



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Meeting conducted virtually

MINUTES

Present:

BOARD OF

DIRECTORS: Geoffrey Dawe, Alan Lambert, Ronen Grunberg, Daniel McGeown, Michelle Primeau.

STAFF: Kathleen Vahey – Curator/Manager, Julie Preston – Administrative Assistant, Selin Kahramanoğlu, Programming & Outreach Coordinator.

MEMBERS: Bob McRoberts, Donald Hutchinson, Sandy Bundy, Helen Roberts, Owen Norris, Joan Gardner, Laureen Campbell, Yves Larouche, Jacqueline Stuart, Dan Revington, Tim Jones, John Green, John Smale, Pat Vahey, Les Oliver.

SUPPORTERS: Christina Cannavici, Linda Blachford, Alison Collins-Mrakas, Sandra Humfryes, Chris Watts, Donna Lewis, MPP Dawn Gallagher-Murphy.

TOWN

REPRESENTATIVES: Tom Mrakas, Robin McDougall.

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

At 7:00 p.m., the Co-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.

WELCOME FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT – Geoffrey Dawe

The Co-President welcomed attendees including Mayor Tom Mrakas and MPP Dawn Gallagher-Murphy. He 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.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

THAT the agenda be approved as presented. Moved by Dan Revington, seconded by Jacqueline Stuart.

CARRIED.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES

MOTION

THAT the AGM Minutes from February 9, 2022 be approved. Moved by Bob McRoberts, seconded by Jacqueline E Stuart.

CARRIED.

5. GREETINGS FROM TOWN OF AURORA – Mayor Tom Mrakas

Mayor Tom Mrakas was honoured to join tonight's AGM. He acknowledged that Aurora's important, unique, and historical 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 important long-standing partnership between the Town of Aurora and the AHS and reiterated the Town's support of heritage preservation and enhancement. 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.

6. GREETINGS FROM the PROVINCE OF ONTARIO – MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy

MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, on behalf of the Ontario Government, thanked the AHS for its continued dedication to the preservation of Hillary House National Historic Site, historical education, outreach initiatives, and special events. She commended the AHS on recent collaborative projects such as the exhibition with the Salvation Army and supports the continuation of innovative ways to engage new audiences. She thanked the AHS for their work and reaffirmed the Province of Ontario's support for heritage.

7. CO-PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – Geoffrey Dawe & Alan Lambert

Geoffrey Dawe spoke to the completion of the Verandah restoration project, AHS' presence at many Town-wide outreach events, the return of in-person programming and tours at Hillary House, fundraising events, successful partnerships and collaborations with several community organizations, and the continued care of Hillary House. He thanked AHS volunteers for their extraordinary efforts to help keep Hillary House operating smoothly and the grounds looking nice.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT – Geoffrey Dawe

Geoffrey reviewed the financial status of the AHS. He noted the 2021 and 2022 Audited Financial Statements were emailed to attendees for review prior to the meeting. He pointed out that an error was identified by the AHS Board in the 2022 Financial Statement and therefore a revision was made, it was restated, and re-sent to attendees prior to the meeting. He requested any copies of the initial incorrect 2022 Financial Statement be permanently deleted. The AHS will be submitting the amended Statement and Charitable Return to the CRA.

He reported that in 2022, AHS operations started to return to pre-pandemic norms. Due to the hard work of the AHS Board, volunteers, and staff, a number of successful fundraising events were hosted. He noted the AHS received a significant donation from the Koffler Foundation as well as three COVID-19 specific grants.

In 2022, the AHS revenues were slightly decreased while expenses increased due to staffing, professional fees, and the remaining verandah restoration work. However, funds from the Restricted Building and Grounds Fund were reallocated for that project. The AHS' revenue consisted of familiar streams such as admissions, memberships, donations, gift shop sales, rentals, events, and various annual grants from the Federal, Provincial, and Municipal governments. Geoffrey thanked the Government of Canada, Province of Ontario, and Town of Aurora for their significant and continued support.

The Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy finished and the AHS successfully closed out the Canadian Emergency Business Account in 2022. The AHS received funds from the COVID-19 Business Support Grant - Energy Cost Rebate, Ontario Small Business Relief Grant, and the Recovery Fund for Heritage Organizations through the Museum Assistance Program.

9. APPROVAL OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION

THAT the 2022 Treasurer's Report be approved. Moved by Geoffrey Dawe, seconded by John Smale.

