



**Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting
6 April 2019
SMU, Sobeys Building, Room SB152 (11:00 AM – 12:30 PM)**

Present: Charles White, Paul Heath, Pat Kelly, Judy Black, Tom Crosman, Gregg Dill, Peter Hurley, Paul Gray.

Regrets: John Read, Mary Lou Whitehorne.

Guests: Connor Gray, Miranda Gray

1. Welcome & Introductions

Charles welcomed members at 11:02 AM. Quorum had been met. Charles White requested that agenda item #11 be changed to be discussion regarding the Nova Notes survey.

190302MN-Mot01

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Judy Black to approve the April 6, 2019 Board of Directors meeting agenda with the amended change.
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

a) February 2019

Action 1 closed. RASC will not be attending with APS at Saltscapes

Actions 2 & 3 remain open. Paul Gray noted that Action 3 would not be completed until the spring.

Action 4 is closed. The EtU Guide will be ordered based on the response at the Members Meeting later today.

190406MN-Act01

Paul Gray will inquire at the April 6 Members' Meeting as to how many members might be interested in the purchase of an Explore the Universe Guide.

b) March 2019

Actions 8, 11 remain open.

Actions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12 are closed.

Action 2: Closed. Stephen Payne will be contacted, and an invitation extended to invite him to the May Board Meeting.

190406MN-Act02

Judy Black will contact Stephen Payne to extend an invitation to attend the May 4, 2019 Board of Directors meeting to a discussion regarding volunteer role with the planetarium.

Action 3: Closed. Peter Hurley determined the contact at the Discovery Centre was Japna Sidhu-Brar. Members determined there was a need to determine how best to partner with the Centre. Perhaps Halifax Centre should consider Astronomy Day next year.

190406MN-Act03

Charles White to approach at the Discovery Centre to determine the extent of collaboration with the Discovery Centre.

190406MN-Act04

Judy Black will include *Insurance Price Quotes* on the September 7, 2019 Board of Directors meeting agenda.

Action 10: Closed. Gregg Dill had paid the ~ \$983.00 invoice for repairs. SCO repairs will be included in the budget discussions in June.

The minutes of the March 2, 2019 Board meeting were reviewed.

190406MN-Mot02

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Tom Crosman to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.
CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

a) Meeting Dates:

Upcoming meeting dates are May 4 and June 1. Board meeting times will remain at 11 AM – 12:30 PM; Members' Meeting will be held 1 PM – 4 PM.

b) SMU Room Bookings:

Thanks to Dan Snyder at SMU, the Members' meeting will be held in AT101 and the Board of Directors Meetings in AT306 on May 4 and June 1 at their usual times.

c) Guest Speakers:

Dr. Rob Thacker is speaking today. The new national youth coordinator, Jenna Hinds, is coming for the May meeting. It was suggested that the June meeting be focused on maintenance and equipment collimation. A classroom with a sink would be a preferred space.

190406MN-Act05

Judy Black to contact SMU to request the June members' meeting space be switched to a room with a sink and hot water.

d) Ideas for Future Meetings:

The September meeting could be a recap of Nova East, Starmus, DSW, and member activities over the summer.

The following were suggestions for subsequent meetings:

- Dave Lane - Use of the BGO's (how-to's)
- Luigi Gallo – X-Ray Astronomy (perhaps in the fall)

3. Report from National Representative

Pat Kelly reported that Centre reports are targeted, with 4 or 5 Centres reporting at each meeting. Quorum and composition of the National Council are being determined. A motion was carried asking the Board to consider SkyNews for outreach purposes and not make decisions on its future based only on whether it is profitable. Toronto is the location for the 2019 General Assembly (GA) but no one has offered for 2020. A brochure regarding inclusivity and diversity has been developed for distribution.

190406MN-Act06

Paul Heath to circulate the brochure regarding inclusivity and diversity to Board members.

4. Communications Plan

Nothing new to add to the Communications Strategy that is in the Board Reference Manual. She is looking at the mechanism to update RASC and ANS social media administrators sooner.

5. Outreach Requests

Paul Heath reported there were three requests in the Kentville/New Minas area. He was doing outreach in three schools in the next week plus two Scout groups. Members agreed that we would not attend the Saltscapes Expo

on April 24-26, 2019. HalCon (October 25-27) costs have increased this year but perhaps the approximate \$500.00 vendor fee could be reduced for our Society.

190406MN-Act07

Paul Heath will contact HalCon to determine if the vendor fees can be reduced from what is advertised on their site.

190406MN-Act08

Paul Heath will contact John Higgins to acquire an update to the Halifax Centre outreach report summary.

6. Update: RASC-HC – Changes to Distribution List and Website Development

a) Suggested Change to Distribution List:

In a previous email, Pat Kelly stated there were requests for non-members to be added to the Announce List. He had suggested that a note could be added to the Centre's activities page that stated something like this: "If you wish to get email messages announcing Centre events, contact XXX." At this meeting, members agreed the Announce List was intended for Halifax Centre members only and that non-members could acquire the information from general announcements made in ANS, Facebook and MeetUp.

190406MN-Act09

Pat Kelly will prune the Announce List distribution to RASC Halifax Centre members only.

b) Nova East Website Development:

Judy Black had approached Jerry Black regarding development of both the Nova East and the Halifax Centre websites using *Joomla!*. Jerry had already begun a developmental NE website that is currently on the SMU website but is not public; the URL to the site is <https://s3-ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/www.sciencedowneast.com/novaeast/index.html>. He has updated sections where decisions have been made by Nova East and he is working on addition of the photo galleries from previous years.

