



**RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Tuesday, June 1, 2021: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
 Via Zoom - Meeting ID 979 3244 7292

<b>Agenda Items</b>				
<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Support Documents / Notes</b>
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of Agenda</li> <li>• Review Action List</li> <li>• Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting</li> </ul>	Information Approval	Judy Black	Pre-circulated: Agenda: June 1, 2021 Minutes: April 27, 2021
<b>ONGOING ITEMS</b>				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 2021 Meeting date confirmation &amp; approval</li> <li>b. Zoom/SMU Bookings</li> <li>c. Guest Speakers &amp; Ideas for Future Presentations</li> </ul>	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #1</b>
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a – Next NC Meeting is June 6</i>
	4. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach Requests (if applicable)</li> <li>• Inreach/Education Sessions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ InOMN (Oct 16/21)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	Paul Heath Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	5. RASC Halifax Centre Website	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	6. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly Report</li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	Gregg Dill	<i>n/a</i>
<b>UPDATES / REPORTS</b>				
	7. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade Status</li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	John Liddard Gregg Dill	<i>n/a</i>
	8. Halifax Centre Fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Team</li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	Pat Kelly	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #2</b>
	9. Nova East	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	10. Member Survey	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>Re-establish date</i>
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>				
	11. Policy G6: Procedures Regarding Nominations, Elections & Appointments	Discussion Decision	Judy Black Gregg Dill Pat Kelly	<i>For Approval Circulated with agenda</i>
	12. Policy G11: Policies Regarding RASC Halifax Centre Membership and Conflict Resolution	Discussion Decision	Judy Black Gregg Dill Pat Kelly	<i>For Approval Circulated with Agenda</i>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>				
9:00 PM	Adjournment <b>Next Meeting:</b> September 7, 2021			

## RASC, Halifax Centre – Members’ Meeting

Saturday, May 1, 2021: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Via Zoom – Webinar ID 981 3844 7791

Agenda Items		
Time*	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> - Photo Montage	Judy Black Paul Gray
1:10 PM	<b>1. Main Presentation:</b> <a href="#">Leslie Sage – My Life with Nature</a>	Leslie Sage
2:10 PM	<b>2. Presentation</b> <a href="#">Chris Young – Astronomy Lore</a>	Chris Young
2:35 PM	<b>3. Outreach / Inreach Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Requests Received</li><li>• Food for the Soul</li></ul>	Paul Heath
2:55 PM	<b>4. What’s Up? (June)</b>	Dave Chapman
3:20 PM	<b>5. Members’ Question Period</b>	Various
3:45 PM	<b>6. News from the Board</b>	Judy Black
4:00 PM	<b>7. Adjournment</b>	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<a href="#">Astro-Chat</a>	

\* 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

June 1, 2021 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

held via Zoom Meeting ID 979 3244 7292

**Present:** Judy Black, Peter Hurley, Paul Heath, Pat Kelly, Tim Doucette, Kathy Walker, Matt Dyer, Gregg Dill, David Hoskin, Lisa Ann Fanning, John Liddard (joined at 8:32pm)

**Regrets:** Wayne Harasimovitch, Mary Lou Whitehorne

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy Black called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and welcomed members.

The meeting agenda was reviewed. Judy added an item about Board of Directors insurance under item 6; Paul added an item from the RASC National I&D committee regarding encouraging members to attend the AGM that was added as item 13 under New Business; Tim asked that the 16” Dob at SCO be added to the agenda and it was added to item 7; Gregg asked that the Halifax RASCALs email discussion list and the new National list be added under item 5; Judy asked to add the Members meeting agenda under item 2.

#### 210601MN-Mot01

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the June 1, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as amended.

CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

From January 2020

**Action 5:** Open.

From September 10, 2020

**Action 5:** Open.

From January 7, 2021

**Action 7:** Open.

From February 2, 2021

**Action 9:** Closed. Gregg spoke to Ian. Wayne was advised.

From March 2, 2021

**Action 6:** Closed. No other material from 2015 AGM requires editing.

**Action 13:** Closed. On agenda for approval.

From April 6, 2021

**Action 5:** Closed. Will be announced at Members' meeting on Saturday June 5, 2021.

**Action 6:** Closed.

From April 27, 2021

**Action 1:** Closed. Chris Young has agreed to make 3 presentations on Astronomy Lore.

**Action 2:** Closed. Not done and now past.

**Action 3:** Closed.

**Action 4:** Open. Will be explained at Members' meeting on June 5, 2021.

**Action 5:** Closed.

**Action 6:** Closed. Recommendations in Agenda notes.

**Action 7:** Open.

**Action 8:** Closed.

#### **210601MN-Act01**

Judy Black to arrange for distribution of Members' survey on June 4, due back on June 15.

