

Present:		Regrets:
Jerry Bannister	Bertrum MacDonald	Ross Langley
Rosemary Barbour	John Macleod	Deborah Trask
Sara Beanlands	George Parker	
Blake Brown	Iris Shea	
John Cordes	Corey Slumkoski	
John Grant	Anjali Vohra	
James Morrison		

1. **Welcome:** Members were welcomed to the first Council meeting of the calendar year.
2. **Agenda:** The circulated agenda was approved on the motion of John Grant and Jerry Bannister.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 10 December 2014 meeting were approved on the motion of John Cordes and John Grant.
4. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - a. **Alison Froese-Stoddard / Website.** Bertrum had been contacted and the expectations of duties and payment for Alison's website work had been mutually regularized. There was also a 31 January meeting planned for those with website involvement which would address how we plan to move forward for content, updating and improvement.
 - b. **Lieutenant Governor's patronage:** Now that the LG's office is onboard with this we will move ahead with approaching Government House regarding having a lecture there, potentially co-listed with his own lecture series. We would also look at including mention of the LG patronage on our website as well.
 - c. **Annual Dinner:** We need to set the price.
5. **President's Report:** James Morrison commented on the circulated correspondence from Lois Yorke, Provincial Archivist, regarding the Royal Society's report on the future of libraries and archives. (More on this later in the meeting.)

He also had been in contact with the Old Sydney Society and determined that they used U-Stream TV to record and live broadcast their lectures. Getting good sound appeared to be the largest issue with this service.

6. **Treasurer's Report: John Cordes.** The treasurer asked if there was any approval procedure for locking funds in a GIC. It was thought that mentioning it to Council as part of a report would be sufficient authority and that the President and VPs can always be canvassed by e-mail or phone should an immediate response be needed.

With the charitable status returns up to date he had now turned his attention to the HST rebate applications.

The Paypal notification feature, to inform him of the payment of membership fees, was now working. He noted that the Genealogical Association had encouraged some donations by including a donation option in the form for online payment of memberships. Upon proof of charitable status from the Canadian Revenue Agency we could qualify for lower PayPal rates.

The Treasurer's report was accepted on the motion of John Cordes and Iris Shea.

7. Reports of Vice Presidents

- a. **Publicity—Sara Beanlands:** Sara mentioned the arrangement with News95.7 and that the student presenters would most likely be interviewed before the next lecture. She noted that we had 300 FaceBook "likes".
 - b. **Publications—George Parker** George Parker reported he had been in contact with Brian and that in terms of the Journal "no news" was good news.
 - c. **Programme – John Grant:** John gave a preview of next year's topics and lecturers. The program would include Todd Scott, Carol MacDonald (GS Harrington), Paul Bennett, Allan Marble (on JW MacDonald), Meghan Jack (Guysboro County material culture?), Roger Prentice (Acadia – John MacDonald WW1 Chaplin).
8. **Membership Survey:** some revisions had been made today. We would distribute by our e-mail list and also by conventional mail.
- 9 **Royal Society of Canada –Expert Panel report on the future of libraries and archives in Canada.** The change in leadership at Library and Archives Canada seems to have also changed the tone somewhat of the relationship between the community and that organization. There was general agreement that the Society should emphasize the panel's finding that many local collections and organizations have significant materials that could be used to highlight the celebrations of community and nation that the 150th anniversary of Confederation will ignite. Ways of doing this would include writing our support of programs to facilitate the digitization and subsequent public availability of these materials to both the relevant provincial and federal ministers (Tony Ince and Shelly Glover). Bertrum MacDonald agreed to collaborate with James Morrison on crafting such letters.

10 Other Business: Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships: Jerry Bannister raised the question of the lack of government funding in the area of historical research and enquiry that was reflected in the relatively narrow streams that are potentially funded by this \$3.7 million NS government annual program that seeks to attract and retain students in graduate studies in Nova Scotia. The program guidelines (see: <http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20140425001> and [http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/fgs/funding/NS Graduate Scholarship Regulations.pdf](http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/fgs/funding/NS_Graduate_Scholarship_Regulations.pdf) link funding to areas determined by the provincial government to be of economic value such as Ocean Science and Technology, Clean Technology, Financial Services Research, Life Sciences, Health and Wellness and Social Innovation. It was thought that the Society could write to the NS Department of Labour and Advanced Education to suggest that the program guidelines be expanded to allow the inclusion of historically based research in the allowed streams for thesis based programs. The President and Jerry Bannister would confer on this.

Student presenters: It was suggested, and adopted, that the student presenters should be given complementary memberships for the year as a thank you for their presentations.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.