190406MN-Mot03

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Gregg Dill that that Jerry Black in consultation with the NEPC develop the Nova East website using Joomla!
CARRIED.

190406MN-Act10

Judy Black to notify Jerry Black to continue redeveloping the Nova East site using Joomla!

c) Halifax Centre Website Development:

Jerry Black with Dave Chapman and Dave Lane have discussed the possible development of the Halifax Centre website following completion of the Nova East website. Members agreed that someone to administer the site would make it easier, and with a few members having familiarity with Joomla! would make this easier.

190406MN-Mot04

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Pat Kelly that the RASC Halifax Centre website be redeveloped using Joomla!
CARRIED.

190406MN-Act11

Judy Black will ask Jerry Black (with Dave Chapman and Dave Lane) to redevelop the site using Joomla! following the development of the Nova East website.

Members discussed a previous suggestion that the RASC Halifax Centre website and the ANS site be a single entity for branding purposes and to reduce duplication of effort. Members agreed that RASC was a registered Society with its own bylaws, publications, observatory, etc., whereas ANS was a website and not officially an organization. A clarification of the site roles was required.

190406MN-Act12

A task team will discuss the relationship between Halifax Centre and ANS and to provide clarification of their site roles. Members to be invited would include Dave Chapman, Dave Lane, Pat Kelly, and Jerry Black.

7. Update: SCO Repairs

This had been discussed in the review of the action list.

AGM REQUIREMENTS

8. Nominations Committee

Deferred to May 4, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting.

UPDATES / REPORTS

9. Nova East (NE)

Judy Black, 2019 Nova East Chairperson, noted the following 2018 NE recommendations had been discussed:

Item 1: The 2019 NE date was approved with 2020-2025 approved in principle.

Item 2: Paul Gray will be purchasing storage boxes following the spring clean-up.

Item 3: Designation of NE Auction profit for discussion at June 2019 Board of Directors meeting.

Item 6: Jerry Black now has access to the NE website.

Item 7: Modified Maglites will be used for NE field events.

There were three recommendations that required discussion.

Item 2: The recommendation for storage boxes in lieu of currently used cardboard boxes was intended for both the observatory and storage shed. Although it had been agreed to acquire storage boxes, she wanted to ensure the boxes to be purchased would be used for both the observatory and storage shed, and that the number and sizes of the boxes be determined during spring cleanup. Members agreed this was the case.

Item 4: Purchase of a second propane tank for SCO for use at BBQ and NE. This was required as a second tank was needed at the NE BBQ. It would also be available for use at the SCO BBQ, if needed.

190406MN-Mot05

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Paul Heath that funds be provided for purchase of a second propane tank for use at SCO and Nova East.

CARRIED.

Members agreed the purchase should be expensed to the Observatory.

Item 5: Determine items currently stored at SCO that could be sold to members, such as the blue Newtonian telescope and other donated equipment. This could be established during spring clean-up.

190406MN-Act13

The SCO Manager with a task team will develop a list of items currently stored at SCO during the spring cleanup that could be sold to members.

Item 8: The Astrophotography Contest be considered a contest of Halifax Centre versus a NE contest. Judy explained it would encourage all RASC members to submit photos, potentially throughout the year and regardless of whether or not they register for NE. NOTE: A task team has been formed to submit a report of recommendations for changes to the contest and the rationale for those changes. She requested the Board consider adopting the Astrophotography Contest as a photo contest of RASC Halifax Centre. She had suggested it could be possible to mirror the structure of the national awards, i.e., three categories. In jest, it was suggested that because of Michael Boschat's success that a fourth category be added – through a window.

190406MN-Mot06

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Paul Gray that the Astrophotography Contest be adopted as a photo contest of RASC Halifax Centre.

CARRIED.

190406MN-Act14

The Nova East Planning Committee (NEPC) will develop the contest criteria for the Board to consider at their next meeting.

Judy stated the first meeting of the Nova East Star Party Planning Committee (NEPC) was held March 23, 2019. The summary of decisions was pre-circulated. In addition to the approval of the NE website development (discussed earlier in the agenda), the approval of the proposed 2019 NE Budget (that includes \$1,000.00 for prizes) also requires Board approval. It was noted that the RASC Public Speaker Program had been cut 50%. Gregg Dill noted the BBQ expenses should be increased to \$150.00, making the NE profit \$5.00.

190406MN-Mot07

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Pat Kelly that the 2019 Nova East Star Party budget be approved as presented in the April 6, 2019 NEPC Report to the Board with the amendments noted.
CARRIED.

10. Vanderburg Eye Pieces (deferred from March 2/19)

11. Nova Notes

12. Photo Release Form (deferred from March 2/19)

13. Social Media Replacement (deferred from March 2/19)

These items were deferred to May 4, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting.

14. Update: Sale of ETU Guides

Discussed as part of action list review.

15. Clarification of Archiving BoD Minutes (deferred from March 2/19)

16. SCO BBQ

17. RASC Laminated ID tags

These items were deferred to May 4, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting.

Given the fact the Board appears to not be getting through its agenda, members agreed the next meeting would begin at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment

1900302MN-Mot08

It was moved by Paul Heath to adjourn.

Adjournment at 12:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black, Secretary
RASC, Halifax Centre