**Action 9, 10:** Closed.

The minutes of the April 27, 2021, Board of Directors meeting had been circulated by email by Peter Hurley on May 26, 2021. Comments had been received from Pat Kelly by email on May 31. No further changes were proposed.

#### **210601MN-Mot02**

It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the April 27, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as amended.

CARRIED.

## **ONGOING ITEMS**

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

#### *a) 2021 Meeting date confirmation and approval*

Judy reviewed the May 1, 2021, Members' meeting agenda. Paul Heath confirmed he would have something for *Food for the Soul*. Tim Doucette noted that the date needed to be corrected to June 5. The next Board meeting is September 7, 2021. Judy reviewed speakers that are booked for future meetings and pointed out that we still need speakers for the October and November Members meetings. Tim indicated he would try to be in touch with Sara Seager. Blair MacDonald contacted Judy to indicate he would like to make a main speaker presentation on Urban Astroimaging.

#### *b) Zoom/SMU Bookings*

We will have to wait to see what the situation is in the fall regarding the pandemic.

#### *c) Guest Speakers and Ideas for Future Presentations*

Gregg suggested a presentation on glass and the impacts on lenses and viewing. Tim suggested that visual impairment would also be a topic of interest and indicated he might do something himself in the new year. Lisa indicated that she had sent a collection of images of phases of the Moon to Paul Gray to be included in the Photo Montage.

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

Judy indicated that there was nothing to report. The next National Council meeting is on June 6, 2021. As a result of a question from Dave Chapman to Judy about Committee Reports, she raised the question with the Council.

### **4. Education and Public Outreach**

Paul indicated that he hadn't received any requests. Dave Chapman had contacted Judy about a library request from Yarmouth and there had been some discussion on email. It was agreed that plans for InOMN (October 16, 2021) would be left to September meeting agenda.

### **5. RASC Halifax Centre Website**

Judy reported the Centre website had been updated with current content and dates, the new edition of Nova Notes and the new SCO guidelines. Gregg had asked that we discuss the new RASC National forum discussion list. There was considerable discussion about the difficulties and frustrations everyone was experiencing. It was agreed that Judy would indicate to Phil Goff that Halifax Centre would continue to use the SMU-based discussion list until issues are worked out with the National forum.

#### **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.

#### **210601MN-Act03**

Judy Black to contact National office to indicate that the Executive members should be granted permissions on the new system.

### **6. Financial Update**

Gregg had circulated a financial report previously, which includes moneys paid for the SCO electrification. There was discussion of how donations for SCO development were tracked and Gregg explained how he does this.

Judy explained she had asked National office if the insurance coverage provided by National office to RASC Centres includes insurance for Board directors. The response was that this is available through the insurance carrier at a reduced cost but it is not included in the general coverage. It was suggested that there was Provincial legislation in place to protect volunteers. There was general agreement that we didn't require this type of insurance but there was still some uncertainty.

#### **210601MN-Act04**

Judy Black to ask National office if other Centres carry Directors' insurance.

Gregg reported that there were 2 GICs maturing, and he proposed that he renew these.

#### **210601MN-Mot03**

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by David Hoskin that Gregg renew 2 GICs valued at \$4,000 at the best term he can find available.  
CARRIED.

Gregg reported that he is presently not a "filer" with the NS Registry of Joint Stocks and Companies and is unable to change information on their site except when the year-end report is filed.

#### **210601MN-Mot04**

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Paul Heath to make the Treasurer a registered filer with RJSC.  
CARRIED.

## **UPDATES/REPORTS**

### **7. SCO**

John Liddard wasn't present when we got to this agenda item. Judy indicated that the only outstanding work at SCO was the connection of the storage room/washroom to power.

Judy reported that Tim had contacted her about borrowing/renting the 16" Dob at SCO for use for outreach at his observatory, to replace a damaged scope at his facility, if SCO is closed due to COVID restrictions. Judy explained that she had checked Centre policies and there is a policy that prevents us from loaning SCO equipment.

There was discussion of the current provincial COVID restrictions, and it was agreed that we would communicate updated SCO usage guidelines at the Members meeting on Saturday and on the Centre website.

