

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

### ST. PETERS HARBOUR LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

AUGUST 24, 2023

Rossiter Park Morell, PE

**Present:** Linda Anderson, Mel Anderson(Board member at-large), Charles Beaver, Shelley Beaver, Paulette Bourgeois, Eva Cudmore, Ken Cudmore, John Flinn, Syd Freiman, Richard Ganong, Donna Glass, Chris Hutt(Treasurer), Karen Jay, Bonnie MacLeod, Dave Matthes, Diane Matthes, Debbie Barton-Moore, Bill Morton(President), Jan Morton, JoAnne Morton, Shamus Morton, Mary Phillips, Gail Rice(Past President), Barbara Rousseau, Peter Rousseau, Katie Sheahan, Jill Stevenson, Alison Talbot, Vera Teschow, Arlene Van Diepen.

**Regrets:** Judith Bree - Board member representing the OSPHHA, Dana Dineen (Board member at-large), Scott MacEwen (Vice President), Sidney MacEwen (Board member at-large), Craig Ono (Secretary).

#### **Welcome and Introductions:**

**Introductions of Board members in attendance, along with the positions they hold, was conducted by Bill Morton and a warm welcome back was extended to all in attendance. The membership was informed at the outset that due to unforeseen circumstances, three Board members who expected to be in attendance were unable to do so. Given this, a follow-up meeting on Zoom, to which all SPHLS members were invited, took place on Friday, November 3rd, 2023 at 8:00 pm ADT and all votes and updates have been duly recorded in the minutes below in bold.**

Prior to getting into the Society's official reports, a presentation on the work to develop and enhance our work on the history and heritage of the SPH Lighthouse was led by new member, Barbara Rousseau. Barbara's most recent contributions to this effort have been added to the SPHLS website and were shared with all members, on the website's blog as well as on our FB page.

#### **President's Report:**

Bill Morton began his remarks by thanking all the volunteers involved in the work of the Lighthouse and provided an update on the various initiatives undertaken in 2022-23.

Among the many activities that took place, highlights included:

- the assessment of the Lighthouse and site post-Fiona,
- entering a float in the Morell River Run Festival Parade as well as entering a display in the Festival Expo in July 2023,
- repairing and replacing all shingles as needed and completely repainting the Lighthouse,
- replacement of the airvane,
- repair and re-installation of the solar-powered illumination system
- projected by early September: the installation of the completed storyboard project - complete with QR coding to allow visitors to access the SPHLS website on-site in real time.
- submission of our application to the province for funding of both the storyboard project and the re-painting of the Lighthouse.

**The Board will look into the tracking of QR code usage on the Storyboard installation so that we can begin to track visits to the SPHLS website.**

#### **Finance Report:**

Chris Hutt delivered the report on the Society's finances. As expected, the Society budgeted for and ran a small deficit once again this past year and this is the result of having annual fixed costs of approximately \$4000/year at a time when the pandemic reduced opportunities to do our customary fundraising activities to help offset these costs. Going forward, the Society will return to its customary practice of soliciting members for their annual membership dues and recruiting new members. The Society will also return to the organizing of bi-annual fund-raising efforts in order to safeguard the resources required to protect the Lighthouse.

The Society has a healthy bank balance of \$12K and is able to continue to meet all its obligations going forward. Should our application to the province be successful, this will immediately add nearly \$5K to the Society's bank balance. **Update: our grant was indeed approved and the first installment of funds - \$2475 - has been deposited into the SPHLS account. The second installment will be deposited once the final cheques have been cleared thru our bank account in Nov. 2023.**

A suggestion that the Society investigate whether associating itself with a charitable Heritage society on the Island might offer the opportunity for future donors to receive tax receipts for their donations. This will be investigated.

**A motion to officially approve the financial report was put forward by Chris Hutt in August and seconded by Bill Morton at the Zoom follow-up AGM meeting on Friday, Nov. 3rd, 2023. Approval was unanimous.**

Appointment of Auditors for 2023-24

**A motion to officially approve the accounting firm MRSB as Auditors for 2023-24 was put forward by Chris Hutt in August and seconded by Craig Ono at the Zoom follow-up AGM meeting on Friday, Nov. 3rd, 2023. Approval was unanimous.**

### **Membership & Nominations Report**

The Society's membership list has two main components. The first group is made up of those who supported the SPHLS during the Founding Membership Campaign in the years leading up to January 2017 - the year that the Lighthouse was restored. These members contributed a one-time gift and have been recognized on the large plaque that has been installed on the Lighthouse itself. These members continue to receive updates, bulletins, and invitations to Lighthouse activities. This is a group of 45 households and/or dedications.

