



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, October 29, 2024: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 842 5668 7088

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents / Notes
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Agenda Review Action List Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting 	Information Approval	Tony McGrath	Pre-circulated: Agenda: October 29, 2024 Minutes: October 1, 2024
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Member's Meeting Date Confirmation and Format Confirm Member's Meeting agenda Zoom/SMU Bookings Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Tony McGrath Judy Black	<i>Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Speakers & Approved 2024 Member Meeting Dates</i> <i>Refer to Agenda Notes #2: 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Dates</i>
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>Report of Sept. 15/24 NC meeting circulated on Sept 27/24.</i> <i>Next Meeting: October 27, 2024</i>
	4. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	5. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Status Directors' insurance Dave Lane Bequest 	Discussion	Gregg Dill Tony McGrath	<i>n/a</i>
	6. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Requests Wilfred Buck NFB video offer RASC printed material Business card proposal 	Discussion	David Hoskin Tony McGrath Judy Black Peter Hurley	<i>n/a</i>
RASC HALIFAX CENTRE – GOALS & OBJECTIVES				
	7. 2024 Goals & Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize next steps Sep-Dec Membership/ Recruitment 	Ongoing Discussion	Tony McGrath Peter Hurley	<i>n/a</i>
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	8. Governance Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By-Law No. 1 review 	Discussion Decision Approval	Judy Black	<i>3 Documents pre-circulated by Judy September 26, 2024</i>
NEW BUSINESS				
	9. Nominating Committee		Peter Hurley	
Adjournment				

9:00 PM	Adjournment			(Next meeting: December 3, 2024)
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RASC, Halifax Centre – Public Meeting
 Saturday, November 2, 2024 – 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 Via Zoom – Meeting ID 832 2604 5738

Agenda Items		
Time*	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions Photo Montage EtU guides for sale Astroimaging Contest	David Hoskin (MC)
	Presentation: 100 Years Ago, Galaxies Did Not Exist	Martin Connors
	Social Break	
	Food for the Soul:	Paul Heath
	What's Up? (November)	David Hoskin
	News from the Board	Tony McGrath
4:00 PM	Adjournment	

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
Agenda Note #1 re: Speakers & 2024 Member Meeting Dates	<p>2024 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events Members' Meeting dates were approved at the November 2023 Board of Directors meeting. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p> <p>Confirmed Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2, 2024 – Martin Connors (100 Years Ago, Galaxies Did Not Exist) • AGM December 7, 2024 – Lisa Ann Fanning (Stereoscopy) • January 4, 2025 – Charles Ennis (World Asterism Project) • February 1, 2025 – Robyn Foret (RASC/CASCA Awards) <p>Suggested Speakers / Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Badowski • Dave Chapman • Tony Schellinck • David Hoskin • Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster) • SMU Astronomy and Physics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grad students • Tiffany Fields • Rob Thacker • https://rasc.ca/find-speaker
Agenda Note #2 re: Approved 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Dates	<p>2024 Approved Board Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 3

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting
October 29, 2024 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
held via Zoom - Meeting ID 842 5668 7088

Present: Tony McGrath (President), Judy Black, Gregg Dill, Matt Dyer, David Hoskin, Peter Hurley, John Liddard, Dave Robertson, Mary Lou Whitehorne

Regrets: Jeff Donaldson, Lisa Ann Fanning

Absent: John Nangreaves

1. Welcome & Introductions

Tony called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and welcomed Board members. He asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda which had been circulated by email by Peter earlier in the day.

241029MN-Mot01

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the October 29, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda, as circulated.
CARRIED.

The Action List, which was attached to the minutes of the previous meeting and circulated by email by Peter on October 28, 2024, was reviewed.

From January 10, 2023

Action 10: Open.

From September 5, 2023

Action 5: Open.

From April 30, 2024

Action 6: Open.

From May 28, 2024

Action 2: Closed.

From June 18, 2024

Action 4: Open.

From September 3, 2024

Action 4: Open.

Action 5: Closed.

Action 9: Open.

Action 11: Open.

Action 12: Closed.

From October 1, 2024

Action 1: Closed.

Action 2: Open.

Action 3: Closed.

Action 4: Closed.

Action 5: Closed.

Action 6: Closed.

Action 7: Closed.

Action 8: Closed.

Tony asked if there were any changes or corrections that needed to be made to the minutes of the previous Board meeting held on October 1, 2024 which had been circulated by email by Peter on October 28, 2024.

241029MN-Mot02

It was moved by Dave Robertson and seconded by Judy Black to approve the October 1 2024 RASC

Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as circulated.
CARRIED

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

There were questions about the arrangements for the speaker for our members meeting this coming Saturday.

241029MN-Act01

Tony McGrath to send an email to Martin Connors reminding him of the Members meeting time and to bring his presentation on a flash drive.

It was agreed that the agenda was complete. David asked if Paul Heath had a poem ready for *Food for the Soul*.

241029MN-Act02

Judy Black to contact Paul Heath to determine whether he had a poem prepared for the Saturday November 2, 2024 Members meeting.

