



**Council of Halifax Centre - Minutes of Meeting
22 October 2016
Superstore Community Room, Windsor, NS (9:30 AM - 12:30 PM)**

Present: Paul Gray, David Chapman, Ian Anderson, Jim Millar, Judy Black, Chris Young, Paul Heath, Tony McGrath, Tony Schellinck.

Regrets: Sean Dzafovic, Pat Kelly, Dr. Roy Bishop, Quinn Smith, Andy Hasler, Elli Hasler.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Paul Gray welcomed members. He asked if members had other items to add to the agenda. Agenda was approved as circulated. It was agreed by members that given Council would like to present the Bylaws #1 (2016) at the AGM on December 9, 2016, that discussion of the draft be moved up the agenda to be discussed first in Items from Previous Meetings. Tony Schellinck requested the addition of SCANS.

161022MN – Mot01

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Tony Schellinck that the agenda be approved as circulated with the amendment and addition as noted.
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

a) January 2016:

Action 16 closed. Hal-Con is on the agenda for this meeting.

b) April 2016:

Action 1 closed.

Actions 2, 3, 4, remain open.

e) May 2016:

Actions 1, 4, and 5 closed.

Action 2 remains open. The Dobsonian telescope will be posted on Kijiji in Nova Scotia and PEI, and with the New Brunswick RASC website.

Action 3 remains open until 2016 tax return requirement is fulfilled.

f) September 2016

Actions, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were closed.

Action 1 remain open until enter is written in December.

Action 3 remains pen. It is on the agenda for this meeting.

Action 4 remains open.

Minutes of the September 16, 2016 Council Meeting had been pre-circulated for review. No changes to the minutes were noted.

161022MN – Mot02

It was moved by Dave Chapman and seconded by Paul Heath that the minutes of September 16, 2016 be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

RASC Halifax Centre – Minutes of Council Meeting (October 22, 2016)

a) Paul Gray suggested a list of dates for RASC, Halifax Centre meetings be drafted for the 2017 calendar year. It was noted the May meeting would be the second Friday of May so as not to conflict with the Victoria Day holiday, and no meetings were to be slated for July and August.

161022MN-Act1

Judy Black is to draft a list of RASC Council and Members Meeting dates for the 2017 calendar year.

161022MN-Act2

Judy Black is to contact SMU in November 2016 to request meeting rooms for 2017 Council, Members Meetings and the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

161022MN-Act3

Judy Black is to send the list of dates to Tony McGrath so that Observing Night dates can also be established.

161022MN-Act4

Judy Black is to send the list of meeting dates and observation nights to the membership announce list.

b) **Thursday, November 3, 2016** - David Levy will be a guest speaker. He will also be speaking in Moncton on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

161022MN-Act5

Dave Chapman is to post the November 3 event on Astronomy NS and Facebook.

161022MN-Act6

Paul Gray is to contact *The Coast* and CBC Radio to post the event through traditional media.

161022MN-Act7

Pat Kelly will post the David Levy event on the RASC, Halifax Centre website.

161022MN-Act8

Tony Schellinck is to notify Jerry Deveau of the Facebook notification so that the South Shore astronomy group can link to the posting.

161022MN-Act9

Dave Chapman is to contact Dr. Rob Thacker, requesting advertising at SMU of Dr. Levy's talk on November 3.

c) **Friday, November 18** - Dr. Spray will not be available. Dave Chapman offered to talk about his trip to England.

161022MN-Act10

Judy Black is to make a call out to members for 10-15 minute presentations, with responses received by Friday, November 11, 2016.

161022MN-Act11

Judy Black is to contact John Read if he would be interested in presenting at the Members Night.

d) **Friday, December 9, 2016** - AGM. Pat Kelly has offered to do a brief presentation.

e) **January / February/March 2017** - Kirsten Bonson, who works for Dr. Gallo, has agreed to do a presentation at the January 2017 meeting. Dr. John Spray has yet to be confirmed for a presentation early in 2017. It was suggested that Tony Schellinck and Dave Chapman present binocular collimation and perhaps offer an observing night where this could be practised.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

3. Bylaw Review

Judy Black led the discussion. A document outlining the discussion topics for the draft of Bylaws #1 (version 5) had been pre-circulated to Council for consideration. It was determined the election process and terms of office were of primary concern and were therefore to be discussed first.

Councilors agreed that roles such as Nova Notes Editor, Librarian, Observing Chair, Nova East Chair and SCO Manager did not require a director position; individuals would be appointed by the Board in January of every year to fulfill those roles, whether a director or another member of the Centre. If the latter, there would have to be a director appointed as liaison to maintain contact with the Board.

It was important that members of the Centre could be enticed to sit as a director because of their interest without having a specific responsibility. People on the Board were there to direct policy as well as plan activities. It would also assist in succession planning to have new members join the Board.

Councilors agreed to the following during the discussion of Items 6 and 7:

- a- there should be no fewer 5 directors and no more than 10 members on the Board, four of whom would be elected as “officers” (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer).
- b- Term of Office for all officers and directors is one year;
- c- President and Vice-President cannot hold office for more than 3 consecutive years, but may be re-elected after a lapse of one year;
- d- Secretary and Treasurer cannot hold office for more than 5 consecutive years, but may be re-elected after a lapse of one year; and
- e- Directors cannot hold office for more than 10 consecutive years, but may be re-elected after a lapse of one year.

