

**Brant Historical Society
Board of Directors Meeting
April 30, 2024
Brant Museum and Archives
57 Charlotte St.,
Brantford, ON**

MINUTES

Present: Murray Angus (President and Board Chair), Leisah Marie Jansen (Vice-President), Michael-Allan Marion (Secretary), Bill Hyde (Treasurer), Pat Duern, Brian Moore, John Utley, Sarah Clarke.

Regrets: Glad Woodburn.

Staff: Marion McGeein (Executive Director).

1) **Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:25 pm .**

2) **Approval of Agenda:**

Additions to Agenda:

5(a) Press Release for Crystal Cottage sale.

5 (b) BHS Budget.

5 (c) Discussion from AGM.

5 (d) A matter under Business Arising.

Motion: Moved by P. Duern, seconded by L. Jansen, that the agenda of the April 30 meeting of Board of Directors with additions, be adopted. **Carried unanimously.**

3) **Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting:**

Motion: Moved by M-A Marion, seconded by L. Jansen, that the Minutes of the March 26, 2024 Board of Directors meeting be approved. **Carried unanimously.**

4) **Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2024 Inaugural board of Directors Meeting:**

Motion: Moved by B. Hyde, seconded by P. Duern, that the Minutes of the April 9, 2024 Inaugural Board of Directors meeting be approved. **Carried unanimously.**

5) **Business arising**

a. **Review of BHS Structure:** Deferred after brief discussion.

b. News Release about Sale of Crystal Cottage:

Motion: Moved by J. Utley, seconded B. Hyde, that a news release concerning the sale of the Crystal Cottage by the Brant Historical Society be prepared, approved by the Board of Directors, and distributed to the media by May 5, 2024.

Carried, with P. Duern opposing.

c. Preparation of Budget:

In response to questions, Executive Director Marion McGeein said no draft budget is prepared at this time.

d. Annual General Meeting Revisited:

B. Hyde said he believed the Endowment Fund report was not presented in a readily understandable fashion and the whole thing needs further discussion.

L. Jansen said she believed the meeting was well conducted considering that she was suddenly put in the position of President less than a week before the AGM and had to chair the meeting. She thanked other board members who helped her.

“Perhaps the AGM could be held later in the spring,” she also suggested.

6) Correspondence:

M. Angus reported that he received a call about a book published years ago by Brant Service Press Ltd. that could be reprinted. He will provide more information at a future meeting.

7) Reports:

a. Treasurer’s Report:

The latest financial documents were circulated before the meeting. B. Hyde took the board through the highlights.

Motion: Moved by B. Hyde, seconded by P. Duern, that the meeting move in camera to discuss a property matter. **Carried unanimously.**

Motion: Moved by B. Hyde, seconded by P. Duern, that the meeting move ex camera to continue discussion. **Carried unanimously.**

Motion: Moved by B. Hyde, seconded by B. Moore that the Treasurer’s Report be approved. **Carried unanimously.**

b. Myrtleville House Meeting:

B. Moore gave a verbal presentation of his written report on a meeting last month with some BHS board members and a National Trust official over the future of the historic Myrtleville House Museum property.

Motion: Moved by B. Moore, seconded by L. Jansen, that application be made to gain full National Historic Site status on the Myrtleville property. **Carried unanimously.**

c. Meeting with City of Brantford Officials:

Several board members said they believed the meeting with city officials about the board's intentions to sell the Crystal Cottage and what the city could contribute to the relationship with the BHS in the future met with favourable results.

d. Next Steps:

J. Utey discussed a proposal to have the board consider revamping the Brant Historical Society's direction to find a new stature and reach financial sustainability.

He proposed that board members individually undertake a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) to find that new direction; and bring the results back to the next meeting.

"This a golden opportunity for us to rebuild the stature and image of the BHS," he said.

He also invited the board to consider new ways to mount displays, other than in the Brant Museum and Archives.

"All the artifacts don't have to be in one location."

The board agreed to follow his SWOT Analysis proposal.

e. Brant Region Culture Sector Innovation Workshop:

Motion: Moved by L. Jansen, seconded by B. Moore, that the report on the proceedings of the Brant Region Culture Sector Innovation Workshop be received.

Carried unanimously.

f. Events Committee Report:

B. Moore reported on the following events: an Easter Egg Hunt, Interior Tour of W. Ross MacDonald School, another on the Lancaster Bomber at the Canadian Military Heritage Museum: and May is Museum Month calendar events, such as a Creativity Guild crafters circle at Myrtleville, Brantford Canal Walking Tour, and a Photographers Exhibit at the Brant Museum and Archives.

g. Executive Director's Report:

M. McGeein summarized her written report for the meeting, which included such Brant Museum activities as Heritage Excursion Day, the latest exhibit on Photographers of Brantford, and the City's Infrastructure Team for the Downtown Streetscape Project. Her report also highlighted Myrtleville House Museum activities, and upcoming Social Media activities.

Grants received -- \$8,000 to update the website. Grant applications submitted – County of Brant \$5000 for operations, and \$5,500 for purchase of new computers, printers and a photocopier.

In January two applications were submitted for summer students through the Young Canada Works. In early April we received word that we have been approved for one student May 5 – July 27, 2024. Similarly 5 applications were submitted through Canada summer jobs. We just received word that we were approved for 2 for the Museum. We were not approved for a summer student at Myrtleville, After discussion with the board, it was decided to hire one summer student

for Myrtleville with the cost for the position coming from the fees charged for the day campers to attend summer camp.

Motion: Moved by B. Hyde, seconded by P. Duern, that the Executive Director's report be approved. **Carried unanimously.**

8) New Business: None

9) Notices of Discussion: None

10) Next Meeting:

- a. May 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm.
- b. June 25, 2024 at 6:30 pm

11) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.