



**Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting  
9 January 2018  
SMU, The Atrium, Room AT306 (6:45 - 7:45 PM)**

**Present:** Paul Gray, Melody Hamilton, Judy Black, Paul Heath, John Read, Sean Dzafovic, Pat Kelly, Charles White, Jim Millar (Acting Treasurer).

**Regrets:** Andrew Frank, Dr. Roy Bishop

**Guest:** Dave Lane

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Paul Gray welcomed members at 6:52 PM. Quorum had been met. Paul introduced Charles White and welcomed him to the Board. He asked if members had other items to add to the agenda. One suggestion was a request from Taylor Head Provincial Park; this will be added as item 12 on the agenda.

**081217MN – Mot01**

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Pat Kelly that the agenda be approved as circulated with the addition.

CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

a) April 2016

**Action 2** remains open.

b) May 2016

**Action 3** remains open.

c) September 2016

**Action 3** remains open and will be deferred to February 2018.

d) October 2016

**Action 16** remains open and will be deferred to February 2018.

e) March 2017

**Action 4** remains open. Clarification was made regarding what was to be printed on the PDF received.

Paul and John are to determine what was needed to put on the banner. Paul will contact Ted Dunphy (NB Centre) to inform him of what we want printed on the banner. and then Paul would send that information to John to get it printed.

f) May 2017

**Action 3** remains open.

g) October 2017

**Action 5, 8 & 9** are closed.

Members agreed that many photos could be gleaned from previous editions of Nova Notes and from previous presentations made by Paul Gray and Dr. Roy Bishop regarding the history of our Centre.

**011918MN-Act01**

Paul Gray, with the assistance of Roy Bishop, will compile a photo history of Halifax Centre for inclusion in the RASC Canada Image Project.

h) November 2017

**Action 2** remains open.

**Actions 5, 6 & 10** are closed

i) December 2017

**Actions 2 & 3** remain open.

**Actions 1 & 4** are closed.

Regarding Action 4, a thank you card had been received from Jamie Carmichael.

#### **011918MN – Mot02**

It was moved by Melody Hamilton and seconded by Paul Heath that the minutes of December 8, 2017 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

### **ONGOING ITEMS**

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

All meeting dates for January through April 2018 have been confirmed with SMU. May (Board & Members' meetings) and June (Board meeting only) dates will have to wait until April for confirmation.

#### **011918MN-Act02**

Judy Black to confirm the May and June meeting dates with Dan Snyder at SMU in April 2018.

**Tonight:** Members' presentations - "Christmas in January" - Paul confirmed there were four or five members who stepped forward to present their new toys.

**Feb or March:** Black Holes & Gravity Waves (Luigi Gallo) - John Read agreed to confirm one of the two dates for Dr. Gallo to speak.

#### **011918MN-Act03**

John Read is to confirm Dr. Luigi Gallo as the speaker for either February 16, 2018 or March 16, 2018 within 1 week of this Board Meeting.

**April:** SMU 3-D Virtual Reality Room (Rob Thacker)

#### **011918MN-Act04**

Paul Gray is to confirm Dr. Thacker as the speaker for April 20, 2018.

**May:** The excursion to San Pedro de Atacama (Judy & Jerry Black, Dave Chapman, Melody Hamilton)

Other suggestions from a previous meeting included:

- a) The Star Walker - movie over 1 or 2 meetings
- b) Roy Bishop to readdress gravitational waves in light of the new evidence (if Dr. Gallo not addressing in his talk).
- c) A member "learns" about a topic and presents what they've learned at a Members' Meeting.

Because there are now only 10 members on the Board of Directors and that 5 comprise quorum (Bylaw #1, Subsection 6.6), Judy Black requested that members please advise her of their absence from one or more meetings in advance of the meeting. If 6 or more members provide regrets, quorum is not met and no business may be conducted at the meeting.

#### **3. Report from RASC National Representative**

Patrick Kelly reported the RASC Board had put forward a proposal to increase the society portion of the fee by \$20 over the next few years and then index the fees to the inflation rate after that. Because RASC has three aspects - membership services, charity services and publications - for which funding from one cannot be utilized to subsidize the other. The fee increase would have to go entirely to the Society's members services. Part of the rationale for the increase was that there had not been an increase in some time, there are new services being provided, and the Society has never had a lot of extra money to put into worthwhile projects that arose quickly.

