interested in this and suggested he could help John with it. It was agreed that we wouldn't involve any wildlife groups for help at this point, for security reasons.

210928MN-Act015

John Liddard to contact Department of Natural Resources and report back next Board meeting about the type of protection required.

13. Astroimaging Contest

Judy had proposed some dates for the contest in an email she sent out last week, assuming the adjudicators are still willing to adjudicate. It is proposed that submissions would be due by November 13, three weeks before the AGM, and adjudicators would submit their results 16 days later, to be announced at the AGM on December 4, 2021.

210928MN-Act16

Judy Black to confirm that the adjudicators agree with the process and the dates.

210928MN-Act17

Judy Black to announce the contest process and dates at the Members' meeting on November 2, 2021.

14. RASC Visioning Exercise & SW Nova Scotia RASC GA

Judy explained that an email had been received from Phil Groff about a visioning exercise about future General Assembly meetings and what might be expected or wanted. She explained that she was reluctant to put this out for general discussion and given that only a few of the Board had attended this year's GA, that she might just ask the few that had attended.

Discussion then turned to a question from Tim regarding the possibility of a future GA being hosted in southwest Nova Scotia to have the area stand out more within the astronomy community. There would be partial funding from the Yarmouth & Acadia Tourism Association. He was cautioned about the amount of work that would be required, especially considering the location. Judy agreed to send him the visioning document. Pat indicated that there have been GAs in the past where there wasn't a host Centre and others done jointly with other agencies, such as AAVSO. Mary Lou indicated that one of the largest logistical issues with a remote site is transportation of participants to and from the airport to the event location. There was considerable discussion of this idea. Tim will bring further details using the questionnaire items for discussion by the planning committee. It was suggested that Tim contact Phil Groff and involve him in the discussion before bringing it to his committee.

210928MN-Act18

Tim Doucette to contact Phil Groff, with a copy to Judy, for input from RASC about hosting a future General Assembly at a location in southwest Nova Scotia.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Judy adjourned the meeting. She pointed out that the next Board meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2021.

Adjournment at 9:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Hurley, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of September 28, 2021):

<i>From January 2020</i>		
200111MN-Act05	Gregg Dill and John Liddard will establish the value of capital equipment when the inventory is complete.	Open
<i>From January 7, 2021</i>		
210107MN-Act07	Gregg Dill to submit annual requirements to NS RJSC.	Open
<i>From June 1, 2021</i>		
210601MN-Act02	Judy Black to contact Phil Goff to indicate that Halifax Centre will continue to use its own discussion list for Centre communication and request that they inactivate the Halifax Centre forum on the National site.	Open
<i>From September 7, 2021</i>		
210907MN-Act08	Pat Kelly to check with Randy Atwood or Chris Gainer about a presentation about NASA programs.	Open
210907MN-Act10	John Liddard to get a price quote to have the propane furnace and tank removed and the electric heater installed in the warm room.	Open
210907MN-Act12	Peter Hurley to determine from RASC National office the cost of purchasing a 2022 RASC calendar and having it shipped to the USA.	Open
<i>From September 28, 2021</i>		
210928MN-Act01	Judy Black to confirm with Paul Gray that he will have a Photo Montage for the October 2, 2021 Members' meeting	
210928MN-Act02	Judy Black to contact Keegan Oickle to determine if he would be availability to present at the November 6, 2021, Members' meeting about the RASC Youth Committee and its activities.	
210928MN-Act03	Judy Black to provide her National Council meeting report to Peter Hurley to be incorporated into the agenda as Agenda Note #2, and to distribute it to Board members.	
210928MN-Act04	Judy Black to check with Paul Heath if he has a Food for the Soul poem for the October 2, 2021 Members' meeting.	
210928MN-Act05	Gregg Dill to email Phil Groff, with a copy to Judy Black, requesting a monthly financial report from National office.	
210928MN-Act06	Gregg Dill to verify that Superior Propane will buy back unused propane in the tank.	
210928MN-Act07	Judy Black to send a retirement and thank you card to Jamie Carmichael on behalf of the Board and the members.	
210928MN-Act08	John Liddard to obtain a quote from the electrician for the remaining work at SCO and email it to the Board.	
210928MN-Act09	John Liddard to determine whether he has been reimbursed for the electric heater yet.	
210928MN-Act10	Judy Black to contact Blair MacDonald to request that he would handle the	

