

OCTOBER 9TH, 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARK WARDEN SERVICE ALUMNI SOCIETY HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH, 2024 AT ELEVATION PLACE, CANMORE, ALBERTA.

PRESENT: Dave Reynolds, President

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Marie Nylund, Secretary-Treasurer-Membership, Colleen Reynolds, Cliff White, Jim Murphy, Perry Davis, Bradley Bischoff.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Haney, Scott Ward, Brian Spreadbury, Tom Elliot, Chris Worobets

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Perry Jacobson, Dale Portman, Kathy Calvert, Eric Langshaw, Alan Westhaver.

PARTICIPATING BY ZOOM: Brian Bindon, George Lukiwski, Bob Elliott.

(By-laws Item 13, Quorum – ten voting members in good standing who are present in person shall constitute a quorum at any General or Special meeting.).

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am with the required quorum in attendance in person.

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

3.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved with no additions.

4.0 APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 25th, 2023 AGM MINUTES.

The Minutes of the October 25th, 2023 Annual General Meeting had been circulated to all members of the Park Warden Service Alumni electronically prior to today's meeting.

MOTION: C. REYNOLDS/MURPHY - to approve the Minutes of the October 25th, 2023 Annual General Meeting. CARRIED.

5.0 FINANCIAL

5.1 Financial Statement for the fiscal year 2023

Marie reported on the audited financial statement which reflects the financial activity for the fiscal year 2023. This report requires approval by motion and will accompany the Annual Report to be submitted to the Province of Alberta at the end of the year to maintain the society status of the Park Warden Service Alumni Society.

MOTION: WARD/SPREADBURY – to approve the audited financial statement for the 2023 fiscal year. CARRIED.

5.2 Financial report for 2024

Marie reported that the society's finances are good. The January 1st, 2024 opening bank balance was \$6,756.18. Revenue up to date is \$7,959.17 for a total of \$14,715.35. Disbursements to date total \$2,611.68 leaving a bank balance today of \$12,103.67. Budgeted items (not yet spent) total \$9,204.82. This will leave an estimated bank balance at December 31, 2024 of \$2,898.85.

This past week the society received three generous donations from individuals. The donations amount to \$2700 and are dedicated to the Oral History Project. The donations come at a very opportune time since the society did not obtain a grant this year. The donations will make a great difference by increasing the budget to allow for the funding of four more interviews than originally budgeted for.

MOTION: MICKLE/WOROBETS – to approve the 2024 financial report. CARRIED.

6.0 MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Membership report

Marie reported that membership numbers remain the stable at 150. The breakdown is Voting – 102, Honourary – 6, Associate 5, Supporting 6 and Lifetime – 31. (Lifetime members do not pay dues).

Dave encouraged those present to spread the word about our society to encourage membership.

7.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dave Reynolds read his report:

1. Membership is stable at 150 members.
2. The Salmon Arm reunion was a major milestone and success for the alumni society. It attracted more than 50 members and spouses over the three days in early May.
3. The 2023 reunion was postponed from September 2023 to May of 2024 because of the fires in B.C. that resulted in poor air quality resulting in compromised health issues, and because the hotels and campground facilities were needed for fire evacuees.
4. Our society's finances are in good standing notwithstanding we did not get a government grant for the Oral History Project. Other resources were from membership fees, silent auction items and donations from members.
5. We investigated funding opportunities from the B.C. Government and found it was problematic and not feasible at this time.
6. Members have donated many personal items for use in the on-line silent auction. We will take a few more, but the silent auction process is time and labour intensive and will be delayed for now. Dave also stressed that due to lack of archival storage space the society does not want to accept any donations of documents.

Marie brought two copies to the meeting of Halle Flygare's book "MacKenzie's Second Voyage of Discovery 1792-1793" which Halle donated to PWSAS last year. The cost is \$34.95 each. She has also brought a Warden Service belt buckle donated by Halle Flygare which we will accept offers on.

In addition, Halle is donating 6 copies of his new book, Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail hiking guide published. It includes 2 new trails the 30 km Blackwater Canyon Trail from Fraser River to Blackwater Road and the most interesting one the 26 km Sluq'alhta Trail (Nuxalk name) from the Rainbow Mountains to Bella Coola River used by Mackenzie in July 1793. It was Mackenzie's last trek hiking the 347 km native Grease Trail from the Fraser River. The price of this book is \$29.95. These books will be advertised for sale when we receive them.

7. The self-completed 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 co-workers and colleagues.
8. The alumni have taken steps to embrace retirees in the central, eastern, Maritimes, and northern regions. This process is taking considerable time and may need to be shelved for now. We welcome membership in what we now feel is more of a national organization than a western region organization. Please spread the word about joining the alumni society. Their membership fee is still just \$25 annually.
9. We have an active website, and Facebook account. Please visit often and read the oral histories.
10. We have business cards (printed in French and English), if you would like a few to circulate among your current friends and former co-workers, please let us know.

