

Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

Minutes of Council – 15 January 2014

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| <b>Present</b>   |                   |                |
| Rosemary Barbour | Bertrum MacDonald | Anjali Vohra   |
| Sara Beanlands   | John Macleod      |                |
| Jim Ferguson     | Jim Morrison      |                |
| John Grant       | George Parker     | <b>Regrets</b> |
| Ross Langley     | Henry Roper       | Blake Brown    |
| Bill Laurence    | Iris Shea         | Marilyn Gurney |

1. **Agenda:** The agenda was approved on the motion of Henry Roper and John Grant.
2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the November 20 2013 meeting were approved as corrected from the previously circulated version.
3. **Business arising from the minutes:**
  - a. **Future planning session:** Among topics picked up during the discussion of the future planning document was the potential of recording or **webcasting** our lectures. Heritage Trust has had some success with Eastlink's *Podium TV* while the Old Sydney Society has been using a webcasting service and YouTube. It was noted that we would need to work this into a potential speaker's agreement.

This topic was in some ways linked to **having lectures outside of Halifax** or perhaps repeated outside of Halifax. In the past when we had a "road trip" it was the Society going to another location for a regular meeting, or perhaps a joint event with another group, rather than attempting to generate an entirely new audience. From Henry Roper's experience with giving talks at Annapolis Royal and elsewhere it was his impression that our lectures didn't attract much local traction on their own.

**Minutes on the website:** some have been mounted and more will appear.

**Distribution of posters and information:** Sara Beanlands indicated that the poster had been adapted for better delivery as a pdf that people could use as a poster. We are also learning the process for getting in newspaper listings of events.

- b. **Royal Society Expert Panel:** Recently there has been much public discussion and media coverage of the situation of the federal science libraries. It was thought that the opportunity for an Op-Ed piece on the issues of more interest to us might be better when the panel is reporting than now.
- c. **Ad hoc committee on membership costs:** The timeline for this is to have a notice of motion to discuss the fee question at the March meeting. The group has not met yet but has gathered information on our revenues and costs.

- d. **Digitization project:** The general consensus was that we were happy to hear of the proposal from the Saint Mary's University Archives and would seek to meet with Hansel Cook to explore the details and also to identify the methods to be used for scanning and the copies that might be used.
- 4. **President's Report:** Much had been already covered. The president proposed the date of 9<sup>th</sup> February for an afternoon social gathering of the Council. The impetus for this was the unrealized intent to have had an old/new council gathering at the end of the lecture season or during the Christmas period.
- 5. **Treasurer's Report:** Neglecting any business transactions arising from this evening the Society had \$5823.29 in the operating account with deposits to be made of \$856.69. We continue our efforts to update the Credit Union account signing officers.
- 6. **Vice Presidents' reports:**
  - a. **Sara Beanlands – publicity:** In addition to what was already reported in the discussion of the future planning document Sara reviewed our Social Media activities, the updating of the website, our hope to have the payment mechanism back in order soon and the sorts of correspondence we receive. Apart from genealogical questions the inquiries are often of the *do you want* or *how do I find* variety. There are also a number of enquiries regarding the *Journal* or *Collections*.
  - b. **George Parker – publications:** George reported no issues from our editor Brian Cuthbertson, regarding the *Journal*. He noted that costs were perhaps not reflective of the volunteer time which went into the *Journal* and that our true costs were doubtlessly rising making a fee review timely.
  - c. **Jim Morrison – Program:** Jim reviewed his successful efforts in identifying potential speakers and their willingness to do so. He was also working on a student session and brought up the idea of encouraging the nominating committee to look for a graduate student as a Council member. The council was supportive of this. He was looking at RA Park mess as a possible off site location for a 2014-15 lecture. The April meeting is a dinner meeting for which details need to be discerned and confirmed. Henry Roper volunteered to speak to the University Club.
- 7. **Correspondence:** We had received a notice from Access Copyright that their take of any collective copyright payments would be increasing. In the discussion that followed it was noted that Access Copyright had been severely impacted by the decision of many University systems to not renew their agreements. This led to some discussion on our lack of revenue from ProQuest.

There being no further business and the lecture rapidly approaching the meeting adjourned.