

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2021.

PARTICIPANTS: David Reynolds, President

Marie Nylund, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chairman.

Directors: Gord Anderson, Perry Davis, Kathy Calvert, Dale Portman, Jim Murphy, Cliff White, Colleen Reynolds and Dennis Herman.

Directors unable to participate: Bob Haney, Don Mickle.

Members participating: Mac Elder, Cathy Elder, Jane Gilmar, Larry Gilmar, Eric Langshaw, Cyndi Smith, Peter Achuff, Dave Downing, Alan Westhaver, George Lukiwski, Bob Elliott.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 am.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved with the addition of

9.2 Dale Portman – book idea

9.3 Perry Davis – how to be informed about recent retirements

3.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9TH, 2020 AGM.

The minutes of the December 9th, 2020 Annual General Meeting had been circulated electronically to the membership.

MOTION: DAVIS/MURPHY – to approve the Minutes of the December 9th, 2020 Annual General Meeting as circulated. CARRIED.

4.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

2020 financial statement – The financial statement for 2020 had been circulated electronically to the membership prior to the meeting along with the audit letter from Don Hepburn.

The Treasurer reviewed the 2020 financial statement that shows total assets for 2020 of \$3,387.40, liabilities of \$9,779.15; and total disbursements of \$8,205.23.

This financial statement, once approved by motion, will accompany the Annual Return submitted to the Province of Alberta on December 1st, 2021.

MOTION: NYLUND/SMITH – to approve the 2020 Financial Statement. CARRIED.

ACTION: Marie will prepare the Provincial Annual Return to be submitted to the Province after December 1st, 2021.

Auditor's report

A review of the 2020 financial records was conducted by Don Hepburn. Mr. Hepburn's letter of June 30th, 2021 was circulated to the membership electronically. The letter states that the balance sheet summary for the 12 month period (January 1st to December 31st, 2020) accurately reflects the financial status of the society and displays the activities of the fiscal year 2020.

The audit letter was received as information.

2021 Financial Report

The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance is \$6,960.55. There are outstanding budget commitments totaling \$3,471.00 for Phase 11 of the Oral History Project, the Fall Newsletter, AGM, Postage and Office supplies, Website Maintenance and Posting of the Oral Histories on the website. This will leave an estimated bank balance at December 31, 2021 of \$3,489.55. This is presented as information.

5.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Reynolds reported that the society received a grant of \$1820 from the Province of Alberta for the Oral History Project. The board intends to apply again for another Provincial Research Grant in order to pursue the Oral History Project into Phase 12. Additional funding for the Oral History Project comes from membership dues and donations.

Fund Raising - We don't want to raise the \$25 membership fee so we need to come up with ideas for fund raising. We have a limited supply of Park Warden Service Alumni crests which are priced at \$5.00 each including postage. We will make a small profit on these. We had tried an on-line silent auction, however it was unsuccessful, but we could try it again. Dave asked that any fund raising ideas be emailed to him at david.reynolds@shaw.ca.

6.0 MEMBERSHIP REPORT – information only

Marie Nylund reported that the current membership stands at 134 members. 105 of these are paying members while the Lifetime members are not required to pay a fee. The breakdown of members is: Voting – 88, Associate – 5; Honourary – 6; Supporting – 6 and Lifetime 29 members.

6.1 Membership Strategy

Dave Reynolds' draft Membership Strategy was circulated electronically to the members on Monday, October 25th. The idea was to recruit members not only in our region but Canada-wide and the northern regions to increase membership. This may result in the expansion of this organization or perhaps the formation of a separate organization in another region.

Cliff emphasized the need to get new members on board as they retire keeping in mind that the warden service has changed in that is 'functional' rather than the 'generalist' role. Some of these retirees work at a national level. So, a retiree who worked in the west is in fact connected across the country (like the Fire team, Law Enforcement team, Wildlife conflict teams etc.) That is the way the modern Resource Conservation is organized.

Perry Davis asked how to find out about who is retiring and who has retired?

Cliff suggested that the first step would be to build a connection to the modern warden service generation by putting the word out to retirees who may be able to provide names of others who have retired or are about to retire. Through an expanded membership this connection could occur.

Dale Portman provided the background on when and why the Park Warden Alumni Society was formed. It was originally a mountain park organization with the nucleus of the membership from Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, Yoho, Lake Louise and Glacier national parks. The focus was on preserving the culture and heritage of the warden service in view of the changes about to take place, and that by forming an alumni this could assist in preserving the legacy of the warden service. The original plan was not to exclude the eastern parks.

Kathy Calvert commented that attempts were made to contact retirees in the east but it was unsuccessful due to the geographic locations of the eastern national parks; they were not centralized.

