



**Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting
1 February 2020
SMU, The Atrium, Room AT217 (10:30 AM – 12:30 PM)**

Present: Judy Black, Tom Crosman, Peter Hurley, Matt Dyer, Gregg Dill, David Hoskin, Paul Heath, Wayne Harasimovitch, Pat Kelly, Paul Gray
Regrets: John Liddard

1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy Black called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM and welcomed members. Quorum had been met, as all board members were present.

The meeting agenda was reviewed.

200201MN-Mot01

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Tom Crosman to approve the February 1, 2020 Board of Directors meeting agenda as tabled.
CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

a) From November 2019

Action 10: Open. Judy Black and John Liddard had been unable to find a convenient date with acceptable weather to conduct the inventory. Further Discussion in Agenda item #8.

b) From December 2019

Action 2: Closed. Judy Black had posted the Diversity and Inclusivity flyer onto the Halifax Centre website.

Action 3: Open. Paul Gray was not present to report on this item.

Action 7: Open. John Liddard was not present to provide an update.

c) From January 2020

Action 1: Open. Judy to contact John Read to inquire about printing rates at SMU. We will need the brochures for the Saltscapes outreach event but not for the Atlantic Photo Supply event next week.

Action 2: Closed.

Action 3: Closed.

Action 4: Open. Gregg Dill to contact Chris Young regarding the Baader film.

Action 5: Open. The inventory hasn't been completed yet.

Action 6: Closed. Dave Lane had provided email names for the Outreach and Observing chairs. They are now listed in "Contact Us" on the Centre's Website.

Action 7: Closed. John Liddard reported through an email to Peter Hurley that there had been no further developments regarding the connection of SCO to the Minas Energy electrical grid.

200201MN-Act01

John Liddard to report back to the March meeting on progress on the connection of SCO to the Minas Energy electrical grid.

Action 8: Closed. Further discussion in Agenda item #9.

Action 9: Closed. It was agreed that we should proceed with the proposal discussed at the meeting with Discovery Centre to create a collaborative Discover Centre/RASC event on April 26, 2020 around the crescent moon and the crescent Venus.

200201MN-Act02

Wayne Harasimovitch to conduct a site survey of potential viewing sites in the vicinity of the Discovery Centre.

200201MN-Act03

Wayne Harasimovitch and Peter Hurley to meet with Discovery Centre staff to develop a collaborative Discover Centre/RASC event on April 26, 2020 around the crescent moon and the crescent Venus.

Action 10: Closed. A letter was sent to the SMU President on January 20, 2020.

Action 11: Open. Gregg Dill had prepared a financial statement for signature today.

Action 12: Open.

Action 13: Closed. Judy Black had provided the Centre's 2019 activity report to RASC National office.

Action 14: Closed. Further discussion in Agenda item #11.

The minutes of the January 11, 2020 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed.

200201MN-Mot02

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Tom Crosman to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

a) Meeting Dates:

Upcoming meeting dates were cited in Agenda Notes #1 and are also listed on the Halifax Centre website.

b) SMU Room Bookings:

As a reminder, it should be noted that the March 2020 meetings will be moved to the Loyola Building due to a SMU Open House. Also, the Board meetings will be moved from the current AT306 to AT217. It is necessary to ask for meeting space for May and June.

c) Guest Speakers:

Judy Black had invited Phil Groff to speak at a meeting and had provided him with our meeting dates. He responded that either the April 4 or May 2 dates would work and that he could make a 20- to 30-minute special presentation. It was agreed that the May 2 date was preferred.

200201MN-Act04

Judy Black will email Phil Goff back to indicate that May 2 would be our preferred date for him to attend and to speak.

Paul Gray had contacted Dave Turner and he had agreed to make a presentation on Betelgeuse at today's meeting.

