

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Halifax Centre
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday, December 2, 2023 – 1:00-1:45 PM
Via Zoom - Meeting ID 848 4938 0821

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Judy Black welcomed the nineteen RASC Halifax Centre members meeting by Zoom (including 10 non-members) and the 16 attending in-person (including 3 non-members), stating Halifax Centre welcomes all with an interest in astronomy, without prejudice, and that the stars belong to everyone. Halifax Centre also respectfully acknowledges that we live and observe on the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. Quorum was met.

The agenda for the afternoon was explained, i.e., the AGM was held first followed by the regularly scheduled member's meeting. The word "poll" in some of the items listed meant there were votes to be taken, such as approval of agenda, minutes, etc. Only members in good standing were allowed to vote.

a. Approval of 2023 Agenda

231202AGM-Mot01:

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Bob Russell to approve the December 2, 2023, AGM agenda as circulated.

CARRIED unanimously.

b. Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes

The minutes of the December 3, 2022, AGM had been pre-circulated to members and were also available online for one year. No errors or omissions were noted.

231202AGM-Mot02:

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Paul Heath to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2022 AGM as posted on the RASC Halifax Centre website.

CARRIED unanimously.

c. Appointment of a New Auditor, 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

At this point in time, there is no nominee for this position for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Judy Black noted that any member with an accounting or bookkeeping experience could fill this role. If members know someone who could be approached or would like to volunteer themselves, please advise the Secretary or President. Given no one volunteered for the position at the AGM, the Board will go forward to seek out an Auditor who would be subsequently appointed by the Board.

2. Reports

(Note: Compiled reports will be included in the Nov/Dec 2023 edition of Nova Notes; missing reports will be in an issue in early 2024.)

Judy Black noted the reports from the Board and the appointed positions had been pre-circulated November 28, 2023, and would not be read during this meeting. The exception is the Treasurer Report.

Judy Black noted the Auditor and Dark-Sky Weekend reports will not be presented at this meeting. Dave Chapman has accepted the appointment as the 2022-2023 Auditor as of 4 days ago. His report will be presented at a later date. The Webmaster report was missed in the listing due to the newness of the position and, given the changes in the past year, a report will also be presented at a later date.

a. Treasurer Report

Gregg Dill addressed the Treasurer report. The ***Comparative Income Statement*** was presented with a few things highlighted.

Income:

- Membership fee income decreased \$638.81. There was a change in the Centre fees from \$23.00 to \$28.00 National neglected to increase the amount they charged; the 2022 increase showed up this year.
- Nova East income net was \$1,190.00.

Expenses:

- The value of depreciation and write-offs has doubled. Depreciation was 3% but it was the recommendation of last year's auditor that it be increased to 10%.
- Nova East expenses were due to reimbursements being made. Nova East was cancelled due to flooding at Smiley's Provincial Park.

Gregg noted there is a deficit showing of \$820.26. If 'Depreciation and Write-offs' (\$1056) is not included as an expense, there would be a surplus of \$502.00.

Dave Chapman noted there were expenses for Nova East door prizes and wondered where they were reflected. It was explained that expense claims had not been received.

The **Comparative Balance Statement** as of September 30, 2023.

Assets:

The Centre has \$10,175.49 in cash. Two GICs worth \$4000 each have the principal reinvested. Accounts receivable includes dues received by National in September and paid in October. Library was depreciated 10% from previous year's estimated worth. Observatory equipment relates to the telescopes and other related equipment which again depreciated 10%. The amount cited in *Miscellaneous Estimated* has been there several years; it has been written off.

Liabilities:

Accounts payable is doubled; the main reason is the \$1190 refunds for Nova East is included here.

231202AGM-Mot03:

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the Financial Report as presented. CARRIED unanimously.

b. Written Pre-Circulated Reports

Judy Black asked if there were any questions regarding the remaining reports that had been circulated. None were received.

231202AGM-Mot04

It was moved by Bob Russell and seconded by Paul Heath to accept the 2023 Board of Directors and Committee reports as pre-circulated. CARRIED unanimously.

3. Call for Nominations and Election of 2024 Board of Directors

Judy Black, member of the Nomination Committee, presented the nomination for the Board of Directors on Peter Hurley's behalf. The slate of nominees for the 2024 Board of Directors was then presented as follows:

Executive Committee

President – Tony McGrath
Vice-President – Judy Black
Secretary – Peter Hurley
Treasurer – Gregg Dill

Directors

Matthew Dyer
David Hoskin
John Nangreaves
Jaime Whynot
2 OPEN positions

Judy noted that there are two open positions. According to our Centre's Bylaw #1, there is a requirement for 5 to 10 directors, and we have met that requirement; however, we are open to nominations for the two remaining positions. Nominees must be a member in good standing for at least one year.

There were 3 calls for nominations from the floor for the 2023 Board of Directors. Dave Robertson volunteered to be nominated for one of the open positions; Peter Hurley seconded the nomination. Dave was thanked for his volunteerism. Gregg also clarified that 2024 would be the first year of another 5 years that he could potentially hold the Treasurer position.

231202AGM-Mot05:

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Jerry Black to close nominations.
CARRIED unanimously.

There being no further nominations, the 2024 Board of Directors positions were elected by acclamation. Congratulations to the newly elected Board. Tony McGrath introduced himself, his history with the RASC, and his visual observing experiences. He looks forward to working with everyone in the coming year.

4. Call for Nominations for Appointed Positions

The Board had approved appointments at previous deliberations. Judy Black stated Mary Lou Whitehorne continues to be the Honorary President until December 2024.

OPEN	Auditor, 2023-2024
Peter Hurley, Tony Schellinck	DSP Committee, Co-Chairs
Judy Black	Governance Committee
Jerry Black	Librarian
Judy Black	National Council Representative
Peter Hurley	Nominating Committee
Chris Young	Chair, Nova East Planning Committee
Lisa Ann Fanning	Nova Notes, Editor
John McPhee	Nova Notes, Copy Editor
David Hoskin	Observing Chair
David Hoskin	Education & Public Outreach (EPO), Chair
John Liddard	SCO Manager
Jerry Black	Webmaster

Please notify the Secretary, Peter Hurley of any further nominations. Judy stated the appointments would be approved by the incoming Board at their January 2, 2024, meeting.

Jerry noted that someone else could be the Librarian as he is finding it difficult to manage the IT components of our member's meeting in addition to bringing out the cart. If someone was interested, he could assist them with the web side of the library holdings. It was noted that the webmaster position does not have the meeting IT components in the position description.

231202AGM-Mot06:

Moved by Dave Chapman and seconded by Gregg Dill that the Board actively research an appointment for the Librarian role.
CARRIED.

5. Adjournment

231202AGM-Mot07:

Moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Bob Russell to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 PM AST.