

Draft Minutes of EHHS Annual General Meeting 2019-2020

17 November 2020

1. Attendance

The annual general meeting was held online via zoom with Fred Anthony, Barb Brown, Dawn Cumming, Joyce Custance, Nancy Doane, Don Forbes, Linda Forbes, Elizabeth Hill, Sarah Hill, Greg Hussey, JD MacCulloch, Elva MacDonald, Ed MacDonnell, Jamie McLellan, Geoff MacDonald, Paula McLellan, John McLellan, Joanie Mingo, Deanna Ryan-Meister, Jo Swinemar, Ed Versteeg, Robert Walsh, Christine Whidden, and Pat Whidden attending.

2. Call to Order

Pat called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

3. Agenda

The agenda was reviewed.

4. President's Report

Pat presented the president's report. The past year was unprecedented, and thanks are due to all of our supporters, especially the Municipality of East Hants staff and council. Our presence online increased this year with video presentations made by museum guides (thanks also to Peter Ashley and Ed MacDonell) and increased posting on Facebook and our new Instagram account. Over the past season, museum staff have made great advances updating local cemetery records. Thanks, were extended to members of the board and volunteers, including Fred Anthony for his work on many tasks and his military history, Anne Boudreau, Elizabeth Hill, John Grant, and Chris Whidden who have been very active in cataloging materials at the archive in Elmsdale.

5. Minutes

The minutes 2018-19 annual meeting were approved as circulated

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

In 2019, a question was raised about the responsibility for the maintenance for the Hennigar gristmill stones in Kennetcook. The Hennigar family has undertaken site maintenance over the summer and plans to erect a new sign to highlight them. The stones come from the grist mill operated by Christian Hennigar who was an 84th Regiment soldier who settled in Upper Kennetcook after the American Revolution.

7. Program Committee Report

Committee chair Barb Brown presented the program report outlining how she adapted the planned programming for the year. Part of Blain Henshaw's presentation on the little peddler and Fred Anthony's presentation on war veterans have both been posted to YouTube.

8. Museum Committee Report

Jamie McLellan presented the museum report. The museum opened this year on July 1 and closed on September 30 with 391 visitors, 30% fewer than last year. Our online following increased greatly with the added effort of our guides to make regular posts to Facebook and Instagram.

Federal, provincial, and municipal grants enabled us to hire four students this summer; two worked at the museum, and two on the cemetery project. Online ratings of the museum have grown greatly over the past year with our increased online presentations. Lieutenant-Governor Arthur LeBlanc and Mrs. LeBlanc visited the museum and provided very favourable feedback on their visit. In February, the Lower Selma Museum will be featured on television. In the past year, the Society gained title to the museum and cemetery.

9. Cemetery Committee Report

Records for 74 cemeteries have been updated over the summer; two staff continue to work part time with us updating cemetery records. Don Forbes asked about the availability of the cemetery records and offered his assistance with the project. Records are available at the archive in Elmsdale.

Jamie moved the adoption of all committee reports; seconded by Greg Hussey; motion carried.

10. Financial Report

The COVID-19 pandemic reduced the collection from program events and the museum donation box and also reduced some costs. The hand-over of the museum made a substantial change on our balance sheet. Total receipts for the year were \$72,837, total expenses were \$65,947.44, leaving a surplus of \$6890.21. Society assets totaled \$65,891.96 at year end.

Aside: Our Grand-in-the-Hand fundraiser is underway, and the annual appeal will be made in the coming weeks.

11. Plans for 2021

We hope to construct a washroom for the museum and to make the museum entrance accessible.

12. By-law Modifications

Moved by Jamie McLellan to add to the bylaws:

“Special and Ordinary Meetings of the Society may be held in-person, virtually, or as a hybrid of a virtual and in-person meetings. The virtual component of any meeting may include by telephone or digital-based communications, including video-based media. The choice of meeting format, and acceptable media, will be determined by the board of directors or their designated agent.”

To modify section 36 to read:

“36. Meetings of the Board of Directors or any committee designated by the Board may be held in-person, virtually, or as a hybrid of a virtual and in-person meeting by which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with one another. The virtual component of any meeting may include by telephone or digital-based communications, including video-based media. The choice of meeting format, and acceptable media, will be determined by the board of directors.”

To modify section 25 to read:

“25. If a director resigns his/her office or ceases to be a member in the Society, his/her office as director shall be vacated and the vacancy may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the board of directors from among the members of the Society.

(a) Any vacant seats on the Board not filled at the annual general meeting of the Society may be filled outside of the annual general meeting with a majority vote of the Board of Directors.”

Seconded by Greg Hussey; motion carried.

13. EHHS Mandate Revision

Jamie McLellan moved the revision of the Society mandate to:

“1. To gather, compile, and preserve written and print documents of historic value and interest.

2. To gather and preserve artifacts of historical value and interest.

3. To gather and record stories, until now unwritten, that exist only in the memories of older people.

4. To operate a museum and archive that will house collected artifacts and documents and promote history tourism.

5. To promote the marking of historic sites within East Hants with suitable markers.

6. To participate in and initiate celebrations of an historic nature.

7. To provide summer employment for students.

8. To mentor student employees in the processes of museum operation, research, and communication with the public.

9. To develop strategies to communicate historical information to individuals and organizations.

10. To act as a resource for genealogists, educators, and historical researchers.”

Seconded by Greg Hussey; motion carried.

14. Modification of Society Name

Jamie McLellan moved that the Society's name be changed from "The East Hants Historical Society" to "East Hants Historical Society"; seconded by Greg Hussey; motion carried.

15. Nominations/Acceptance of Board of Directors

Barb Brown's, Greg Hussey's, Jamie McLellan's, and Sarah Hill's board terms continue.

The re-election of Nancy Doane, John McLellan, Chris Whidden to the board for another 5-year term was moved by Jamie McLellan, seconded by Greg Hussey; motion carried.

Elva MacDonald and Robert Walsh were introduced as nominees to the board. Pat called for additional nominations; there being none, Elva and Robert were declared elected to the board by acclamation.

16. Presentation of Lifetime Membership to Fred Anthony

Fred has been a long-standing, multi-talented and generous volunteer with the society; Pat presented him with a lifetime membership in the Society in recognition of his generous contributions.

17. Thank-you

President Pat Whidden expressed her thanks to those who have supported the Society during her time as president.

18. Adjournment

Pat adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.