The Halifax Centre Board members agreed that before they could evaluate the effect of the increase and therefore agree to such an increase, more information was needed as why and how specifically the increased funds would be used. Judgment will be reserved until more financial details are available.

#### **011918MN-Act05**

Pat Kelly to present the outcome of the Halifax Centre decision regarding the proposed increase to RASC fees at the next National Council meeting.

## **ITEMS FROM DECEMBER 2017 AGM**

### **4. Nominations for Vice-President & Treasurer**

Two positions were not filled during the elections held at the 2017 AGM. Judy Black noted that there may be a contravening of the Bylaw #1 unless one person currently elected to the Board stepped into either the Vice-President or Treasurer position.

#### ***a- Vice-President***

A member of the Board agreeing to fulfill the Vice-President role would have assistance from the Secretary for the meeting for which they would become responsible in the President's absence, and that a Members' Meeting facilitator could be arranged. Melody Hamilton agreed to her appointment as Vice-President with these conditions in place.

#### ***b- Treasurer***

Jim Millar agreed to fulfill the role of Treasurer until the end of February, and to assist in training during the interim period. Members agreed that this position was urgently needed and wondered if a replacement could be found ASAP.

#### **011918MN-Act06**

Paul Gray is to approach Gregg Dill regarding his willingness to be appointed Treasurer.

### **5. Recommendation from Auditor's Report**

Gregg Dill, as the 2017 Auditor for RASC Halifax Centre, made a recommendation in his report made at the December 2017 AGM that the Board entertain a motion to require cheques and other documents be signed by two of at least three people registered to have signing authority. The Board discussed the logistics of what this would entail.

#### **011918MN – Mot03**

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Charles White that:

- a. Expenditures greater than \$250.00 CDN require the signatures of any two of the Treasurer, the Secretary or the President;
- b. Expenditures less than or equal to \$250.00 CDN require the signature of any one of the Treasurer, the Secretary or the President; and
- c. This motion be implemented when the banking arrangements are modified with the changeover of the Treasurer.

CARRIED unanimously.

When the document goes to the bank, the actual names and signatures of the three signees would be attached. There would be a separate Board policy that whenever possible, the Treasurer would sign all cheques while the President or Secretary would be the co-signer. Only cheques written to reimburse the Treasurer would be signed by the President and Secretary.

## **UPDATES / REPORTS**

### **6. Update: RASC 150 Kick-Off**

The Discovery Centre will not be available for the RASC 150 Kick-off.

### **7. Update: Video Production by Halley Davies**

This had been deferred to the February 2018 Board Meeting; however, Halley Davies and Dave Chapman estimate that the "night sky" video (title still being considered) will be completed and ready for the big reveal on Friday, 16 February, at the Members' Meeting.

### **8. Update: RASC-HC Website - platforms used by New Brunswick & Sunshine Coast**

Paul has not heard back from the two Centres regarding their platforms. he will contact them again.

### **9. Update: RASC Banner Cost & Acquisition**

This was discussed during the Action List review.

### **10. Update: Board of Directors Manual**

Judy Black explained that due to extenuating circumstances, the Manual had not been forwarded to Patrick Kelly and Jim Millar as promised. With a copy of the RASC Centre Manual now available, she will be making comparisons of content then forwarding for review & discussion.

**011918MN-Act07**

Judy Black will forward the draft Halifax Centre Board of Director Reference Manual to Jim Millar and Patrick Kelly before the end of January.

She also noted that a position description for Honorary President had not been drafted. Also, at the 2017 HRM Volunteer Conference she attended, it had been drilled home that terms of reference for the Board of Directors was required. A draft would be provided for consideration in the future.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**11. Nova East - August 10-12, 2018**

A Planning Committee is required to plan the 2018 Nova East (NE). Judy Black agreed to Co-Chair with another Centre member. Melody Hamilton agreed to return as Registrar and to sit on the Committee.

**011918MN-Act08**

Paul Gray will make the request for volunteers for the NE Planning Committee at the Members' meeting later this evening.

**12. Request from Taylor Head Provincial Park**

Paul Gray informed members of a request for an astronomy presentation of some sort from Taylor Head Provincial Park. Their preferred time would be sometime in August. Members agreed that no commitment could be made at this time due to Nova East and the Kejimikujik Dark-Sky Weekend events in August that required volunteers.

**13. Adjournment**

**011918MN – Mot04**

It was moved by Paul Heath to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black  
Secretary, RASC Halifax Centre  
(with assistance from Melody Hamilton, Vice-President)