

OCTOBER 25TH, 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 2023 AT REDWOOD HOUSE, REDWOOD MEADOWS ALBERTA.

PRESENT: Dave Reynolds, President

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Marie Nylund, Secretary-Treasurer-Membership, Colleen Reynolds, Dale Portman, Kathy Calvert, Cliff White, Jim Murphy, Perry Davis.

PARTICIPATING BY ZOOM: Directors Perry Jacobson and Alan Westhaver. Voting member Dave Downing; and Supporting member Brian Bindon.

Eric Langshaw, Cyndi Smith, Peter Achuff and Don Mickle could not access the Zoom connection.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 10:30 am with 11 voting members in attendance. (Section 13 of the By-laws states ten voting members in good standing shall form a quorum.)

2.0 ACCOUNCEMENTS

Dave announced that there are several items that have been donated and are offered for sale. Marie referred to the list on the Agenda for a detailed description of these items:

- 2 belt buckles from Halle Flygare – offers accepted
- 2 collector Park entry passes (1937 and 1939) from Ruth Quinn – value to be determined
- Toni Klettl carving of a Big Horn Sheep donated by Jim Reynolds - value \$200
- Toni Klettl carving of a Grizzly which we purchased for \$100 from Patti Walker - value \$200
- 6 copies of Halle Flygare's book - MacKenzie's Second Voyage of Discovery 1792-1793 Vol 1. Retail value \$34.95.
- 4 copies of Halle Flygare's book - Wildlife of the North, Animals of the High Latitudes of North America and Europe co-authored by Valerius Geist, Geoffrey Holroyd, and Wayne Lynch. Retail value \$29.95.

3.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved with no additions.

4.0 APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2ND, 2022 AGM MINUTES.

The Minutes of the November 2nd, 2022 Annual General Meeting minutes were circulated electronically to the membership prior to today's meeting.

MOTION: DAVIS/C. REYNOLDS - to approve the Minutes of the November 2nd, 2022 Annual General Meeting as presented. CARRIED.

5.0 FINANCIAL

5.1 Financial Statement for the fiscal year 2022

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the audited financial statement for the fiscal year 2022 for approval. The cash in the bank as at January 1st, 2022 was \$6,273.51. Income for the year was \$8,312.76. Disbursements were \$6,384.58. This financial statement requires a motion to approve it. Once approved, a copy of the financial statement must accompany the Provincial Annual Return submitted to the Province of Alberta to maintain our society status.

MOTION: PORTMAN/MURPHY - to approve the audited financial statement for the fiscal year 2022 as presented. CARRIED.

5.2 Financial status 2023

The Secretary-Treasurer reported on the financial status for 2023. The opening bank balance at January 1st, 2023 was \$8,201.69. Revenue to the end of September is \$13,242.69 and disbursements total \$3,320.95. The bank balance is \$9, 921.74. The projected bank balance at year-end after the Oral History Project (Phase 13) costs of \$5,000 and other budget commitments is approximately 4,900.00.

MOTION: C. REYNOLDS/WESTHAVER – to approve the financial report for the period January 1st, 2023 to September 30th, 2023 as presented. CARRIED.

6.0 MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Membership report

M. Nylund reported that we have 107 Voting members, 7 Honourary, 7 Supporting, 6 Associate and 29 Lifetime members for a total of 156 members. In response to a question from Jim Murphy Marie replied that the membership is holding steady in numbers. The Lifetime Members (members who have reached the age of 80) are not required to pay membership dues, however, some of them donate to the society.

7.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dave Reynolds provided the following membership report:

- 1) Membership is stable at 152 members.
- 2) The Nanton mini reunion was a major milestone for the alumni society. It attracted about 45 members, including spouses, over the three days.
- 3) The Salmon Arm reunion was postponed until May of 2024 because the fires in B.C. made for air quality and health issues; and because the hotels and campground facilities were needed for fire evacuees. Thank you to Alan, Lisa and Bill Smith for their hard work on coordinating this reunion.
- 4) Our alumni society's finances are in reasonably good standing due to past government grants for the Oral History Project and from silent auctions and donations from members.
- 5) Members have donated many personal items for use in the silent auction. We will take a few more, but the silent auction process is time and labour intensive.
- 6) The government grant for 2023 was denied and they have suggested that they may not fund further phases of the oral history project. We will seek other possible sources to support our on-going efforts to capture as many oral or written histories as possible. We may have to consider reducing the number of interviews to be conducted in future phases of the Oral History Project.
- 7) The self-completing oral history questionnaire will be increased for those past, present and future retirees from the former Warden Service, current Wardens and all Resource Conservation personnel who wish to maintain contact with past coworkers and colleagues.
- 8) The idea of issuing medals to individuals within the role of Warden, Resource Conservation and related functions has been put on hold for the time being. There doesn't seem to be an appetite to move forward on this idea.
- 9) The alumni has taken steps to embrace retirees in the central, eastern, Maritimes and northern regions. Alan Gibbs and Dan Reive are working on a mini-reunion in the east. Dave and Colleen hope to attend and will promote our society. It is hoped that their reunion date does not conflict with our May event. We welcome membership in what we now feel is more of a national organization than a western region organization. Please help spread the word about joining the alumni society. The membership fee is still just \$25 annually.