It was suggested that an electronic version of our business card be developed and/or scanned for or the website.

11. I look forward to the next few years of alumni society activity and hope to engage you all in social activities.
12. We have prepared a Constitution and Bylaws and a Strategic Plan for the society. A copy of each of these documents is on our website.

13. Finally, the Oral History Project may run its course. We are finding candidates who are willing to be interviewed or willing to complete the self-completing questionnaire. If you are willing to be involved, please let us know. PWSAS President.

Jim confirmed that there are still about 50 candidates on the candidate list for the Oral History Project list who have not yet been asked to consider being interviewed.

8.0 OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Oral History Project Status

Eric Langshaw is not able to attend today's meeting. Jim Murphy reported on Phase 14 of the project: Marc Ledwidge, Lawrence Baraniuk, and Dave Gilbride were invited to participate, however they declined. Harold Abbott, Kevin VanTighem, Randy Chisholm, and Terry Willis have yet to be contacted. Traf Taylor, Sid Marty and Linda & Todd Cooper (re Lance) have agreed to be interviewed.

Completed interviews: Brad White and Tom Hurd have completed interviews with Susan Hairsine. Susan will interview Dave Dalman in November. Monique is in the process of completing an interview with Jo Anne Williams.

Cliff suggested that Will Devlin be invited to participate in the Oral History Project.

In response to a question from Jim regarding the status of the funds in the Oral History budget, Marie responded that with the recent donations the Oral History Project budget has increased.

ACTION: Marie to provide an up-dated oral history project budget to Eric and Jim.

Jim further reported that Monique Hunkeler has resigned after she completes Jo Anne Williams' interview. Susan Hairsine will resign after completing the interview on Dave Dalman. We need to recruit two contractors to undertake interviews. Lise Gautron has been offered a contract and will let us know in November. Other names suggested were Laura Hunt and Kelly Deagle.

8.2 Oral History Project - Self-generated interviews

Don reported that although several people indicated they would participate, it has not resulted in many completed interviews.

8.3 Success of Mini-reunion at Salmon Arm, May 7-9th, 2024.

Bradley commented that the 2024 reunion at Salmon Arm was lots of fun and a huge success. He recommended that the musical component of the reunion be considered again for the next reunion and offered to once again provide the musical entertainment.

Dave added that Alan Westhaver is in the process of exploring venues for the 2025 reunion.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Smokey Guttman model cabin

Perry Davis informed those present that the model cabin built by Smokey Guttman is in his care. He contacted Heritage Park and offered the loan of the cabin for display purposes but did not receive a response. He will follow up with Heritage Park again next spring.

10.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

Marie reported that the Facebook Page has 276 members and is very popular. Thank you to Tom Elliot and Yves Bosse for agreeing to be Administrators of the FB Page.

The Website has 723 posts which include all of the oral histories, warden journals, announcements, and other items of interest. Trail Blazer Web Services does an excellent job as our web master.

11.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Per the By-laws Section 9, thirteen people can be elected to the Board.

The terms of Cliff White, Don Mickle, Perry Davis, Colleen Reynolds, Jim Murphy and Perry Jacobson expire as at today. Cliff White, Perry Davis, Colleen Reynolds and Jim Murphy will let their names stand for election. Perry Jacobson has indicated he will let his name stand for one year.

Dave announced that Don Mickle has decided to step down and thanked him for his many years of serving on the board. Don was a founding member of PWSAS, and has volunteered on the board since the alumni's beginning.

Dave asked if anyone present would consider letting their name stand for election to the board. Brian Spreadbury volunteered to let his name stand for election.

MOTION: WOROBETS/BISCHOFF – that Cliff White, Perry Davis, Colleen Reynolds, Jim Murphy and Perry Jacobson be elected to the board of the Park Warden Service Alumni Society. CARRIED.

MOTION: ELLIOT/MICKLE – to elect Brian Spreadbury to the board of the Park Warden Service Alumni Society. CARRIED.

ACTION: The terms of the elected board members will be determined at the next meeting of the Board which will be held on Monday, November 4th, 2024 in Cochrane at the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation Library.

12.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom added that he had attended a wonderful celebration of the life of Lou Comin which was well attended and a reunion of sorts. He also was present at the memorial service in honour of Caron Kozachenko a few days ago which was also very nice and well attended.

It was agreed to meet for lunch at The Sand Traps at the Canmore Golf Course.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: HANEY/DAVIS – to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 am. CARRIED.

PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

SECRETARY-TREASURER SIGNATURE