#### **210601MN-Act 05**

Judy Black to communicate updated SCO usage guidelines at the Members meeting on Saturday June 5.

#### **210601MN-Act06**

Judy Black to post the updated SCO usage guidelines on the Centre website.

John Liddard joined the meeting at 8:32pm. He reported he had visited the SCO site the day before and everything looked good. He had turned off the gas (the tank was at 47%); there were no wasp nests; there was no animal nest in the 16" Dob.

#### **210601MN-Act07**

John Liddard to get quote to have power connected to the Storage Room.

Discussion included anticipated future power usage on the site, switching from the gas heater to an electric heater, and Wayne's offer to set up a weather station on site. No conclusions were reached.

### **8. Halifax Centre Fees**

The report from the Halifax Centre Fees Task Team was included as Agenda Note #2. Pat (chair) presented a summary. It was agreed that these increases in fees would allow the Centre to no longer incur deficit budgets, for our fee structure to be on par with those of other Centres and to allow for inflation. Judy pointed out that National office does have a fund for anyone that finds the fees a financial challenge.

#### **210601MN-Mot05**

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Gregg Dill to accept the recommendations of the report of the Halifax Centre Fees Task Team.  
CARRIED.

#### **210601MN-Act08**

Judy Black to ask National office to implement these changes to the Halifax Centre fees immediately, upon membership renewal.

#### **210601MN-Act09**

Judy Black to post to the Halifax Centre Announce list on Friday June 4 of the changes to the Centre fees.

#### **210601MN-Act010**

Judy Black to announce the changes to the Centre fees at the Members' meeting on Saturday

June 5.

### 9. Nova East

We had agreed at the last meeting that Nova East would be cancelled. There had been discussion about arranging a virtual observing session but it was agreed that we would leave this to anyone who felt so inclined and that the Nova East Committee would not be instructed to organize one.

### 10. Member Survey

As agreed earlier in the meeting, Judy will arrange for the survey to be distributed by National office.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### 11. Policy G6: Procedures Regarding Nominations, Elections and Appointments

Judy indicated that the policy had been shared with Board members by email. She indicated that one small amendment had been made. There were no questions.

#### **210601MN-Mot06**

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Kathy Walker to approve Policy G6, as revised.  
CARRIED.

### 12. Policy G11: Policies Regarding RASC Halifax Centre Membership and Conflict Resolution

Judy indicated that the policy was drafted in January and revised in March and is in line with the National policy. It has been devised as a result of a request from National office. There were no questions.

#### **210601MN-Mot07**

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve Policy G11, as tabled.  
CARRIED.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Paul Heath indicated that the RASC I&D committee wished to encourage all members to participate in the RASC Annual General Meeting and to vote.

#### **210601MN-Act011**

Judy Black to remind members at the Members meeting on June 5 to participate in the AGM.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Judy Black adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter Hurley, Secretary

## **ACTION LIST (as of June 1, 2021):**

<b><i>From January 2020</i></b>		
200111MN-Act05	<b>Gregg Dill and John Liddard</b> will establish the value of capital equipment when the inventory is complete.	Open
<b><i>From September 10, 2020</i></b>		

200910MN-Act05	<b>John Liddard</b> and <b>Paul Gray</b> will test whether a small jack hammer can handle digging a trench to the required 14 inches depth.	Open
<b>From January 7, 2021</b>		
210107MN-Act07	<b>Gregg Dill</b> to submit annual requirements to NS RJSC.	Open
<b>From April 27, 2021</b>		
210427MN-Act04	<b>Judy Black</b> to prepare a statement for the RASC Halifax Centre that explains the RASC membership and the RASC "affiliation".	Open
210427MN-Act07	<b>Judy Black</b> to send notice of the Members Survey out through the Halifax Centre Announce list.	Open
<b>From June 1, 2021</b>		
210601MN-Act01	<b>Judy Black</b> to arrange for distribution of Members' survey on June 4, due back on June 15.	Open
210601MN-Act02	<b>Judy Black</b> 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
210601MN-Act03	<b>Judy Black</b> to contact National office to indicate that the Executive members should be granted permissions on the new system.	Open
210601MN-Act04	<b>Judy Black</b> to ask National office if other Centres carry Directors' insurance.	Open
210601MN-Act05	<b>Judy Black</b> to communicate updated SCO usage guidelines at the Members meeting on Saturday June 5.	Open
210601MN-Act06	<b>Judy Black</b> to post the updated SCO usage guidelines on the Centre website.	Open
210601MN-Act07	<b>John Liddard</b> to get quote to have power connected to the Storage Room.	Open
210601MN-Act08	<b>Judy Black</b> to ask National office to implement changes to the Halifax Centre fees immediately, upon membership renewal.	Open
210601MN-Act09	<b>Judy Black</b> to post to the Halifax Centre Announce list on Friday June 4 of the changes to the Centre fees.	Open
210601MN-Act10	<b>Judy Black</b> to announce the changes to the Centre fees at the Members' meeting on Saturday June 5.	Open
210601MN-Act11	<b>Judy Black</b> to remind members at the Members meeting on June 5 to participate in the AGM.	

