

Merrickville and District Historical Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

7:00 pm – **in person**

Merrickville Legion

This year it was decided that as Covid restrictions have been lifted a live meeting is acceptable. It was hoped we could have Zoom accessible as well for out of town people but we ran into technical problems. Quorum is 15, and 20 people were in attendance. NOTE: all documentation, President's report, Financials etc. were made available over a week in advance on MDHS Website, and handed out to attendees.

1. Call to Order at 7:13 pm by Past President Ann Martin, acting as chair for the AGM
Jane Graham Secretary took attendance and took minutes.
Ann welcomed everyone and made a special Thank you to Violets on Main who provided baked treats. Also recognition to Jeff Murray and Nancy Warr for setting up a display table with artifacts from the collections in Burritts Rapids. Ann also made a nice introduction and recognized that we were meeting on un-ceded land of the Algonquin and the Anishinaabe.
2. Agenda for the meeting was adopted on a motion by Ann Martin, seconded by Nancy Warr. Carried
3. The minutes of the previous AGM held Tuesday, January 25, 2022 were approved on a motion by Chris Eyton, second by Rod Fournier. Carried.
4. Annual Report (as there was no President) – made by Past President Ann Martin. See website for copy. A special thank you to Elizabeth Robinson for all her hard work over the years – she is stepping down. Also thanks to Rod Fournier for 3 years on the job as Treasurer. Ann thanked Jane Graham for efforts and noise (!) and Nancy Warr for her countless hours and effort with the Collections and care of our artifacts. Also thank you to Jeff Murray for his work and Donna Ross for restarting a very successful Lecture Series. Final thank you to Husband Greg Eamon. Gifts of flowering plants from The Flower were presented. Annual Report accepted on a motion by Jane Graham – seconded by Peter Szmidt. Carried.

5. Archives report – made by Ann Martin. See attached and on website. Motion to approve Archives report – Ann Martin seconded by Omar Simonyi. Carried.
6. Treasurer’s Report – Given by Rod Fournier (handed out)
 - a) Financial Statement showed a shortfall. Some questions and comments on how this could be improved in the future. (More fundraising, more donations) Motion to accept Financial report Nov 1, 2021-Oct 31, 2022 as presented – moved by Chris Eyton, seconded by Donna Ross. Carried.

b) Budget 2023 – handed out

Motion to accept Budget 2022, moved by Jane Graham, second by – Chris Eyton. Carried.

7. Election of Directors and Officers – Chris Eyton read the slate of candidates presented by the nominating committee. Nominations from the floor were requested. None. Two members withdrew their names, Rod Fournier and Karen Finstad. Those nominated were invited to introduce themselves and say a few words. Jane Graham agreed to stand as President – but clearly declared that there will be times that she may have a conflict of interest as she runs a For profit Historical Walking Tour Company. In those situations she will recuse herself. Ann Martin known by all. Chris Eyton – fairly new to Village and loves history. Bob Long moved here in 2010 from the Arctic. Member of RCHS for 6 years. Cheri Kemp Long moved here in 2015. Lots of experience with Economic development and Tourism, several years with Merrickville Chamber of Commerce. Michel Perron, absent so Jane Graham did intro. Angela Beking local long time involvement with MDHS. Motion to accept by Chuck Willemsen, seconded by Yves Grandmaitre. Carried.

Officers and Directors accepted as presented. Moved by Peter Szmidt, seconded by Cheri Kemp Long. Carried.

New Business –

- a) Merrickville Blockhouse Museum – Once again there is NO MANAGER to run the Museum this year. It is a facility that cannot be run without Municipal help. The Village must step up. Numerous presentations have been made to Council. There is a drop dead date of 2 weeks for a response from the Municipality. They must step up with help on staffing and supervision.
- b) MDHS and the Village of MW - At the very least – we are asking for the reinstatement of the Museum Board, which as it not existed for over a decade. Currently there is no legal structure/agreement in place. We need help. The

Museum is too big an undertaking for a (primarily senior) volunteer group. We are close to decision time. A robust discussion on how to run a museum ensued. Jane Graham emphasized that her main reason for standing as President this year is to get the Municipality to take a more active role and responsibility for the Blockhouse Museum, or it will be a valuable asset that will cease to exist.

- c) Strategic Planning – see Executive Summary as prepared by Consultant this past year. Lots of great ideas.

8. Adjournment – at 8:25 pm moved by Chuck Willemsen.