

**Brant Historical Society  
Annual General Meeting  
June 1, 2022**

**Held at  
Myrtleville House Museum  
34 Myrtleville Dr., Brantford, ON**

**Minutes**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7 pm with Society President Tim Philp in the Chair.

Establishment of Quorum: The Chair declared in his opinion that according to provisions in the bylaws quorum existed.

2. Approval of Agenda:

T. Philp called for a motion to accept the agenda.

Motion: Moved by Doris Myke, seconded by Douglas Faron, that the agenda for the meeting be approved.

Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of March 27, 2019:

Moved by Denise Methot, seconded by Doug Summerhayes, that the minutes of the March 27, 2019 meeting be approved.

Carried.

4. Business Arising from 2019 AGM: None.

5. President's Annual Report:

T. Philp reported on progress in the society's project to take over ownership of the heritage Crystal Cottage building, move it to a vacant lot beside the Brant Museum and Archives on Charlotte Street, the perform restoration and renovations to prepare the edifice for sale or some other use that will give the society revenue.

He said the society was the only organization with property in the downtown area that could take the building. He reported that the Crystal Cottage is worth about \$800,000 right now but could be worth more than \$1 million after improvements. He said the board of directors still has to choose an option to maximize the asset, but he assured it is financially valuable to the society's future. "The important thing," he added, "is that we have saved a heritage building." T. Philp also reported on the society's acquisition of The Brantford Expositor Archives. They include more than 20 cabinets of clippings, photos, microfilm and microfiche, along with necessary machines. He noted The Expositor has been the newspaper of record for more than 160 years in Brantford,

Brant County and nearby communities and its Archives are invaluable. He said the staff is busy digitizing all the archives. They will become an important revenue and cultural resource for the society in the years to come.

T. Philp reported on various attempts by other historical and cultural organizations in the Brantford area and city council to amalgamate Historical and heritage operations in a central place. The latest is a proposed centre on the reclaimed Greenwich-Mohawk Brownfield site. He said he has seen four different plans before this one, and they have all failed. He said keeping the Brant Museum and Archives where it is is still the society's best option. He said the latest option at Greenwich-Mohawk is interesting, but its realization is probably two to three years away. He also noted that of all the organizations involved in this plan only the BHS has assets and buildings, including the Brant Museum and Archives and Myrtleville House Museum which has a heritage facility and adjoining property, a designation as a National Historic Site, and could very well be transferred to the society soon.

Overall, he said that right now the best option for the society is still to have a presence at the proposed new facility but keep all the assets separate. He said the current Museum and Crystal Cottage provide "a nice nest egg" of more than \$2 million, without counting Myrtleville.

T. Philp provided more details on the impending acquisition of Myrtleville. He said he recently had a meeting with a member of the Good family that originally built the farmstead estate and transferred it decades ago to the National Trust. The Society has managed Myrtleville on contract for some time. He reported that the meeting went well and he was given assurances that the Good family still supports the maintenance of Myrtleville as a Museum and is willing to help with fundraising. Philp said he foresees the National Trust gifting the property to the society.

T. Philp yielded the floor temporarily to Nathan Etherington, the society's Curator who had led the refurbishing and reopening of Margaret Chandler House by the W. Ross MacDonald school property. Margaret Chandler was a teacher at W. Ross for her entire career. The property is right before the tennis courts, and thanks to more than a month's work is now reopened Tuesday through Saturday.

Motion: Moved by Michael-Allan Marion, seconded by Willy Hilgendag, that the President's Annual Report be approved.

Carried.

## 6. Financial Reports:

The latest financial reports and Auditor's report from Millard were circulated prior to and during the meeting. W. Hilgendag, the Treasurer, took the membership assembled through all the financial documents.

A) Treasurer's Report: Despite the ravages of the COVID-19 Pandemic "we have been able to keep the doors open at the Brant Museum and Myrtleville," he told the gathering. Thanks to grants from the federal and provincial governments as well as Brantford and Brant County, he said the society has been able to keep the doors at both facilities open, keep staff on payroll and hire summer students. Also, thanks to grants from the City of Brantford, the society was able to finance the acquisition and transfer of the Crystal Cottage to a Museum-owned lot. W. Hilgendag also went through the various documents of the Auditor's Report.

