

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Centennial Museum Society of Canmore

24 June 2021 | Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Andrew Nickerson, Rhonde LeSueur, Charles Teare, Dallas Suttie, Rob Seeley, Carter Cox, Susan Shellian-Frey, Suzie Sparks, Cheryl Sanford, Joel Paul, Ron Ulrich, Mercedes Cormier, Sarah Knowles.

1. Minutes of July 23, 2020 meeting

Motion by Charles Teare, seconded by Rhonde LeSueur to approve the minutes of the annual general meeting held July 23, 2020. Carried unanimously.

2. Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2020

Motion by Charles Teare, seconded by Dallas Suttie to approve the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2020. Carried unanimously.

3. Board of Directors and Officers

Motion by Carter Cox, seconded by Dallas Suttie to set the Board of Directors to set the Board of Directors to serve until the next Annual General Meeting at eight members, of which two are serving the second year of the two year term, three are to be elected at the meeting, one is to be appointed by the Board at the request of the Town of Canmore Council, and two are to be appointed by the Board at their discretions. Carried unanimously

As there were no further nominations, the slate of three (3) members of the Society to sit on the Board are Rhonde LeSueur, Charles Teare, and Carter Cox were elected by acclamation.

Motion by Suzan Shellian-Frey, seconded by Rob Seeley that the slate of Officers as presented consisting of Andrew Nickerson (Chairman), Rhonde LeSueur (Vice-Chair), Charles Teare (Treasurer) and Dallas Suttie (Secretary) be elected for a one (1) year term. Carried.

4. Borrowing Resolution

Charles Teare outlined that the Society has borrowed \$40,000 through the Canada Emergency Business Account through the Bow Valley Credit Union. This year, the program has expanded for businesses and non-profit organizations to borrow an additional \$20,000 for which he has confirmed we are eligible. If we pay back the loan in full by the end of 2022, we will receive \$20,000 as a grant in return.

Andrew called for questions, for which we heard none.

Motion by Charles Teare, seconded by Rhonde LeSueur to authorize borrowing: pursuant to article 6.05 of the Society's bylaws the members authorize the Society to borrow up to \$60,000 under the Canada Emergency Business Account through the Bow Valley Credit Union to ensure the Society's ability to continue to pay non-deferrable operating expenses of including, without limitation, payroll, rent, utilities, insurance, property tax and regularly scheduled debt service. Carried unanimously.

5. Bylaw's amendment resolution

Call for questions:

- Cheryl Sanford raised the question of when the changes were circulated. Andrew indicated that the changes were circulated more than 21 days. Tony outlined that the changes to the bylaws brought the bylaws in line with the changes that the Government of Alberta had introduced around meeting electronically and to circulate materials through electronic means.
- Cheryl had also sought clarification as to whether the changes required the approval of 75% of the membership; Charles Teare responded that the bylaws require a 75% of those attending the special meeting to vote in favour of changes to the bylaws for the changes to pass.
- Joel Paul asked if the only changes that are put before the membership are those which are outlined in the documents; Charles Teare responded by saying that the Board has already reviewed and passed the proposed changes to the bylaws as circulated to the membership. If the changes pass, the bylaws are considered amended and will need to be filed within 21 days to the Province of Alberta.
- Andrew also clarified that the changes to the bylaws also included slight changes to the governance structure, whereby the Chairman is the Chairman of the Board and the President oversees operations.

Motion by Rhonde LeSueur, seconded by Charles Teare by special resolution "that the Bylaws of the Centennial Museum Society of Canmore in force at the date of AGM be repealed and the Amended Bylaws tabled at the AGM and attached to this resolution are adopted as of the close of the Meeting". Carried unanimously.

6. Other business

Ron Ulrich confirmed that no further items for discussion were received.