Attention was then brought back to the remainder of the discussion document. Councilors agreed:

- a- to the suggested revisions to the definitions of “director” and “National Council.” (Items 1 & 2)
- b- the Chair of a committee would be appointed by the Board, whether a member of the Board or a member of the Centre. (Item 3)
- c- the description of the method of notification of meetings should be left as is explained in the draft. (Item 4)
- d- the statement from Section 99, 45(45.7) of the RASC Bylaw #1 (2013) should be included in the duties of the Board of Directors. (Item 5)

161022MN – Mot03

It was moved by Jim Millar and seconded by Chris Young that the RASC Halifax Centre Bylaws #1 (2016) be accepted as presented and amended at this meeting.

CARRIED (unanimously with 1 abstention)

161022MN-Act12

Judy Black is to edit version 5 of the draft bylaws (2016) to reflect the decisions noted above.

161022MN-Act13

Judy Black is to forward version 6 of the Bylaws to Jim Millar and Dave Chapman for review prior to circulation to the Council and the members at large.

Council expressed their appreciation of Judy’s leadership as Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee and the development of the draft bylaws.

Judy Black then circulated to Councilors present the Notice of Directors and Officers document required by Registry of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC) annually; they were to enter their occupations on the document. It will be resubmitted to ensure the appropriate officers would be recognized when the Special Resolution regarding the approval of the Bylaws #1 (2016) was submitted to RJSC.

161022MN-Act14

Judy Black is to contact the members of Council not present at this meeting to acquire their occupations for inclusion in the Notice of Officers and Directors.

161022MN-Act15

Judy Black is to contact RJSC to confirm David Lane as an agent for the RASC, Halifax Centre.

4. SCO Development Plan

Tony McGrath noted the Development plan was in progress. There were three upgrades proposed based on the survey results - electrical upgrade, rest area and a pier mount. The primary concern was for the electrical upgrade. A draft plan will be available at the November 18, 2016 meeting. He suggested that Council should think creatively on how to best spend the money allocated to SCO upgrades to meet members' needs. It was suggested that a parallelogram mount for the Thurlow binoculars be investigated.

161022MN-Act16

Tony McGrath is to present the draft development plan at the November 18, 2016 meeting of Council.

5. Guest Speakers: Randall Rosenfeld and Dr. David Levy

Paul Gray has been in discussions with Randall Rosenfeld regarding his availability and interest in presenting to our Centre. Dr. Levy has already been acquired for November 3, 2016.

6. Sale of Dobsonian

This item had not been accomplished to date.

161022MN-Act17

Paul Gray and Chris Young are to post the sale on Kijiji in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI. If a sale is not made, it is then to be posted in AstroBuySell.

7. Donation/Bequest from Harry Freeman Roberts

Jim Millar noted that a bequest of \$500.00 and then an additional cheque for \$500.00 had been received from the estate of Harry Freeman Roberts. A letter of thanks had been sent to the family for their generous donation. A commemorative plaque on the pier was suggested.

8. Hal-Con & Nova Scotia Teachers Conference

Paul Heath noted that it was still unknown as to whether the Teachers' Conference was going forward on October 28, 2016 due to the possible teachers' strike.

Tony Schellinck provided members with the content of an email received from Hal-Con organizers (refer to attachment to the agenda). Hal-Con takes place November 4-6, 2016. Set-up for the event is the Thursday evening.

161022MN-Act18

Paul Heath is to set up the schedule for volunteers at the RASC table at Hal-Con, and to arrange for the RASC materials.

161022MN-Act19

Tony Schellinck is to provide the 25-word blurb and the photo to Hal-Con organizers, as requested.

REPORTS

9. REPORT: Nominating Committee

Dave Chapman reported that a few of Council members had re-offered and that councilors were being sought. Ian Anderson who has served this Council as 2nd Vice-President had decided to step down from Council. Members thanked him for his years of service on the Council. It was decided to leave the position of 2nd Vice-President blank to accommodate the new Bylaws. The position of President is open as Paul Gray has completed his two one-year terms. Quinn Smith and Chris Young are stepping down from the Council. Ideas for the open positions were discussed.

10. RASC Halifax Centre Website

Councilors again identified the need for our website to be updated. There is an outstanding action consequent to a motion at the September 16, 2016 Council meeting where it was moved, seconded and carried that Paul Gray as Chair of the Website Committee contact Dennis Gray at the Society to determine within one month of the way forward. Councilors were reminded that if the website changes were not timely, David Lane agreed to set up a temporary website on Joomla! He would not be the person to maintain the site but would provide access by administrators to add content. Denis Grey, a member of the National IT Committee, had agreed to talk to members about the implementation of the website.

Judy Black and Jim Millar still cannot access the membership list through the national RASC website.

161022MN-Act20

Dave Chapman to send contact information for Walter MacDonald to Judy Black.

161022MN-Act21

Judy Black will address the lack of access to the lists with Walter MacDonald.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Annual Reports

Judy Black gave Councilors the heads-up on the requirement for their annual reports.

161022MN-Act22

Judy Black will forward to Councilors the list of reports required for the purposes of the AGM and the annual reports to RASC.

12. Seniors College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS)

Tony Schellinck reported he was a member of the Seniors College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS). It is an organization of retired professors who put on courses across the province. Tony is instructing an Introduction to Astronomy; it is a 6-week course, one night per week, 2 hours each evening. He had 38 in the first two classes. He suggested that RASC Halifax Centre consider developing a relationship with SCANS and perhaps offer other courses.

161022MN-Act23

Tony Schellinck will forward the list of requirements for recruitment of speakers and the programs.

13. Adjournment

161022MN – Mot04

It was moved by Paul Gray to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black
Secretary