Judy Black reported that Blair MacDonald and Jerry Black are planning a three-part 15- to 20-minute mini-presentation Intro to Astroimaging starting with the March meeting. The presentation at the May meeting would be followed by a hands-on event at SCO later in the month.

d) Ideas for Future Meetings:

The following suggestions were made:

- Space X constellations – Wayne Harasimovitch indicated that he would be too busy to make a presentation in the near future.
- Judy Black had received an email from Erin Christie at Formac Publishing about hosting an event to launch the children's book 50 Animals That Have Been to Space authored by John and Jennifer Read (see Agenda Note #4). The book will be released March 3. There was discussion about what was

expected by Formac. It was agreed that this could be accommodated as part of a members' meeting in March or April and that book sales could occur.

200201MN-Act05

Judy Black will contact Erin Christie to discuss arrangements.

- Paul Gray volunteered to make a 35- to 40-minute presentation on variable stars. This would not be an Observers' Handbook presentation. This could happen March or April, depending upon when the book launch happened.
- Paul Heath volunteered to make an Observers' Handbook presentation on Dwarf Planets at the March members' meeting.

3. Report from National Council Representative

Patrick Kelly indicated there was nothing to report, no meetings had been held. Next meeting will be held in February. RASC has produced a Centre Manual that will act as a guide for new Centres. Halifax Centre used the previous version in developing the Policy Manual and Board Reference Manual.

200201MN-Act06

Pat Kelly will circulate the RASC Centre Manual to members for comment when it has been received.

4. Communications Plan

Judy Black reported that she, Pat Kelly, and Dave Chapman had not had an opportunity to meet yet.

5. Outreach Requests

An event with Atlantic Photo Supply at their new Brownlow location has been scheduled for February 5. The date has been posted on the website. Paul Heath has received a request from Shubenacadie Wildlife Park for an outreach activity for February 15. Registration is required.

Paul Heath reported that the outreach activity with the NS Young Naturalists Club at York Redoubt on January 31 was a success. Because York Redoubt is a National Historic Site, a permit was required from Parks Canada. This required 12 pages of paperwork to be completed. Paul will have a clearer idea next month of what is required. Because it was a YNC organized event, insurance was required from them, not from RASC.

200201MN-Act07

Paul Heath to report back to the Board with details regarding the paperwork required by Parks Canada.

Other scheduled activities include SaltScapes on April 24-26, 2020 and International Observe the Moon on September 26, 2020, although no plans have been made for these events. It is anticipated that APS will contact Blair MacDonald with details. No requests for school presentations have been received for the new year as yet.

6. RASC-Halifax Centre Website

A link to Outreach on the Activities page had been added to the revised Centre Website. Judy Black requested that everyone review the Website.

ITEMS FROM AGM

7. Committees

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee should start considerations in June. There is still time to find members.

Governance Committee

Judy Black volunteered to participate and asked for other volunteers. Gregg Dill and Paul Gray also volunteered.

UPDATES / REPORTS

8. Update: SCO

John Liddard reported, via an email to Peter Hurley, that the inventory of the observatory would occur next Tuesday, weather permitting. John indicated that there had been no further developments regarding connection of SCO to the Minas Energy electrical grid, that we have been waiting for the assessment from Minas Energy and their line contractor K-Line. They will inform Roy Bishop once they determine the scope of the project and he will update John.

200111MN-Act08

John Liddard to report back to the March Board meeting on progress of discussions with Minas Power.

There was further discussion regarding funding for the project. Gregg had indicated that there was a \$4,000 GIC due March 1 with another due in September and had suggested collapsing the GIC due in March so the funds would be ready.

200201MN-Mot03

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Paul Gray that the GIC due March 1, 2020 be collapsed with the intention of using the funds for the connection of SCO to the Minas Energy electrical grid. CARRIED.

9. Update: Library

Wayne Harasimovitch reported that he was still reviewing options regarding replacing or rebuilding the existing cart. The cabinet has been cleaned out and so books we don't use could be moved to the cabinet. There was discussion whether we need to lock the cart or lock the cabinet and it was agreed that we should secure the contents of the cart. A list of the cabinet contents is being prepared.

200111MN-Act09

Wayne Harasimovitch will report on options available for a new or used library cart or repair to the existing cart.