Cheryl Sanford had asked why no Annual Report has been presented this year, indicating that this meeting has provided no opportunity to learn about what was accomplished in the previous year and the direction the museum society is taking for the future, and no opportunity to ask questions or to have a discussion. Andrew responded that because of the pandemic and the switch to an electronic format, the move to a shortened meeting that meets the requirements by the Province of Alberta was taken. Andrew indicated that he would be making comments after the meeting is formally adjourned and agreed that this would be needed but would be produced and available at a later date.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Charles Teare to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Following the formal close of the Annual General Meeting, Andrew Nickerson, Board Chairman made the following statements:

- Thank you all for attending the meeting
- Formal report will be produced within the month; we will be watching how things unfold with the pandemic before scheduling a meeting with the members.
- Firstly, our hope that everyone has stayed safe and well through what's been an incredibly difficult year that has shown the importance of family, friends and community; this has been something of a bit of living history experience that we have all shared.
- The last twelve (12) months have marked a tremendous transformation of the organization. The work put in place over the past months and years was used as a platform to move us from a static organization to one that is dynamic and community-focused. The museum used the pandemic's forced closure to its advantage, allowing the museum to not only re-imagine how it serves the community but to develop a new digital infrastructure to help manage our relationships with our partners, members, donors, and shop patrons, and community. Our refreshed branding presents the museum in a modern and exciting way and when we re-open our doors to visitors this weekend (June 26), they will be greeted by a newly designed entrance and a gift shop reflective of the museum's new direction. Our new strategic plan formally launched on April 15 speaks to a museum representative of the community, by the community, and for all of the community that will become an active hub for locals and a must-visit destination for out-of-town visitors seeking to understand our community's heritage better. The pandemic accelerated the transition for cultural organizations to go virtual. Part of our new museum strategy includes a robust digital strategy that promotes access to museum programming and collections, connecting not only local participants to the museum but a growing national

audience. As an example of this, our online book club has grown from an initial eight (8) members to 100 participants from all over Canada and the US. This strategy builds on past initiatives including our virtual reality experience and adds new digital programming such as our Museum@Home digital streaming service which will allow our content to be accessible virtually. We will also be launching several new websites over the summer which will allow us to capture the stories and places that matter to our community and to share this community generated content in new and exciting ways.

- I would like to close in recognition of some key people.
 - First, I would like to recognize the work of the Board of Directors who have all invested significant time into ensuring the organization has the vision and governance required over the past year with both my personal thanks but also thanks from all of us here today. Secondly, I would like to recognize the outstanding work of our Executive Officer, Ron Ulrich, who has been with us for nearly a year and for his leadership skills and museum expertise that have driven the remarkable, positive changes we have seen throughout this year. It has really been exciting from a Board perspective to see someone take the vision we have set forward and actually start to bring it to life and make it visible within the community. I would like to thank Ron's team, Mercedes and Sarah here tonight. It's a very small but committed and highly skilled group of people who have the Canmore Museum great strength and depth and really give us the platform for us to build for the future.
 - I would also like to express our gratitude to the many donors who have supported this new vision with donations ranging from \$10 to \$40,000. We are especially grateful to Lafarge Exshaw who continues to be a partner in our education programs also supported our digital innovation – storytelling and education programs – including Kay Anderson and the estate of Gerry Stephenson, Wes and Pat Campbell, Don Paterson and the Paterson Foundation.
 - And finally, I would like to you our membership and our many volunteers without whom we simply couldn't achieve this work over the past months and years.
- We are in a very positive place. We have a new look and feel as a museum, a new strategic plan, membership continues to grow and our community engagement is reaching new heights.
- I want to thank you for being here tonight and for your ongoing support of the museum.

Questions:

- Cheryl asked if the Chairman's report will be filed as part of the minutes, to which Andrew indicated that would be the case as would opportunity to provide opportunities for members to ask questions and have discussions about the work of the museum moving forward.
- Joel Paul made the comment that he and his wife have both very much enjoyed the Book Club under the restrictions of the pandemic.

- Suzie Sparks expressed hope that the museum would continue the Book Club series once we reopened to the public. It is excellent; she expressed an appreciation for the work of the museum team.