The second group is composed of both founding members who have remained active as well as new members who have joined the organization over the years and who are also active members who have regularly paid annual dues or who have become Silver Shingle or Lifetime Members. This membership breaks down as follows:

8 individual memberships,  
72 household/family memberships  
2 corporate memberships

**Note: 5 new memberships were recruited at this AGM.**

The Society currently has 36 Silver Shingle members and the 2 corporate memberships mentioned before fall into this category.

Overall, we are pleased to report healthy membership numbers and this support is fundamental to the Society's mission of maintaining the Lighthouse and preserving its heritage.

## **Board Composition and Nominations**

Our by-laws provide for up to 10 positions on the Board of Directors. As per the records of previous AGMs, 9 of these positions are filled with terms ranging from 1-4 additional years inclusively.

Judith Bree  
Bill Morton  
Chris Hutt  
Craig Ono  
Gail Rice  
Sidney MacEwen  
Mel Anderson  
Dana Dineen  
Scott MacEwen

Members are invited to express their interest in volunteering with the Society through our various communications during the year. This year the SPHLS received an expression of interest from new member: Barbara Rousseau.

**A motion to officially approve the nomination of Barbara Rousseau as a Board Member at Large was put forward by Katie Sheahan in August and seconded by Gail Rice at the Zoom follow-up AGM meeting on Friday, Nov. 3rd, 2023.**

Note: Most Board meetings are conducted via Zoom throughout the fall, winter, spring with up to three in-person meetings during the summer months. Should anyone be considering volunteering with the SPHLS Board, please do not hesitate to contact President Bill Morton to express your interest.

## **Comments/Q&A**

Past President Gail Rice expressed thanks to members Alison Talbot and Jill Stevenson for their efforts in helping to get the Lighthouse restoration going back in the early days.

Donna Glass asked whether or not the Society has been able to access some of the photos of the early days at the Old Harbour. Indeed several of those photos have already been posted in the Heritage section of the SPHLS website. Of course, we welcome any new additions to the collection that members may wish to contribute.

Re: road maintenance, Bill Morton reported on behalf of Board member, Sidney MacEwen, that new road signage is coming. Maintenance to the road itself is on-going however any interventions to improve the road must consider the damage that could be done to protected habitats.

As it relates to how we contribute to the protection of the dunes, it was clarified that the dunes are not our purview. The dunes are the responsibility of the province. That said, we will be provided with new signage in this regard going forward.

A suggestion was made to consider installing signage that educates visitors about what damage occurs when they go 'off the paths'. **This issue was again discussed at the Zoom meeting in Nov. 2023 and remains a priority for follow up in the year ahead.**

As for safer travel on the road, it was asked again that we find some way of reducing risk at the blind corner whether it be clearing brush, adding a mirror, etc. This will be researched for the future.

It was acknowledged that the notoriety and increased visibility of the SPH Lighthouse will continue to present issues for the Society to address as it relates to road access, protection of the structure and site, and respect for the protected environment and habitats in its surroundings.

**New: Bill Morton proposed that we investigate holding the AGM earlier in August in future so that more SPHLS members might be able to attend. What needs to be clarified is whether or not our financial report will be available for presentation any earlier than the last week in August.**

**Bill also thanked Sid MacEwen for the work he did to have new signage installed at the top of the Lighthouse Rd. The sign indicates that neither school buses nor tour buses are permitted on the road. Bill followed up directly with the RCMP whether a call reporting violations of this rule would be enough for officers to assist at the scene and was informed that this would be the case.**

### **Adjournment & Closing Remarks:**

SPHLS members will be informed by email about the upcoming Zoom AGM follow-up meeting at which time all formal motions will put forward and recorded.

The Board and membership thanked Debbie Moore for hosting the post-AGM social at her home following the meeting.

