



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Meeting conducted virtually

MINUTES

Present:

BOARD OF

DIRECTORS: Patricia Wallace, Alan Lambert, Geoffrey Dawe, Ronen Grunberg, Michelle Primeau, Daniel McGeown, Martin Paivio.

STAFF: Kathleen Vahey – Curator, Julie Preston – Administrative Assistant.

MEMBERS: Helen Roberts, John Green, John Bare, Marjorie Bare, Jeff Walker, Lissa Dwyer, Dan Revington, Lori Hoyes, James Hoyes, Jacqueline Stuart, John Smale, Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Claude Arcand.

SUPPORTERS: Diane Buchanan, Anne Byerlay, MPP Christine Elliot, Javed Khan.

TOWN

REPRESENTATIVES: Mayor Tom Mrakas, Councillor Sandra Humfryes, Councillor Wendy Gaertner

1. CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m., the President declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Kathleen Vahey

A formal land acknowledgement in honour of and recognizing Indigenous Peoples was read.

3. WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT – Patricia Wallace

Patricia Wallace welcomed MPP Elliot, Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Humfryes, and Councillor Wendy Gaertner who were in attendance.

Patricia reviewed protocols for the virtual meeting and informed the audience that it will be recorded for documentation. There will be a reverse voting system in place due to the virtual platform. Questions and comments will be taken at the end of the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

THAT the agenda be approved as presented. Moved by Helen Roberts, seconded by Michelle Primeau.
CARRIED.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES

MOTION

THAT the past AGM Minutes from March 24, 2021 be approved. Moved by Martin Paivio, seconded by Helen Roberts.
CARRIED.

6. GREETINGS FROM TOWN OF AURORA – Mayor Mrakas

Mayor Tom Mrakas was honoured to join tonight's AGM. He acknowledged that Aurora's important cultural and heritage spaces, including Hillary House National Historic Site, enhance the diversity, beauty, and richness of the Town of Aurora and they provide a sense of place and identity within the community.

He recognized the long history of the AHS and reiterated the Town's support of heritage preservation and enhancement through the strong partnership with the AHS. He thanked past and present AHS Board, members, and volunteers for their past and ongoing contributions to the Town of Aurora by preserving Aurora's history and Hillary House.

7. GREETINGS FROM the PROVINCE OF ONTARIO – MPP Elliott

MPP Christine Elliot, on behalf of the Ontario Government, thanked the AHS for its continued dedication to the preservation of Hillary House National Historic Site, historical education and outreach initiatives, and special events.

She acknowledged the two Ontario Trillium Foundation grants awarded to the AHS to assist with restoration of the verandah and recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. She declared the AHS enriches the lives of people in Aurora and across York Region and the Government of Ontario is proud to call the AHS a valued partner in the effort to build strong and healthy communities.

8. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – Patricia Wallace

Patricia Wallace listed accomplishments and sound business decisions undertaken by the AHS Board and staff in 2021, a very challenging year due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic.

Projects included governance matters such as updated by-laws, verandah restoration, and increased diversity in program offerings. 2021 also saw increased public awareness for the AHS and resulting positive feedback.

The Readman House lands that neighbour Hillary House directly to the south, will be under development in the near future. The AHS Board has been actively engaged with the developers and planners to come to a mutually beneficial agreement that strengthens Hillary House as a National Historic Site, with approval from the Ontario Heritage Trust.

9. GUEST SPEAKER – Bruce Hall, The Planning Partnership (Development at 15356 Yonge St.)

Bruce Hall explained the proposal for the development at 15356 Yonge Street. The project has been guided by the Northeast Old Aurora Conservation District Heritage Guidelines which encourages retaining and restoring identified heritage buildings and harmonizing new construction with the existing heritage character of the built form in the area.

Engagement with the AHS and other stakeholders resulted in lowering the overall height of the building, redesigned features which have a more residential character, hard and soft landscape enhancements, establishment of a shared driveway, and development of pathway for Hillary House access to a back parking lot. A Construction Management Plan has been created to help mitigate disruptions to AHS operations and protect the physical integrity of Hillary House, including pre- and post- construction building reports, installation of vibration monitors on Hillary House, off-site parking for AHS if needed, site meetings with Site Superintendent, and a commitment to repair any resultant damage to Hillary House.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT – Geoffrey Dawe

Geoffrey reviewed the financial status of the AHS. He reported that AHS finances are in a positive position and are trending in a pre-pandemic direction. The increased percentages of total revenue for admissions, donations, community events, and fundraising show the AHS' commitment to diversifying revenue

streams. AHS staff and Board have been careful with spending and diligently working towards securing outside funds

The AHS' revenue consisted of familiar streams such as admissions, donations, memberships, gift shop sales, rentals, events, and various annual grants as well as emergency funding from several levels of government for COVID-19 resilience and recovery which has assisted with AHS operations throughout 2021. The AHS applied for the Canadian Emergency Business Account loan for \$60,000, and intends to pay back \$40,000 in 2022.

