

**Brant Historical Society
Annual General Meeting
Myrtleville House Museum
April 9, 2024**

**Minutes
(Draft)**

Establishment of a Quorum:

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Leisah Marie Jansen, President and Chair of the Board of Directors. She declared quorum based on the number of registered members present.

She read an introductory statement explaining how the Board of Director had recently elected her President and Chair of the Board of directors, replacing former president Tim Philp, and the decisions the Board made to call the AGM for April 9, 2024, rather than the normal time in March.

1. Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Moved by Pat Duern, seconded by Michael-Allan Marion, that the agenda for the meeting be approved.

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Michael-Allan Marion, seconded by Doris Myke, that the minutes of the March 28, 2023 Annual General Meeting be approved. **Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the 2023 Annual General Meeting:

2022 Financial Statements – Approval had been deferred because Michael St. Amant was concerned about accounting procedures in the Endowment Fund.

St. Amant said at this AGM he was satisfied with revisions that had been made.

Motion: Moved by Bill Hyde, seconded by Michael-Allan Marion, that the Financial Statements from 2022 be approved. **Carried.**

4. **President's Report:**

Leisah Marie Jansen expressed in detail how she appreciated all the work that former President Tim Philp did for the Society, including as Executive Director Pro-Temp, and how his resignation in March as Board Chair and Executive Director put her in the position of having to lead the Society and the Board toward the AGM as Interim President and Chair.

"I chaired two meetings where I did my best to ensure that all members in-person or virtual were heard and contributed to fulsome discussions, debates and voting on matters that came before the board," she said.

"It is my hope that the new Board will continue to follow best practices of governance." She recalled that before COVID the Board was following a course to achieve financial sustainability through bringing in corporate sponsors. The Board continued to listen to overtures from City of Brantford councillors and administrators about moving to the former Greenwich-Mohawk brownfield, but nothing materialized from the talks "and the Board remained committed to 57 Charlotte St," she recounted.

She also noted the Board was approached by the city to participate in saving the Crystal Cottage. The Board embraced it but was caught by a combination of obstacles, delays and cost overruns. A decision had to be made to sell it to mitigate costs.

"We hoped that by this AGM we'd be here with great news and ideas to discuss, and I believe that I speak for our Board of past and present, within all of our hearts was only intent for the best future of the Historical Society."

L. Jansen also read a report from past-president Philp, which he had planned to deliver to the AGM before he decided to resign. Much of his report was devoted to explaining the problems of the Crystal Cottage project.

"We were met with unforeseen challenges that were beyond our control," Philp's report said. "The bankruptcy of the downtown developer, the unforeseen impact of the COVID pandemic, a fluctuating real estate market, and significantly escalated costs for the basement's completion have collectively led to the project's downfall."

Motion to Approve the President's Report: Moved by Pat Duern, seconded by Bill Hyde, that the President's Report be approved. **Carried.**

5. **Financial Reports:**

A) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Willy Hilgendag gave some parting remarks of advice as he is resigning from the Board at the end of the AGM after several years in his position, and will not stand for the new Board.

He took the members gathered through the audited financial statements, including an explanation of how the Crystal Cottage project had a negative effect on the Society's financial position.

Bill Hyde raised questions about the appraised value of the Crystal Cottage now located on the lot beside the Brant Museum and Archives. He considered the appraisals "bogus."

Murray Angus noted that the Society has lately been running at a deficit every month.

Motion: Moved by Bill Hyde, seconded by Glad Woodburn, that the Treasurer's Report be approved. **Carried.**

B) Audited Financial Statements 2023

Treasurer Willy Hilgendag reviewed highlights of the audited statements prepared by auditor Millards for 2023.

Motion: Moved by Sandra Vos, seconded by Glad Woodburn, that the audited financial statements for 2023 be approved. **Carried.**

C) Approval of Auditors for 2024/25

Some members raised questions about appointing the current auditors for the next year and wanted the Board of Directors to review the matter and report back to the membership.

Motion: Moved by Glad Woodburn, seconded by John Utley, that the appointment of auditor for 2024/2025 be deferred for further discussion at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Sandra Vos noted it could cost a considerable amount of money to go to a Request for Proposals to choose a new auditor at this juncture. It was suggested that it could be more prudent to appoint an auditor at this meeting for the next year and have the Board review the matter during the next year for approval at a future AGM.

Bill Hyde notified the gathering that he would be abstaining from voting on the motion. The motion was withdrawn by Glad Woodburn and John Utley.

Motion: Moved by Lorraine Sherred, seconded by Denise Methot, that Millards be appointed the auditor for the Brant Historical Society for 2024/2025.

Carried, with Bill Hyde abstaining.

Motion: Moved by Sandra Vos, seconded by Glad Woodburn, that the Brant Historical Society direct the Board of Directors to review the choice of auditor for 2025/26 and bring a recommendation to the next Annual General Meeting for a choice of auditor for 2025/2026.

Carried, with Bill Hyde abstaining.

6. Events Committee Report:

Committee Chair Brian Moore presented a report detailing past events in 2023 and upcoming ones during the next year using a handout and verbal remarks. He also lauded the Events Committee members for their work during the past year.

Motion: Moved by Brian Moore, seconded by Bill Hyde that the Events Committee Report be approved. **Carried.**

7. Endowment Committee Report:

Chair Michael St. Amant reported on the highlights of the Endowment Fund Committee Report circulated at the meeting, and fielded questions.

Motion: Moved by Michael St. Amant, seconded by Brian Moore, that the Endowment Fund Report be approved. **Carried.**

8. Election of Directors:

The Char was temporarily relinquished by Leisah Marie Jansen to Nathan Etherington to run the election.

Motion: Moved by Lorraine Shered, seconded by Denise Methot, that the following be elected to the the Brant Historical Society Board of Directors for 2023.

Murray Angus
Leisah Marie Jansen
Bill Hyde
Michael-Allan Marion

Pat Duern
Sarah Clarke
Glad Wooburn
Brian Moore
John Utley

Carried.

Election of a New Trustee to the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees:

Motion: Moved by Andy Woodburn, seconded by Denise Methot that Doug Summerhayes be elected to the Board of Trustees Endowment Fund.

Carried.

9. Other Business:

A) Sale of Crystal Cottage – Sandra Vos thanked the board of directors for getting the sale done.

Motion: Moved by Doug Summerhayes, seconded by Bruce Hill, that the sale of the Crystal Cottage property on the terms discussed with the new owners and approved by the Board of Directors be ratified.

Carried.

B) Myrtleville House Museum – Executive Director Marion McGeein informed the meeting that the new board of directors and she will meet with officials of the National Trust on Friday about the future of the agreement with the Brant Historical society to manage that property.

Jack Jackowitz cautioned about the Society about taking on properties and having to pay a lot to manage them.

10. Adjournment: The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.