David confirmed that he would emcee the meeting. Tony reported that Blair MacDonald had indicated he had a presentation ready and that it should be added to the speakers list. Judy pointed out that we had now speakers lined up until September 2025 and reviewed each.

3. Report from National Council Representative

Judy presented a summary of the last National Council meeting and indicated that there would be amendments to the National Bylaws coming by the AGM next June. One of the things would be the elimination of the grace period for expiring memberships, it had become too difficult to manage this accommodation, members would still get reminders when their membership was due for renewal. She indicated that there would be changes to Article 8 regarding the National Council as a result of suggested changes to the Terms of Reference the NC had sent to the National Board. She reported that leading up to the AGM, three director positions would become vacant and the National Board would be looking for new Board members. There is also consideration of how to revamp the website and to move to a new platform, and of committee structures and the nominating committee. There was also a review of the financial situation.

241029MN-Act03

Judy Black to forward the summary of the National financials to Centre Board members.

The treasurer had reported that they had made great inroads into reducing expenditures but not on income yet and that there would still be a deficit in the coming year but that it would be smaller. Judy indicated that two task forces were being established to look at Committees and at the office situation. This led to considerable discussion of some of the issues. She indicated that our Centre has until November 16, 2024 to provide any comment regarding the budget process.

4. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube

Judy reported that the website was up to date, but she asked Tony where he would like to see the workplan to appear on the website and it was agreed that it would appear on the main page.

5. Financial Update

Gregg reported that there was presently \$11,423 in the bank account. He indicated that he had received a quote of \$400 for \$2M liability of Directors and Officers insurance from Co-operators through the National office, which he had circulated to Board members by email on October 15, 2024. He expressed his surprise that there was such a large difference from the quote of \$1,000 he had obtained from the local insurer who provides us with property insurance for SCO. There was discussion about the timeframe for a decision regarding adding Directors and Officers insurance and it was concluded that we should make a decision at our next Board meeting on December 3, 2024. Gregg asked if anyone knew someone that could shed light on the reason for the difference in quotes that would help us with due diligence.

Gregg also indicated that the agent from Co-operators had indicated that he could likely provide coverage for SCO at about 40% less than we are currently paying. That would be conditional on a contractor providing an estimate of replacement value of the three buildings at SCO. John had provided Gregg with an estimate of \$40K replacement cost for the buildings from 2013 and Gregg pointed out that costs would have increased significantly since then.

John had contacted that appraiser but had not heard back from them whether they could provide an updated value. Gregg indicated that last year our insurance premium for SCO had been approximately \$1900 and the suggestion from the Co-operators agent could represent a significant savings. No one had any experience with Co-operators as an insurer. It was agreed that we would all review the material that Gregg re-sent to us and be prepared to make a decision next meeting.

Tony indicated that he had heard back from 6 Board members on the proposal from Michelle Lane for the Dave Lane Bequest that he had circulated on her behalf. All had chosen the option of a one-time gift with a portion held in reserve to match member donations. Mary Lou indicated that Michelle was waiting to hear back from Tony on how the Board would like to proceed and that Michelle hoped to make a presentation to the membership announcing the plan, to encourage members to contribute to the fund to support the ongoing maintenance and improvement of SCO. Mary Lou also indicated that Roy Bishop had given her his 6" Matsutov-Newtonian telescope and that she was proposing to donate it to the Centre to be auctioned off to provide additional support to the SCO maintenance fund. Gregg asked for clarification of Michelle's proposal and Mary Lou explained that the principle would be protected, and only the income from the fund would be used. Mary Lou indicated that Michelle has a lot of knowledge of how best to invest the principle and is willing to work with the Executive on the wording of the agreement regarding the investment and use of the fund, so that she is comfortable with the arrangement. There were concerns expressed about what Michelle's terms and conditions might be. Tony indicated that he would get back to Michelle with the decision of the Board to proceed.

6. Education and Public Outreach

David reported on two outreach events that occurred in October. Dave Chapman and Steven Payne hosted an event at the Deanery, and although it was cloudy, they presented the Explore the Universe program and reports from a participant (via Judy) was that it was a fabulous presentation. David and Stewart Cameron had hosted an event at York Redoubt for 12 Dal retirees and it was a great evening. Upcoming outreach events include a presentation at Oceanstone Resort near Peggy's Cove on November 22.

Tony reported that he had been contacted by someone from the National Film Board enquiring if we would be interested in screening a documentary video *Wilfred Buck*, a new 96-minute NFB film about the Ininiw (Cree) astronomer, educator, author and Knowledge Keeper. The discussion was very positive and there was suggestion that we host a screening at SMU or the Halifax Central Library. It was suggested that we include Mi'kmaq involvement and contact Chris Young, Dave Chapman and Cathy LeBlanc. Tony suggested that a small group get together to organize an event.

Judy pointed out that we obtain outreach print material from RASC National for the cost of shipping, and as a result of fiscal restraints, National office is focusing on the production of *Moon Gazer's Guides* and *StarFinders* this year. They have asked for input from Centres regarding how many each Centre might order. David agreed to review our holdings of both and provide Judy with an estimate of how many we might need so she can pass the information on to Jenna Hinds.