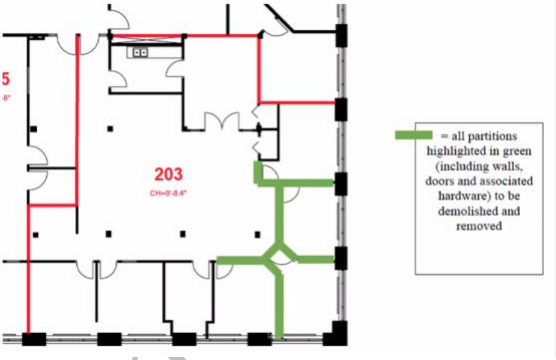
	mailing of astroimages again this year.	
210928MN-Act11	Judy Black to contact all members to inquire if other members would like to contribute their images for fundraising.	
210928MN-Act12	Judy Black to arrange with Jenna Hinds to have the Members' Survey posted on Survey Monkey from October 2-9, 2021.	
210928MN-Act13	Kathy Walker and David Hoskin to draft revised SCO use guidelines to incorporate a requirement for Proof of Vaccination and circulate them to the rest of the Board for approval.	
210928MN-Act14	John Liddard to get 5 copies of the SCO key cut.	
210928MN-Act15	John Liddard to contact Department of Natural Resources and report back next Board meeting about the type of protection required.	
210928MN-Act16	Judy Black to confirm that the adjudicators agree with the process and the dates.	
210928MN-Act17	Judy Black to announce the contest process and dates at the Members' meeting on November 2, 2021.	
210928MN-Act18	Tim Doucette to contact Phil Groff, with a copy to Judy, for input from RASC about hosting a future General Assembly at a location in southwest Nova Scotia.	

MOTION LIST (September 28, 2021):

210928MN-Mot01	It was moved by Patrick Kelly and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the September 28, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as amended. CARRIED.
210928MN-Mot02	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the September 7, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as circulated CARRIED.

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
Agenda Note #1 re: 2021 Meeting Dates	<p>A) 2020 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events <u>Board Meeting</u> dates were approved at the January 7, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website. November 2 November 30</p> <p><u>Members' Meeting</u> dates were approved at the October 28, 2020 Board of Directors meetings. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website. October 2 November 6 December 4 (AGM)</p> <p>B) Confirmed Speakers</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2: ?? + David Hoskin (Hydrogen Alpha Solar Imaging) • November 6: ?? + Chris Young (Astronomy Lore) • December 4: Dr. Phil Groff <p>C) Suggested Speakers</p> <p>Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (Oct or Nov, or 2022) Dr. Leslie Rogers & Sara Seager ○ (Fall) Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster) ○ ??? Someone to address Perseverance, Gateway and Artemis
<p>Agenda Note #2 re: National Council Meeting Report</p>	<p>Meeting of the RASC National Council (NC) was held on Sunday, September 27, 2021 via Zoom with 34 in attendance. This included members of the NC, the Board of Directors plus guests.</p> <p>Election of Chair and Co-Chair</p> <p>According to the National Council Terms of Reference, the President of the Board plus an elected member of the NC are Co-Chairs. An election was held for the Co-Chair position. Judy Black (Halifax Centre) was elected as Co-Chair for a 1-year term. Robyn Foret as President is the other Co-Chair.</p> <p>Minutes of previous meeting and the agenda were approved and received Centre reports acknowledged.</p> <p>Reports from the Board</p> <p>The new found offices are to be located in Toronto, near the University of Toronto and only 700 metres from where the offices were first located. The draft lease is for a 10-year period and will house offices plus the Museum. Here is the layout of the new offices once the draft lease has been reviewed by legal counsel and approved by the RASC Board of Directors.</p>  <p>RASC offices are currently working in COVID mode with only 1 or 2 people per day per week with PPE and other measures in place. Vaccination policy will also soon be in place.</p> <p>Sad news is that three staff members have left:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renata Koziol left during the summer • Adela Zyfi now has permanent residency and is returning to school • Catherina has also returned to school <p>Glad news is that 3 new staff have been hired. Replacements have been found. One will work Monday to Friday, and a student and Youth Committee member from Montreal Centre will work from Saturday to Tuesday. This means there will be someone to answer phones every day of the week. There is also a new person to be hired to address light pollution abatement.</p> <p>Business From Previous Meetings:</p> <p>i) Volunteer Screening/Security</p> <p>There was very active discussion about the requirement for security checks for members and volunteers, Code of Conduct and other aspects of making the Society safer for members, volunteers and the public with whom they interact. The outcome of discussion and actions to be taken are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft "Best Practices" document will be drafted and forwarded to the NC for review and approval, and for future inclusion in the Centre Manual. • A risk mitigation statement will be drafted for approval for inclusion on member registration forms stating that to become and remain a member that they agree to abide by the RASC Constitution, RASC Bylaw, and all RASC policies and that they will be acquainted with these documents and subsequent changes made to them.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The RASC Board of Directors will review and approve the Education and Public Outreach (EPO) position statement regarding security checks for those individuals volunteering/working with vulnerable individuals and groups. Security checks will not be required by all RASC members. <p>A member and/or volunteer code of conduct will not be developed at this time.</p> <p>ii) Insurance FAQ A townhall may be organized to address the questions raised by Centres regarding what RASC insurance covers. Phil Groff will be preparing an FAQ document that will be circulated. He did emphasize that the RASC insurance covers the RASC and RSC Centres – not people – and covers those events that are RASC-sanctioned. More to follow.</p> <p>iii) Future GAs Randy Attwood agreed to chair a working group to develop the GA Manual that would assist in developing future RASC General Assemblies and would keep the organization simple so that Centres would not feel compelled to outdo the previous one. There had been a questionnaire forwarded to Centres for input.</p> <p>Next meeting: Sunday, December 5, 2021</p>
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Approved November 2, 2021