#### **MOTION LIST (June 1, 2021):**

210601MN-Mot01	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the June 1, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as amended. CARRIED.
210601MN-Mot02	It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the April 27, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as amended. CARRIED.



210601MN-Mot03	It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by David Hoskin that Gregg renew 2 GICs valued at \$4,000 at the best term he can find available. CARRIED.
210601MN-Mot04	It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Paul Heath to make the Treasurer a registered filer with R.JSC. CARRIED.
210601MN-Mot05	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Gregg Dill to accept the recommendations of the report of the Halifax Centre Fees Task Team. CARRIED.
210601MN-Mot06	It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Kathy Walker to approve Policy G6, as revised. CARRIED.
210601MN-Mot07	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve Policy G11, as tabled. CARRIED.

## AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
<b>Agenda Note #1 re: 2021 Meeting Dates</b>	<p><b>A) 2020 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events</b>  <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.  September 7    November 2  September 28    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.  June 5    October 2  September 11    November 6  December 4 (AGM)</p> <p><b>B) Confirmed Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 5: Leslie Sage (Astronomy editor, <i>Nature</i> magazine) + Chris Young (Astronomy Lore)</li> <li>• Sept 11: David Hoskin (Comet NEOWISE) + Chris Young (Astronomy Lore)</li> <li>• October 2: ?? + David Hoskin (Hydrogen Alpha Solar Imaging)</li> <li>• November 6: ?? + Chris Young (Astronomy Lore)</li> <li>• December 4: Dr. Phil Groff</li> <li>• <b>January 8, 2022: Blair MacDonald (Astro-Photographer's Skies: An Adventure in Urban Astrophotography) + ?? Chris Young</b></li> </ul> <p><b>C) Suggested Speakers</b>  Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (Oct or Nov, or 2022) Dr. Leslie Rogers &amp; Sara Seager</li> <li>○ Randy Attwood</li> <li>○ (Fall) Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster)</li> <li>○ Nicole Mortillaro</li> <li>○ ??? Someone to address Perseverance, Gateway and Artemis</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda Note #2 re: Halifax Centre Fees</b>	<p>A meeting of the RASC Halifax Centre Fees Task Team was held Tuesday, May 25, 2021. Based on previous Board discussions and the current financial status of the Centre, members of the Task Team agreed that a membership fee increase is warranted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- The Centre fees have not been increased for numerous years,</li> </ol>



- 2- Halifax Centre has been operating at a deficit for numerous years, and
- 3- The increase in fees would bring us in line with other Centres' fee structures.

Consequently, the following recommendations are forwarded to the Board for consideration and approval:

Classification of RASC Membership	Current Fee	Recommended Fee
Centre Family (primary member)	\$23.00	\$28.00
+ Regular Member (each additional adult)	\$5.00	\$10.00
+ Youth (each youth)	\$2.50	\$5.00
Centre Regular Membership	\$23.00	\$28.00
Centre Youth Membership	\$13.70	18.00

Additional recommendations regarding notification of the changes to the fees:

- 1- National RASC be notified of the fee increases following approval at the June 1 Board of Directors meeting for implementation as of Friday, June 4, 2021.
- 2- Members are to be notified of the increases on Friday, June 4, 2021 via the Announce List, followed by announcement at the June 5 Members' Meeting.
- 3- Discussion regarding a key fee and an annual user fee will be postponed until next year, pending outcome of effect of fee increases.

Respectfully Submitted,  
RASC Halifax Centre Fees Task Team

Pat Kelly (Chair), David Hoskin, Peter Hurley, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Gregg Dill (*ex officio*), Judy Black (*ex officio*)

Approved September 7, 2021