241029MN-Act04

David Hoskin to review the Centre's supply of Moon Gazer's Guides and Star Finders and provide Judy Black with an estimate of how many we might need to order from RASC National for the coming year.

Peter provided a summary of the information he had received from Wayne Harasimovitch regarding the printing of Centre business cards for use at outreach events. There was strong support for the idea, that cards were more likely to be retained than brochures, and that colour would be preferable. But the consensus was that more detail was required, a mockup of the card, and prices from other vendors than the one that Wayne had got a quote from.

241029MN-Act05

Peter Hurley to ask Wayne Harasimovitch to provide a mock-up of the Centre business card, quotes from several other vendors, and more details such as card stock, price for one-sided vs two-sided, and colour vs black and white.

RASC Halifax Centre Goals and Objectives

7. 2024 Goals and Objectives

Tony indicated that he didn't have anything new to present on the topic. Peter indicated that he had an update on membership numbers. As of November 28, 2024 the Centre had 150 members, up from 146 a month ago. He also indicated that he had found a flag in the data that he hoped would make it easier for him to identify new members.

Updates/Reports

8. Governance Review

Judy reviewed changes to Bylaw No. 1, which included removing gender references, changing #1 to No. 1, including hybrid meetings, unattached to National member, membership conditions and termination of membership, Board of Directors meetings, duties of President, Secretary and Treasurer, President membership on Committees, proxy voting was removed throughout, and changes to conducting of business, quorum and voting of the chair,

241029MN-Mot03

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to send the rationale document and amended Bylaw No. 1 to the membership for review before the AGM.
CARRIED

Judy then presented a draft Special Resolution that would be sent to the membership with the amended Bylaw No. 1 for approval at the AGM. The Special Resolution would be sent to the RJSC along with the amended Bylaw No. 1. Judy pointed out that she would send the Bylaw and Special Resolution to the membership via the Announce List before November 1, 2024.

New Business

9. Nominating Committee

Peter reported that he had been contacting Board members that he had not heard from and that he had started to contact those in Appointed positions. He proposed that the Nominating Committee comprised of himself, Judy and Tony should meet sometime next week. Dates and procedures were reviewed and Judy reminded us that they are included in Policy G6. A list of nominations should be sent to the membership 30 days before the AGM. It was agreed that the call for nominations would be included in News from the Board at the Members meeting on Saturday.

Adjournment

There being no other business, Tony adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm. He reminded us that our next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Hurley, Secretary

ACTION LIST (October 29, 2024):

From January 10, 2023		
230110MN-Act10	Peter Hurley to work with David Hoskin to create a list of volunteers to help with observing and outreach requests that are remote to the HRM area.	Open
From September 5, 2023		
230905MN-Act05	The Governance Committee to provide a recommendation to the Board regarding retention and disposal of historical documents.	Open

From April 30, 2024		
240430MN-Act06	John Liddard to draft a new breaker shut-off checklist for SCO, circulate it to the Board for comment, and then send it to the SCO keyholders email list and affix a copy to the wall in the warm room at SCO.	Open
From June 18, 2024		
240618MN-Act04	Jeff Donaldson, John Liddard and Tony McGrath to explore the possible benefits of using tech tools available to nonprofit organizations through TechSoup and report back to the Board.	Open
From September 3, 2024		
240903MN-Act04	Peter Hurley and Chris Young to submit Laser Pointer Use report forms to National office for Dark Sky Weekend and Nova East.	Open
240903MN-Act09	Peter Hurley to send list of email addresses of new members since June 1, 2024 to Tony McGrath so he can send them the Member Welcome Package.	Open
240903MN-Act011	Tony McGrath to review the documentation that Jerry Black prepared for using the Celestron 8" SCT and Hyperstar.	Open
From October 1, 2024		
241001MN-Act02	Tony McGrath to email his list of questions regarding the Auditor's report to our Halifax Centre Board of Directors.	Open
From October 29, 2024		
241029MN-Act01	Tony McGrath to send an email to Martin Connors reminding him of the Members meeting time and to bring his presentation on a flash drive.	Open
241029MN-Act02	Judy Black to contact Paul Heath to determine whether he had a poem prepared for the Saturday November 2, 2025 Members meeting.	Open
241029MN-Act03	Judy Black to forward the summary of the National financials to Centre Board members.	Open
241029MN-Act04	David Hoskin to review the Centre's supply of <i>Moon Gazer's Guides</i> and <i>Star Finders</i> and provide Judy Black with an estimate of how many we might need to order from RASC National for the coming year.	Open
241029MN-Act05	Peter Hurley to ask Wayne Harasimovitch to provide a mock-up of the Centre business card, quotes from several other vendors, and more details such as card stock, price for one-sided vs two-sided, and colour vs black and white.	Open

MOTION LIST (October 29, 2024):

241029MN-Mot01	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the October 29, 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda, as circulated. CARRIED.
241029MN-Mot02	It was moved by Dave Robertson and seconded by Judy Black to approve the October 1 2024 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as circulated. CARRIED
241029MN-Mot03	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to send the rationale document and amended Bylaw No. 1 to the membership for review before the AGM. CARRIED

Approved Dec. 3, 2024