

Brant Historical Society
Board of Directors Meeting
January 28, 2020
Brant Museum and Archives,
57 Charlotte St., Brantford

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tim Philp (President), Michael-Allan Marion (Secretary), Willy Hilgendag (Treasurer), Colleen Armstrong, Leisah Marie Jansen, Doug Summerhayes, Denise Methot, Jean Kendall

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m

1. Additions to the Agenda: there were no additions.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Moved by D. Methot, seconded by C. Armstrong, that the meeting agenda be approved. Carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 26, 2019 Meeting:

Moved by D. Methot, seconded by C. Armstrong, that the minutes of the November 26, 2019 meeting be approved. Carried unanimously.

4. Executive Director's Report:

T. Philp reported on the following:

Crystal Cottage update: The agreement of purchase and sale for the building -- not including the land-- has been signed and the society is now the owner at a purchase price of \$10.00. Arrangements are being made to install a foundation in the vacant lot next to the museum and move the cottage. Notice has been given to the tenants to vacate the building.

Request from Steve Talos to acquire or receive on loan an artifact. T. Philp reported that he received a request from S. Talos, who owns Wynardin Castle, in which Talos has set up a museum with artifacts reflecting the building's history. Philp said Talos wants to acquire or at least take on loan an artifact in the Brant Museum that he asserted would be more appropriately displayed at Wynardin. Philp said he believes the artifact should remain at the Brant museum, but he asked for input from other board members.

C. Armstrong said "our job is to preserve artifacts and to protect them. We have a policy about loaning only to accredited museums. He is not an accredited museum."

Philp received agreement on his proposal that he arrange a meeting with Talos to explain the board's position, and then, if necessary, issue a formal letter.

Motion to receive the the executive director's report. Moved by T. Philp, seconded by M. Marion, to approve the executive director's report. Carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

T. Philp on behalf of W. Hilgendag informed the board that the financial statements for the past month were unavailable due to computer problems and that they will be forwarded to the board as soon as they are available. Philp said the Brant Museum's financial position is deteriorating but he hopes actions can be taken to avoid any temporary closure. He suggested the board could entertain the possibility of selling the Crystal Cottage to improve the museum's financial position.

D. Summerhayes and W. Hilgendag offered to approach Brant County Council about funding options.

C. Armstrong said chronic underfunding of culture by different levels of government "has created a dog-eat-dog environment" where heritage groups are competing over insufficient funds for their operations.

6. Members' Events Planning Committee Report

J. Kendall gave updates on several events. She talked about a summary report. She also said attendance was good for a Speaker's Event session by Tom Ridout called Landscape of Nations; but one by Holly Martelle on The Ward Uncovered was poorly attended with only 12 attending despite a good presentation.

Attendance was good for other events: Shtetl on the Grand; World War II first hand accounts; and the Christmas Social.

New events coming include a Paint Day TBD and Scotch Tasting on Feb. 19.

Others are: an out of country bus trip in March, a local heritage excursion day trip in May, Indigenous heritage Day in September, and Night in the Museum, January 2021.

Motion to approve report. Moved by C. Armstrong, seconded by D. Methot, that the Members' Events Planning Committee Report be approved. Carried unanimously.

7. Corporate Membership/Sponsorship Report

D. Methot and D. Summerhayes gave an update on development of the corporate membership campaign. Summerhayes presented and passed around a presentation folder which will contain literature and other information about the Brant Historical Society/ Brant Museum and Myrtleville, along with information on how to become a member.

He also announced the campaign has its first corporate member: Brant Service Press. In the campaign, Methot will focus on private corporate prospects, while Summerhayes will do not-for-profit organizations, Chamber of Commerce and societies. They will hit up contacts in latter February or early March.

8. New Business

D. Methot said there is a need for a policy on handling people who involve staff in aggressive situations. She said there have been incidents recently that demonstrate the need for one.

M. Marion noted that the society's membership roster needs updating. He pointed to examples where members have gone a few years without paying. He agreed to take on the job.

C. Armstrong said there is a need for a newsletter to go out to members to engage the membership and increase it. More about that will be reported in future meetings.

9. Next Meeting: February 25.