MOTION

THAT the Treasurer's Report be approved. Moved by Geoffrey Dawe, seconded by John Smale.

CARRIED.

MOTION

THAT the 2020 Audited Financial Statements be approved. Moved by Geoffrey Dawe, seconded by John Smale.

CARRIED.

MOTION

THAT the 2021 Unaudited Financial Statement be received. Moved by Geoffrey Dawe, seconded by John Smale.

CARRIED.

MOTION

THAT Bateman, Graham & Fitzpatrick CPA's be appointed as the 2022 Auditors for AHS. Moved by Geoffrey Dawe, seconded by John Smale.

CARRIED.

11. CURATOR'S REPORT – Kathleen Vahey

Kathleen Vahey reported throughout 2021 the AHS continued to care for Hillary House and its collection, while offering programming and educational opportunities to engage the community.

- Fleming College approved an intern from the Museum Management and Curatorship program and a Canada Summer Jobs grant allowed for two summer staff.
- Collections management projects continued and included inventorying, cataloguing, and photographing over 200 objects.
- 'A Look Outside Hillary House' permanent outdoor exhibition was installed to enhance the visitor experience and encourage continued learning.
- Community engagement continued through virtual and in-person programs and through social media which facilitated growth in the scale and geographical reach of the AHS.
- Hillary House provided the backdrop for two film productions; The Sawbones Society and the Aurora Economic Development Corporation.
- In-person visitors to Hilary House rose to 615 in 2021, with an additional 597 people engaged through virtual programs.
- 91 volunteers provided 2,784 hours of work in 2021.
- Social media followers was 9,293 and 20,600 online engagements.

12. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE REPORT (FORMERLY LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT) – Alan Lambert

Alan Lambert reported on the significant grounds maintenance activity in 2021 including a spring and fall clean-up, garden preparation and care, removal of the sugar maple tree to the south of Hillary House for safety considerations, lawn and tennis court maintenance, removal and care of verandah plantings prior to the start of restoration work, and maintaining the driveway conditions.

13. RESTORATION REPORT – Alan Lambert

Alan Lambert reported on the verandah restoration project which consisted of replacing deteriorated floorboards, rimboards, lattice panels as well as installing new joists and repainting. He thanked MPP Elliot and the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Capital grant which assisted in financing the important project.

Patricia highlighted the next restoration plans involve the Summer Kitchen at the rear of the House (west side) which is deteriorating significantly and has received the least remediation and conservation work. ERA has been contracted to conduct a feasibility study. Patricia is also still in communication with Parks Canada regarding the replacement of the fence along Yonge Street.

Patricia announced the Town of Aurora's \$150,000 Matching Grant opportunity for the rehabilitation of Hillary House NHS and emphasized the AHS' plans for fundraising.

Patricia reported that the Coach House, purchased by the AHS in 2015, was assessed for market value and viability in Spring and then sold in the Fall 2021. The AHS Board decided that all fundraising efforts should be directed to Hillary House first and foremost and the cost to rebuild and maintain the Coach House would have been too much of a burden on the AHS.

MOTION

THAT all reports as presented be received with thanks. Moved by Ronen Grunberg, seconded by Dan McGeown. **CARRIED.**

14. 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Patricia Wallace

The President reported that the Board received 2 resignations in 2021 from Jeffrey Thom and Jan Stainer-White. She thanked all for their dedicated service to the AHS Board. She also noted the AHS made an application to the Town of Aurora for a representative from Town Council to sit on the Board. Councillor Sandra Humfries joined in December 2021.

15. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS – Alan Lambert

Three directors whose terms are up per the AHS Bylaws wish to stand for re-election: Patricia Wallace, Geoffrey Dawe, Ronen Grunberg.

MOTION

THAT Patricia Wallace, Geoffrey Dawe, and Ronen Grunberg be re-elected to the Board of Directors. Moved by Alan Lambert, seconded by Lissa Dwyer. **CARRIED.**

16. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Geoffrey Dawe thanked AHS Bookkeeper Agnes Lytle for all her assistance in 2021.
Alan Lambert thanked Patricia for her efforts in 2021 on behalf of the Board.

17. ADJOURNMENT – 8:04 p.m.

MOTION

THAT the Annual General Meeting be adjourned at 8:04 p.m. Moved by Michelle Primeau, seconded by Martin Paivio. **CARRIED.**