Alan suggested that by reaching out to retirees that we each know personally to acquire names of other retirees from various disciplines this might work into a larger base of names. A record could be kept on these initial contacts to track the expansion of the list.

Dave asked that any comments be emailed to him. (Dave's email address is david.reynolds@shaw.ca)

7.0 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT PHASE 11

Jim Murphy reported:

Since the last AGM in December 2020 the Alumni have completed 7 interviews with 4 more to go. Monique Hunkeler and Susan Hairsine have been our interviewers and both have provided excellent transcripts of each interview. Marie Nylund is the Alumni keeper of the transcripts and maintains a file of completed transcripts, release forms, and voice recordings. Copies are being forwarded to the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies along with USB stick containing the voice recordings.

The funding for these interviews comes from Alumni annual dues, donations, and provincial grants. The provincial grants have, on average, provided 50% of the funding for the Oral History Project. Thank you to Dave Reynolds and Marie Nylund for preparing, submitting and dealing with the provincial funding agency. And thank you to the Alberta Provincial Government for the latest grant of \$1820. The Alumni must have all of the Phase 11 interviews (11) completed by the end of February 2022 per the conditions of the Grant.

To date, the Alumni has conducted 98 interviews of retired Wardens, Warden spouses, and associated Warden Service parks' staff. We still have a list of over 80 names of retirees we would like to interview. Time is of the essence but funding is lacking. Dave Reynolds is working on a funding strategy for the Alumni.

On July 28th 2021 the binder containing 30 printed transcripts, release forms and USB voice recordings was delivered to the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies (WCR) by Marie Nylund. These 30 transcripts were added to the collection of PWSAS interviews on file at the museum.

Don Mickle and Marie have been reviewing the Oral History transcripts which are being posted on the website (by Trail Blazer Web Services) and have been well received.

Jim also reported that Bill Browne's chaps, spurs and horse bell were handed over to the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. Steve Malins, Cultural Resource Manager, Banff National Park, has agreed to transfer all of the original Warden cabin logbooks that he has in the Banff Warden Office archives over to the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.

Dale suggested that Kelly Deagle and Susan Hairsine be interviewed at some point. Dale also suggested inviting Kevin Van Tighem to be interviewed since he was there at an important time as Superintendent during the transition of the warden service.

8.0 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Directors Cliff White and Don Mickle have one more year left in their terms.

All other executive and directors' terms expire today. Bob Haney and Dennis Herman have stepped down.

President: Dave Reynolds has allowed his name to stand once again

Secretary-Treasurer-Membership Marie Nylund as allowed her name to stand again.

Up to 9 Directors can be elected today. The following board members have agreed to serve another term if elected - Colleen Reynolds, Jim Murphy, Perry Davis, Kathy Calvert, Dale Portman, Gord Anderson. Perry Jacobson has allowed his name to stand for election. Alan Westhaver volunteered to sit on the board. This is an uncontested slate of officers who could be elected by acclamation.

MOTION: SMITH/DAVIS – move to acclaim the following slate of candidates for the board of the Park Warden Service Alumni Society with David Reynolds, President, Marie Nylund, Secretary-Treasurer-Membership Chairman; Directors Colleen Reynolds, Jim Murphy, Perry Davis, Kathy Calvert, Dale Portman, Gordon Anderson, Perry Jacobson and Alan Westhaver. CARRIED.

Cliff White will remain Vice President for one more year

Don Mickle will remain as a director for one more year.

This will result in 12 people on the Park Warden Service Alumni Board.

ACTION: The two and three year director terms will be determined at the next board meeting.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 Alan Westhaver - suggestion regarding mini-reunions

Alan proposed the idea of mini reunions to be held spring and fall at designated group campgrounds alternating between Alberta and B.C. This would be a informal way to get people together. The warden alumni would be the mechanism to get the information out.

It was felt that it was worth trying. Alan has offered to coordinate this and asked if May/June and mid September might be suitable times. Ideas for campgrounds would be welcome.

ACTION: Alan Westhaver will explore campground locations.

9.2 Dale Portman – book idea

Dale and Kathy have been considering writing a book based on some of the experiences recorded in the Oral History Project interviews. Extracting human interest experiences could provide an important and entertaining book on the legacy of the Warden Service and at the same time help to preserve its history.

ACTION: Dale and Kathy to come up with a strategy for producing a book as described by Dale.

9.3 How to find out when retirements occur

Perry Davis questioned how do we find out who has retired or about to retire from the present day warden service so that we can invite them to join.

Cliff suggested contacting retirees from the last decade and ask them to provide names of other retirees with whom they worked so that a list can be developed. We can start this by each of us contacting someone we personally know who has retired in that time frame.