Motion: Moved by W. Hilgendag, seconded by D. Methot, that the Treasurer's Report and the reports of auditor Millard be approved.

Carried.

B) Adoption of Financial Statements 2020: T. Philp noted that although the auditor registered concerns with statements about the society's ability to remain a viable going concern, the statements do not reflect the society's ownership of the Brant Museum or the acquisition of the Crystal Cottage, both of which are worth a total of more than \$2 million to \$3 million. He also said the board is also having discussions with the City of Brantford about the acquisition of stable core funding in the amount of about \$250,000.

Motion: Moved by W. Hilgendag, seconded by Doug Summerhayes, that the audited financial statements be approved.

Carried.

C) Appointment of Auditors for 2022:

Motion: Moved by W. Hilgendag, seconded by D. Methot, that the firm Millard be appointed the auditor for the Brant Historical Society for the 2023 fiscal year.

Carried.

7. Events Committee Report:

Events Committee Chair Brian Moore reviewed the society's various events such as the Speaker's Series, Christmas Social and the Barbecue Potluck at the end of the year. Motion:

Moved by Brian Moore, seconded by Keith Gloster, that the Events Committee Report be approved.

Carried

8. Ratification of Board Actions for 2020 and 2021:

Motion: Moved by Eleanor Gloster, seconded by Michael St. Amant, that the actions by the Board of Directors in 2020 and 2021 be ratified.

Carried.

9. Changes to Bylaws (Force Majeur clause):

Resolution: Moved by Glad Woodburn, seconded by Lorraine Sherred, that the bylaw be amended with the following wording:

a) The Society must hold an annual meeting of its Members no more than fifteen (15) months apart. Normally as close to the beginning of the fiscal year as is convenient but not later than March 31st unless,

1) A serious emergency has been declared by a governmental agency which would expose members of the Brant Historical Society to significant risks;

2) The Board of Directors passes a resolution affirming the emergency measure as a force majeure and postponement of the Annual General Meeting until such time that one can be held in a safe manner that does not compromise members' safety;

3) Notify the members of the passing of the resolution and the postponement of the Annual General Meeting.

Amendment: Moved by Glad Woodburn, seconded by Lorraine Sherred, that the following amendment be added: ...

4) Within 90 days of the end of the emergency.

Carried.

Moved by N. Etherington, seconded by M-A Marion, that the resolution as amended be approved.

Carried.

#### 10. Election of Directors:

Chaired by N. Etherington

Moved by E. Gloster, seconded by Andy Woodburn, that the following be elected to the Brant Historical Society Board of Directors for 2022:

Tim Philp  
Denise Methot  
Willy Hilgendag  
Michael-Allan Marion  
Leisah Marie Jansen  
Murray Angus  
Doug Summerhayes

Carried

#### 11. Report of the Chairman of the Endowment Fund:

Michael St. Amant reported that the current value of the Endowment Fund as of December 31, 2021, as reflected in the financial statements, stood at \$327,932. That included publicly traded

common shares worth \$151,354, mutual funds of \$10,109, and cash and savings accounts of \$20,298, cash and investments of \$181,761, due from revenue from of \$140,000, and accumulated interest of \$6,171.

The total amount has increased from \$303,105 in 2020.

Motion: Moved by D. Summerhayes, seconded by D. Methot, that the Report of the Chairman of the Endowment Fund be approved.

Carried.

## 12. Other Business:

Motion: Moved by Keith Gloster, seconded by Eleanor Gloster, that the Members of the Brant Historical Society extend thanks and appreciation to the City of Brantford, County of Brant, Government of Ontario, Government of Canada, and all other donors and funders who have helped provide the resources necessary to permit the Society to fulfill its mission, within the community, and especially at its two presentation facilities.

Carried.

Motion: Moved by Brian Moore, seconded by Keith Gloster, that the Members of the Brant Historical Society extend thanks and appreciation to the Directors of the Board, the employees and the volunteers who demonstrated imagination and inventiveness to help keep the Society programs and its facilities in the public eye over the past three years when dealing with COVID-19 pandemic

Carried.

Motion: Moved by D. Summerhayes, seconded by A. Woodburn, that appreciation be extended to Friends of Myrtleville House Museum for their support and care "of a valuable heritage property for 20 years.

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.