CARRIED.

MOTION

THAT the 2021 Audited Financial Statements be approved. Moved by Geoffrey Dawe, seconded by John Smale. **CARRIED.**

MOTION

THAT the amended 2022 Audited Financial Statement be approved. Moved by Geoffrey Dawe, seconded by John Smale. **CARRIED.**

10. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

MOTION

THAT Bateman, Graham & Fitzpatrick CPA's be appointed as the 2023 Auditors for AHS. Moved by Geoffrey Dawe, seconded by John Smale.

CARRIED.

11. CURATOR'S REPORT – Kathleen Vahey

Kathleen Vahey reported throughout 2022 the AHS continued to care for Hillary House and its collection, while offering exhibitions, programming, educational, and outreach opportunities to engage the community.

In 2022, the AHS' permanent staff complement remained consistent with a full-time Curator/Manager and part-time Administrative Assistant. A Programming & Outreach Coordinator was hired on a one-year contract; two summer staff were hired for 15-week contracts partially funded by the Canada Summer Jobs program; and an intern was brought on through the Centennial College Museum & Cultural Management post-graduate program.

The care and maintenance of Hillary House continued to be a top priority in 2022, which included updating the smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, security systems, and a hot water tank as well as maintaining the sump pump systems, eavestroughs, and facilitating pest remediation.

In 2022, collections management projects continued and included inventorying, cataloguing, and photographing over 400 objects. Three exhibitions were featured, including one travelling exhibition and two collaborative in-house exhibitions with the Aurora Cultural Centre and the Northridge Community Church of The Salvation Army.

Community engagement continued through new and returning, virtual, hybrid, and in-person programs and outreach opportunities including the speaker series, heritage craft workshops, holiday-themed events, high teas, walking tours, camps, Home Show, Street Festival, and more. This resulted in an increased number of people coming into Hillary House and people engaged through outreach events.

Kathleen noted a continuing trend of reduced volunteer engagement and hesitancy from past volunteers due to COVID-19; however, the contributed volunteer hours have increased to 3,176.

12. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE REPORT – Alan Lambert

Alan Lambert reported on the grounds maintenance activity in 2022 which focused on safety, cleanliness, and attractiveness of the property. Activities included a spring and fall clean-up, garden preparation and care, lawn, tennis court, and driveway maintenance. Alan thanked the AHS volunteers and the Town of Aurora for supporting the lawn maintenance in 2022. He also acknowledged Donna Lewis who created a multi-year landscaping plan which commenced in 2023 and will be reported on at the next AGM.

13. RESTORATION REPORT – Alan Lambert

Alan Lambert reported on the completion of the verandah restoration project which consisted of replacing and repainting lattice panels and deteriorated floorboards. Outstanding work related to this project includes landscaping work on the north side of the verandah.

14. MOTION TO RECEIVE REPORTS

MOTION

THAT all reports as presented be received with thanks. Moved by Bob McRoberts, seconded by Dan Revington.

CARRIED.

15. 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Geoffrey Dawe

The Co-President reported that the Board received two resignations in 2022 from Patricia Wallace and Martin Paivio and Ronen Grunberg and Sandra Humfryes finished out their terms. He thanked all of them for their dedicated service to the AHS Board.

16. NOMINATION/ELECTION OF DIRECTORS – Geoffrey Dawe

Geoffrey Dawe outlined the nominations. Director Alan Lambert, whose term is up per the AHS Bylaws, wishes to stand for re-election. AHS Member John Green has been nominated to stand for election.

MOTION

THAT Alan Lambert be re-elected to the Board of Directors. Moved by Geoffrey Dawe, seconded by Tim Jones.

CARRIED.

MOTION

THAT John Green be elected to the Board of Directors. Moved by Geoffrey Dawe, seconded by Tim Jones.

CARRIED.

17. Looking Forward in 2023-4

Geoffrey Dawe outlined the upcoming projects of the AHS including exhibitions, programs and events, fundraisers, collaborations, landscaping and maintenance plans, and Godfrey Collection work.

18. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Alan Lambert expressed a need for more Board Members and encouraged attendees to consider joining the Board or volunteering.

19. ADJOURNMENT – 7:50 p.m.

MOTION

THAT the Annual General Meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Moved by Michelle Primeau, seconded by Alan Lambert.

CARRIED.