10. Update: Meeting with the Discovery Centre

Peter Hurley reported that a meeting had occurred on January 28 with Ryan Jameson at the Discovery Centre with Judy Black, Roy Bishop (by phone), Mary Lou Whitehorne, Wayne Harasimovitch and himself. The meeting had been very positive and a number of potential collaborations between the two groups had been discussed, including: April 26-27 crescent Moon and crescent Venus; July 17 launch of the next Mars Rover; August 11-12 Perseid meteor shower; October 13 Mars in opposition. There was some discussion of these possibilities and the exact nature of the collaboration. Other topics that were discussed included whether we might be able to suggest content for Dome presentations once we learned more about the capabilities of the Digistar projector, and the possible development of print materials regarding Mars, similar to one produced by RASC National.

Ryan had been presented with a complimentary copy of Explore the Universe and it was indicated that copies of it and the RASC calendar could be purchased through the RASC National office if they wished to sell them in the Discovery Centre Store. Copies of the RASC Halifax Centre flyer were given to Ryan. He indicated that he thought that they probably couldn't be distributed through the Discovery Centre Store but that perhaps copies could be distributed through the Dome to visitors who expressed a strong interest in astronomy.

It was concluded that the April 26-27 crescent Moon and crescent Venus would be a good starting place. Wayne Harasimovitch volunteered to conduct a site survey of areas surrounding the Discovery Centre, and Peter Hurley and Wayne Harasimovitch volunteered to meeting with staff from the Discovery Centre to proceed with planning an April event.

200201MN-Act10

Peter Hurley and Wayne Harasimovitch to report back to the Board on progress at the March Board meeting.

11. 2015 GA Video Editing

Special Project funds up to \$500 are available from RASC National, with a submission deadline of May 31. Dave Chapman had submitted a proposal to request Special Project funds to edit some of the videos of presentations that were recorded at the RASC 2015 GA (see Agenda Note #2). Dave had obtained estimates from Halley Davies for the work and provided a prioritized list of presentations to be edited and posted to the RASC

YouTube site. It was agreed that we should proceed and see if we could get at least the first block of presentations processed.

200201MN-Act11

Judy Black to ask Dave Chapman to make an application to RASC National for Special Projects funds to edit presentations recorded at the RASC 2015 GA.

NEW BUSINESS

12. Halifax Centre Priority Setting

Priorities for the Centre were last reviewed 5 years ago (see Agenda Note #3). We know our objectives, we know our volunteer base, we need to know what we can do without over-extending our volunteer base. We need to know the interests of our membership, of new members, and of visitors.

200111MN-Act12

Judy Black to draft a questionnaire that could be used to determine interests of members, new members and visitors, to assist in Priority Setting, to be reviewed at the March Board meeting.

13. Nova East Planning Committee

Nova East is scheduled for 21-23 August. Current committee members are Judy Black, Gregg Dill, Pat Kelly, Dave Chapman, Liz Greenough, Wayne Harasimovitch, and Chris Young. The Committee will meet on February 15.

200111MN-Act13

Judy Black to send out an invitation to Halifax Centre members at the Members' Meeting.

14. Formac Book Launch – 50 Animals That Have Been to Space

Already covered during action list discussion.

15. Halifax Centre Business Card

There has been a suggestion that RASC Halifax Centre business cards would be useful, particularly for Outreach activities. There was general agreement that this would be a good idea, that it should be one-sided, include the Centre logo, and include a QR code.

200111MN-Act14

Wayne Harasimovitch to draft a Halifax Centre business card and obtain 3 quotes for printing.

16. Documents for Revision

Judy Black reported that, in reviewing the Centre's file box, there were general information documents that she felt the Centre may want to revise (see Agenda Note #5).

- Astronomy with Binoculars: Pat Kelly suggested this could be a document that National could produce for all Centres.

200111MN-Act15

Pat Kelly will inquire if RASC National would have an interest in developing a product used in introducing binoculars.

- Getting Started in Amateur Astronomy pamphlet: Members agreed this would not be updated.
- Halifax astronomical history and heritage pamphlet: It had been prepared by the RASC History Committee in 2015

200111MN-Act16

Judy Black will obtain the PDF version of the RASC Halifax historical perspective flyer for posting on the Halifax Centre website.