Cliff suggested we consider establishing a “corresponding member” who could collect email addresses of possible contacts to share with our society. To be addressed at our next board meeting.

- 10) We have an active website, and Facebook account. Please visit often and read the Oral Histories.
- 11) We have business cards in French and English, if you would like a few to circulate among your current friends and former coworkers, please let us know at the website contact information.
- 12) I look forward to the next few years of alumni society activity and hope to engage you all.
- 13) To aid in this endeavor we are developing a couple of videos for the website and possibly showing them on a TV channel. The 30 minute or 1 hour video will highlight the work of the former Warden Service; and the 5 minutes video will highlight the work of the Alumni Society. This initiative is being spearheaded by Perry Davis and Eric Langshaw, both who are members of the board of directors. An idea might be to contact the Smithsonian Channel (Blue ant Media) and ask them if we could put together a one-hour video to be shown on the Smithsonian Channel.

Perry Davis added that he and Eric Langshaw are planning to go through Eric’s film footage this winter to determine what can be used for a video.

14) Warden Cabins decommissioned

Perry Davis reported that 3 warden cabins are being decommissioned. Owen Creek cabin, near Saskatchewan Crossing, Hector cabin, north of Lake Louise, and Baker Creek Cabin on the 1A Hwy west of Banff. Owen Creek cabin has been declared a historic resource and will remain in place. FHBRO (Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office) will assess the Hector Cabin. Frank Burstrom has assessed this cabin in consultation with Perry and feels the cabin is moveable and restorable. The assessment on the Baker Creek cabin may have been completed. The goal is to approach Heritage Park if one of these cabins is determined as surplus from Parks Canada and could be acquired by Heritage Park.

8.0 OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Oral History Project

Eric Langshaw was unable to access the Zoom link. Jim Murphy has offered to assist Eric with the Oral History Project.

8.2 Oral History Project - Self-generated interviews

Perry Jacobson suggested that in order to generate interest in the self-generated interviews, we include information on this project in the next Newsletter and on our website. It was suggested perhaps a posting on our Facebook Page might generate some interest. He also suggested that we need someone who can review and edit the interviews.

ACTION: Don and Perry J. to develop a document encouraging retired park wardens to consider completing the self-generated interviews.

8.3 Mini-reunion – Salmon Arm, May 7-9th, 2024.

Alan Westhaver thanked those people who had signed up for the fall reunion. The dates have been confirmed for May 7-9th, 2024. The local hotels will be at the off-season rates for those who cannot camp.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

10.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

Marie reported that the Facebook Page currently has 264 members and our Website has 667 posts.

11.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Per the By-laws Section 9, thirteen people can be elected to the Board. The terms of David Reynolds, Marie Nylund, Dale Portman, Kathy Calvert, Gord Anderson, and Alan Westhaver expire at today's meeting. Gord Anderson has decided to step down. David, Marie, Dale, Kathy, and Alan have allowed their names to stand for election.

MOTION: MURPHY/CALVERT – that David Reynolds, Marie Nylund, Dale Portman, Kathy Calvert and Alan Westhaver be elected to the Board of the Park Warden Service Alumni Society for a two-year term expiring in 2025. CARRIED.

12.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Those in attendance were invited to meet for lunch at Bragg's Korner Kitchen at Bragg Creek.

Parks Heritage Conservation Society is setting up their annual Christmas gathering on Tuesday, December 12th, from 11 am to 3 pm. This will be a casual affair, \$25 per person, with hors d'oeuvres rather than a meal. Location is yet to be determined.

Perry Davis reported that in 2022 he and Dale Portman attended the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Descendants (SAPD) meeting in Calgary that involved many historical groups. The 2023 meeting was cancelled and Perry hopes that the SAPD will host another meeting next year as it was a good way to network with other historical groups.

Perry commended the Park Warden Service Alumni on their accomplishments over the years.

Dave thanked everyone attending today's meeting both in-person and via Zoom.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY-TREASURER