

Brant Historical Society  
Board of Directors Virtual Meeting  
On Zoom  
September 7, 2020  
Brant Museum and Archives  
56 Charlotte St., Brantford

Meeting Minutes

Present on Zoom: Tim Philp (President), Michael-Allan Marion (Secretary), Willy Hilgendag (Treasurer), Denise Methot, Leisah Marie Jansen, Doug Summerhayes.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7 pm.

Approval of Agenda:

Moved by D. Summerhayes, seconded by D. Methot, that the agenda be approved with no additions or deletions. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by M. Marion, seconded by D. Methot, that the minutes of the board meeting of July 21, 2020 be approved. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Presented by T. Philp and W. Hilgendag. T. Philp made comments about the latest financial documents presented for the meeting. He said the bottom line in the documents is that the Brant Museum is still in a declining financial position and will experience a shortfall if nothing substantial is done to reverse the society's position.

He said that when digging the foundation for the heritage Crystal Cottage, which is being moved to a vacant lot beside the museum, the contractor discovered a lot of debris left over from the last structure that was located on the property and just buried there. The contractor estimated that it could cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000 to remove the debris and prepare the site for the foundation. That means there will be a shortfall in the budget for the move, which must be addressed. Steps are being taken to source the funds.

T. Philp advised that he did not know what the final bill for the move and resettlement of the Crystal Cottage would be. He said the board might use the endowment fund if necessary or approach Enterprise Brant for seed money, but he would keep the board apprised.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Moved by L. Jansen, seconded by M. Marion, that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Carried unanimously.

President's Report: T. Philp presented an account of at meeting of the council of the City of Brantford's committee of the whole in which a consultant's report on the state of Museum facilities in Brantford and Brant County recommended the Brant Museum is in a poor financial situation and that steps should be taken by the city to take over by the museum and secure the collection of artifacts. Much the same was recommended for Myrtleville, which the Society also operates.

T. Philp reported that he made a presentation in which he set the record straight that in fact the Society owns the Brant museum and a trust owns Myrtleville, operated by the Society. Therefore, the city is not in a position to take over either facility in the manner recommended by the consultant. He also took issue with many other details of the report.

T. Philp reported that the air conditioning is working properly now in the Brant Museum.

W. Hilgendag reported that he had spoken to Brant County Mayor David Bailey and credited him with helping secure a \$45,000 grant from the county.

T. Philp also reported the city had given an extra \$50,000 grant to the museum to finance the move of the Crystal Cottage.

Myrtleville:

M. Marion asked when steps could be taken to re-open Myrtleville, which was closed temporarily due to COVID-19 regulations. T.Philp said that since the facility is under Government of Ontario rules and is now in Stage 3 reopening regulations the museum could be reopened. He said he would speak to staff about the best way to reopen.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 29 at 7 pm.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.