There was insufficient time remaining to discuss *RASC Halifax Centre Policy Regarding Permitted Commercial Activities*, so it was deferred until the next meeting.

Adjournment

200201MN-Mot04

It was moved by Paul Gray to adjourn.

Adjournment at 12:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Hurley, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of February 1, 2020):

<i>From November 2019</i>		
191102MN-Act10	John Liddard and Judy Black will conduct an inventory of the SCO observatory and devise a list of needed repairs.	Open
<i>From December 2019</i>		
191207MN-Act03	Paul Gray will contact Dave Lane to determine the feasibility of using SMU post-graduate students as speakers.	Open
191207MN-Act07	John Liddard will investigate the best method of drying the Vanderburg eyepieces following their use in the observatory.	Open
<i>From January 2020</i>		
200111MN-Act01	Judy Black will get 100 copies of the RASC Inclusivity & Diversity brochure printed.	Open
200111MN-Act04	Gregg Dill to contact Chris Young regarding the Baader film.	Open
200111MN-Act05	Gregg Dill and John Liddard will establish the value of capital equipment when the inventory is complete.	Open
200111MN-Act11	Gregg Dill will mail both the financial statement and the change in officers and directors to the Registry of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC).	Open
200111MN-Act12	Gregg Dill will submit the 2019 financial statement online to RASC.	Open
<i>From February 2020</i>		
200201MN-Act01	John Liddard to report back to the March meeting on progress on the connection of SCO to the Minas Energy electrical grid.	Open
200201MN-Act02	Wayne Harasimovitch to conduct a site survey of potential viewing sites in the vicinity of the Discovery Centre.	Open
200201MN-Act03	Wayne Harasimovitch and Peter Hurley to meet with Discovery Centre staff to develop a collaborative Discover Centre/RASC event on April 26, 2020 around the crescent moon and the crescent Venus.	Open
200201MN-Act04	Judy Black will email Phil Goff back to indicate that May 2 would be our preferred date for him to attend and to speak.	Open
200201MN-Act05	Judy Black will contact Erin Christie to discuss arrangements.	Open

200201MN- Act 06	Pat Kelly will circulate the RASC Centre Manual to members for comment when it has been received.	Open
200201MN-Act07	Paul Heath to report back to the Board with details regarding the paperwork required by Parks Canada.	Open
200201MN-Act08	John Liddard to report back to the March Board meeting on progress of discussions with Minas Power.	Open
200201MN-Act09	Wayne Harasimovitch will report on options available for a new or used library cart or repair to the existing cart.	Open
200201MN-Act10	Peter Hurley and Wayne Harasimovitch to report back to the Board on progress at the March Board meeting.	Open
200201MN-Act11	Judy Black to ask Dave Chapman to make an application to RASC National for Special Projects funds to edit presentations recorded at the RASC 2015 GA.	Open
200201MN-Act12	Judy Black to draft a questionnaire that could be used to determine interests of members, new members and visitors, to assist in Priority Setting, to be reviewed at the March Board meeting.	Open
200201MN-Act13	Judy Black to send out an invitation to Halifax Centre members at the Members' Meeting.	Open
200201MN-Act14	Wayne Harasimovitch to draft a Halifax Centre business card and obtain 3 quotes for printing.	Open
200201MN-Act 15	Pat Kelly will inquire if RASC National would have an interest in developing a product used in introducing binoculars.	Open
200201MN-Act 16	Judy Black will obtain the RASC pdf version of the historical perspective flyer for posting on the Halifax Centre website.	Open

MOTION LIST (February 1, 2020):

200201MN-Mot01	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Tom Crosman to approve the February 1, 2020 Board of Directors meeting agenda, as tabled. CARRIED.
200201MN-Mot02	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Tom Crosman to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2020 Board of Directors meeting, as tabled. CARRIED.
200201MN-Mot03	It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Paul Gray that the GIC due March 1, 2020 be collapsed with the intention of using the funds for the connection of SCO to the Minas Energy electrical grid. CARRIED.
200201MN-Mot04	It was moved by Paul Gray to adjourn.