

**Brant Historical Society  
Annual General Meeting  
Myrtleville House Museum  
April 16, 2025**

**Minutes**

**Establishment of a Quorum:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Murray Angus, President and Chair of the Board of Directors. He declared quorum based on the number of registered members present.

Executive Director Marion McGeein reported that 31 members were present. She said 57 mailings were sent, four letters, and 42 memberships were renewed for the year 2025.

**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 of April 9, 2024 Annual General Meeting:**

**Motion:** Moved by John Utley, seconded by Michael-Allan Marion, that the minutes of the April 9, 2024 Annual General Meeting be approved. **Carried.**

**3. Approval of Minutes of Special Business Meeting held September 5, 2024:**

**Motion:** Moved by Michael-Allan Marion, seconded by Michael St. Amand, that the Minutes of the Special Business Meeting held September 5, 2025 be approved.  
**Carried.**

**4. Business Arising from the 2024 AGM and the Special Business Meeting:**

A. **None**

**5. President's Annual Report:**

Murray Angus said the current board had as its main goal to stabilize the financial situation of the Brant Historical Society. Discussions were undertaken with the City of Brantford to figure out a solution, and a lot of ideas were discussed. What was decided as the best possible answer was for the city to purchase the building at 57 Charlotte St. and allow the museum to stay as a tenant at a cost of \$1 per year. All the money from the sale was deposited into our Endowment Fund and this is the beginning of the attempts to bring the Brant Historical Society closer to being self-supported.

Another undertaking of the board was an updated Strategic Plan. The vision, mission and core values of the organization have been updated, and the board is working toward finalizing these plans. Fundraising has been identified as a main goal, and various strategies are being reviewed and talked about.

This has been a very busy year, and the board has managed to accomplish some very lofty goals and none of it would have been possible without the input of the board members and our volunteer Executive Director. The staff and our volunteers have put in extra effort to keep the organization functioning. Special thanks to everyone who has been doing what is necessary during these challenging times and a special thanks to Brian Moore who keeps the Historical Walks moving and keeping our Speakers Series going with a variety of guest speakers presenting talks on a variety of topics.

**Motion:** Moved by Brian Moore, seconded by Andy Woodburn, that the President's Report be approved. **Carried.**

## **6. Financial Reports:**

### A) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bill Hyde provided written documents read by Murray Angus. The documents dealt with the sale of the Crystal Cottage to settle obligations. No appreciable money was realized from the sale, but it ended a debt-ridden situation that the Brant Historical Society found itself in while undertaking the project to save a heritage building.

**Motion:** Moved by Pat Duern, seconded by Michael-Allan Marion, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **Carried.**

### B) Audited Financial Statements 2024

Murray Angus went through the highlights of the statements prepared by the auditor, Gibb Widdis CPAs Professional Corporation. The draft audited financial statements were reviewed, including an explanation of how the Crystal Cottage project had a negative effect on the Society's financial position. There were also questions regarding the appraised value of the Crystal Cottage now located on the lot beside the Brant Museum and Archives. He considered the appraisals "bogus."

**Motion:** Moved by Andy Woodburn, seconded by Lorraine Sherred, that the audited financial statements for 2023 be approved. **Carried.**

### C) Approval of Auditors for 2025/2026

**Motion:** Moved by Bruce Hill, seconded by David Neumann, that Gibb Widdis CPAs Professional Corporation be appointed auditor for 2025/2026. **Carried.**

## **7. Events Committee Report:**

Committee Chair Brian Moore presented a report detailing events held in 2024 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 John Utley, that the Events Committee Report be approved. **Carried.**

**8. Amendments to Bylaws:**

A. Annual Meeting by the end of April

**Motion:** Moved by Michael-Allan Marion, seconded by Glad Woodburn, that a section in the bylaws be changed to read “that the society must hold an annual meeting of its Members no more than (15) months apart. Normally as close to the beginning of the fiscal year as is convenient, but not later than April 30<sup>th</sup>. **Carried.**

B. Number of Directors

**Motion:** Moved by Pat Duern, seconded by Glad Woodburn, that a section in the bylaws be changed to read that “the maximum number of Directors be increased from nine (9) to eleven (11)” **Carried.**

**9. Election of Directors:**

Murray Angus relinquished the Chair temporarily to Marion McGeein to conduct an election for the new board of directors.

**Motion:** Moved by Sandra Vos, seconded by Any Woodburn, that the following be elected to the Board of directors for 2025/26:

Murray Angus, Garry Burns, Sarah Clarke, Pat Duern, Bill Hyde, Leisah Marie Jansen, Brian Moore, John Utley, Glad Woodburn. **Carried.**

**10. Report of the Chair of the Endowment Fund Committee:**

Chair Michael St. Amant reported on the Endowment Indenture for the Brant Historical Society.

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

**Carried.**

**11. Election of Trustees of the Endowment Fund:**

**Motion:** Moved by Brian Moore, seconded by Lorraine Sherred, that the following be elected as Trustees of the Endowment Fund:

Michael St. Amant, Murray Angus, Bill Hyde, John Hogewoning, Jack Jackowetz.

**Carried**

**12. Other Business as Authorized by the President:**

Murray Angus introduced City Councilor Mandy Samwell who is Brantford City Council’s representative on the Brant Historical Society Board of Directors as a non-voting member.

**Motion:** Moved by Andy Woodburn, seconded by Gary Burns, that Mandy Samwell be welcomed to the Board of Directors of the Brant Historical Society. **Carried.**

**13. Adjournment:** The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.