

Merrickville and District Historical Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

7:00 pm – Zoom Meeting

Due to Covid 19 pandemic and current health restrictions, a live meeting was not possible. Quorum is 15, after attendance was taken on screen and it was confirmed that 20 people eligible to vote were in attendance. NOTE: all documentation, Presidents report, Financials etc were made available over a week in advance on MDHS Website. And shown during Zoom meeting.

1. Call to Order at 7:08 pm by President Ann Martin, acting as chair for the AGM
Jane Graham Secretary took attendance and will take minutes.
2. Agenda for the meeting was adopted on a motion by Doug Struthers, second by Chris Eyton. Carried
3. The minutes of the previous AGM held November 27, 2018 were approved on a motion by Doug Struthers, second by Jane Graham. Carried.
4. Presidents Report – made by Ann Martin. See website for copy. Question from John Cowan about status of McGuigan Cemetery and what activity. AM explained that property is currently maintained by Municipality, there is a new sign. New residents across the street (Donna Ross and Peter S) have been actively involved in helping with maintenance. Chamber of Commerce has put all Cemeteries on their maps. Chris Eyton added that there is a special online registry where McGuigan referenced. President's report accepted on a motion by Angela Beking, seconded by Doug Struthers. Carried.

5. Archives Report – made by Ann Martin. Moved by Doug S, seconded by Chris Eyton to approve. Carried.
6. Treasurer’s Report – Given by Rod Fournier (shown on screen)
 - a) Financial 2020 - under comments/questions, Doug S mentioned that all looks good, healthy balances. Rod F confirmed \$19k + bank balance. Yves Grandmaitre asked question – if Brockhouse gets wifi this year, will this help increase donations? With ease of contactless contributions. AM remarked that with pandemic still rampant – hard to tell how restrictions will impact number of visitors (if Museum even open this summer) and with possible fewer people allowed inside, hard to say how donations will go. Rod F explained Ottawa Community Foundation monies – showed statement and explained how profits from last year (\$890.) were not taken but left invested. Doug S moved to accept Financial report. Seconded by Yves G. Carried.
 - b) Budget 2021 – Two columns shown – depending on if Blockhouse Museum is allowed to be open to the public this year. Moved to accept by Chris E and seconded by Doug S. Carried.
7. Election of Directors and Officers - Ann Martin read the slate of candidates presented by the nominating committee. Nominations from the floor were requested. No nominations from the floor. Motion to accept by Donna Ross, second by Sally McInnis. Carried. Officers and Directors accepted as presented. Moved by Peter S, second by Elizabeth R. Carried.
8. New Business –
 - a) Ann M talked about the Draft Parks Canada Management Plan. MDHS has submitted comments and suggestions. Some of the executive will meet with Dale Maceachern, Parks Canada to discuss important issues. Main issue is that Merrickville Lockstation should definitely be chosen as one of the only FIVE main lockstations. Parks Can have opened up to the general public and encourage input. There is a website one can log onto to do a survey and make comments. This is open only until the end of March. All membership received an email on this topic, and should give this document a look. Links are on our website. Yves G – past president of Merrickville Chamber of Commerce reported that all members have been notified, and have also been asked to send in comment to Parks Canada.

- b) Past Perfect Migration - Angela Beking gave a brief intro of herself. 10 years active member of MDHS. She gave a great outline on how important this project is. Currently all MDHS information, data, collections, assets etc are all held on one old laptop. The plan is to digitalize everything and move to the cloud. Making everything available online gives access to information to everyone – anywhere in the world. Elizabeth Robinson continued report. She has been employed by MDHS through various grants over the last five years, culminating in her working her final year as Blockhouse Manager. She was an intern under a grant from Young Canada Works: Building Careers in Heritage. She confirmed comments made by Angela – that by migrating our collection to this Past Perfect system – everything is more accessible to both visitors and researchers. With automatic backup, and virtual storage (not just one old laptop) our whole collection is much safer from loss or damage. John Cowan made a comment on how please he is with this progress and also how the evolution from student summer jobs has helped youth forge career paths in the Historical field. Very satisfying for the Society and its members to realize goals set in the past.... moving forward into the future.
- c) Blockhouse Museum 2021- Chris Eyton introduced himself. Newly moved to the Village, he is happy to be here and very keen on History, the importance of the past, and future preservation. He has volunteered to be Blockhouse Museum Manager – assuming it can open for summer of 2021 – and excited to help make it another great attraction in the Village.
- d) Nation Trust Launch Pad Coaching Grant – Jane Graham gave this brief report. MDHS and the Merrickville Blockhouse Museum have been awarded this “in Kind” coaching grant valued at approximately \$5000. Sessions start Friday February 19 – with a zoom meeting with some MDHS executives and a few volunteer members. We will identify key projects (Virtual 3D tours? Developing more interactive displays, making a plan for how to make Museum more accessible and relevant in these “new Normal” times.) Coaches provide information and expertise, advising us on how to do this. Then it is up to the Society to implement. Comment from Yves Grandmaitre that Merrickville Chamber of Commerce has a 360 degree camera that it is happy to loan out when we are ready.
- e) New Ideas?? Suggestion from a member that perhaps a Cemetery committee should be formed? Also, recognized that there is a great need for new members and volunteers for working committees – so spread the word.

9. Adjourn - Moved by Jane Graham 8:12 pm