

Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners

Approved Minutes

Board of Directors' Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Joined on Zoom Ed Leach, Randy Barkhouse, Stewart Cameron (Recorder), Marilyn Klein, David Mercer, Patrick Nearing, Grace Paterson, Nancy Pitts, Peter Wallace (Chair), David Tindall

Regrets Susan Holmes

In the absence of Heather the meeting was opened by Peter at 14:00 hours

1. **The Agenda** There were no changes to the previously circulated agenda.

2. **Previous Minutes** *Moved by Randy, seconded by Ed that the minutes of March 21, 2023, be adopted as circulated. Carried*

Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) **Reflections on the AGM** – Attendees offered comments on the recent Annual General Meeting at the Killam Library. Despite some technical issues, it was suggested by several people that we should be doing this hybrid approach for all AGM's. Several commented that it was rewarding to meet people face to face and have the personal connection again. There was general agreement it was a civil, productive and positive meeting. Some regretted that people didn't stay around longer after the meeting to socialize. It was felt by some that the room was not that conducive to socializing.

b) **Social Committee** - addition to by-laws.

Deferred.

3. **President's Report** – Heather Schellinck.

Deferred in Heather's absence.

Meeting with Advancement

4. **Treasurer's Report** – Ed Leach

We have learned that Visa does not generate statements unless there is activity in the account; this is why several monthly statements were not available for the audit by Grace. A term deposit worth \$11k is maturing in November. The checking account balance at the end of April is just over \$3k and deposits continue to go directly into the account at the rate of about \$1k per month. The Dalhousie account is just under \$4.4k. *Moved by Ed, seconded by David that we accept the treasurer's report. Carried*

5. **Other Reports**

A. **Benefits** – Peter Wallace.

There has been little activity on the part of this committee in the last two months, but a meeting may be called soon. The new representative for under-65 retirees is Anne Marie White. The Employee Benefits Advisory Committee has a meeting on the 21st of June. There is a desire to cover the Shingrix shingles vaccine for early retiree participants in the Health Plan. In response to a question from Randy about the reaction to the increased fees, Peter stated the only feedback he'd gotten was that it did not represent a burden to one member.

B. Communications

Communications Committee - Stewart Cameron.

The group has not met owing to Stewart's unavailability in April and will resume efforts on document archiving and brand identity this summer. Peter offered a personal opinion from his experience endorsing the importance of branding.

Stewart is developing a page for the website on "Reasons to join the ADRP" and we will consider a pamphlet as part of the branding exercise.

Webmaster - Stewart Cameron.

Nancy did not see the posting on the July 20th Agricultural Campus tour. Stewart reported that it had been placed on the website. He will follow this up with Nancy.

Newsletter - Marilyn Klein

Marilyn reported that the deadline for the summer newsletter will be the 23rd of May.

C. Pension Advisory Committee – Randy Barkhouse.

As previously submitted, there has been a hiatus on activity since February. Randy suggested perhaps we could pledge support to the DFA for the upcoming negotiations. Heather could write a letter offering nominal support, or even financial support. There was a suggestion this be done sooner than later. Randy also spoke to the anticipated discussions on the "One Fund Proposal". He felt that if there is a merger of the Retirees Trust Fund (RTF, which pays out pensions) and the Pension Trust Fund (PTF, into which employee contributions are made), any surplus in the RTF should go to pensioners. Randy felt this position should be a condition of our support. There was support for this position. It should be fed to DFA as part of our offer of support.

D. Membership – Heather Schellinck.

Deferred in Heather's absence.

E. Seniors' College of NS – Nancy Pitts

The spring semester is wrapping up. 2 hybrid classes were offered from HRM this term. At the last AGM, new membership categories were announced for nursing homes, both for-profit and non-profit. There has been considerable discussion about fees for single courses as well as semester-based fees, but no decisions were made. SCANS was successful in getting a federal New Horizons Grant to create a new chapter in rural NS and to strengthen our technical resources. Chapters are now given a budget. Meetings of rural chapter coordinators are now taking place.

Nancy sought clarity for the autumn tour of the Agriculture Campus being promoted by the Advancement Office. Ed thought it was inappropriate for advancement to send their recent letter. He felt it was inappropriate of them to mirror our events for their purposes, or to co-brand activities we have organized. While we remain open to cooperation, we should remain separate from them. Others were equally rankled or confused. Some speculated that this may be lack of awareness on the part of their new leadership. It was suggested that the Advancement Office was not clear on the distinction between alumni and retirees. This might be an opportunity to inform them about how we see cooperation proceeding.

F. CURAC Conference – Randy Barkhouse

The national meeting is slated for two weeks time and we will send 3 delegates: Heather, Susan, and David Zitner

G. Socials – Susan Holmes

i. May 27, 9:00 am, French Basin Marsh Trail - Walk, birdwatching, Historic Gardens with guides – Annapolis Royal; Lunch: Junction Sixteen, Bridgetown

ii. June 21 & 26, 9:00 am – Intro to Pickle Ball, Dalplex – Pat Nearing has 2 registrants so far. 2 courts are booked for each day and they can handle 8-12 registrants. Pat added that they could add some sports events once varsity season starts again.

iii. July 20 – Community Day Agricultural Campus – Bus (Heather)?

iv. August – Shakespeare by the Sea

v. September 23 - Peter Wallace: Interpreting the Ancient Environment of Horton Bluff Rocks & Fossils; Lunch: Lockett's Vineyard. Peter led a recent 3-hour field trip there with the Blomidon Naturalist Society and had a very successful outing.

vi. October 11, 7:30 – Star Gazing, York Redoubt, hosted by David Hoskins

vii. Nancy Pitts – Truro Monthly Coffee Socials

New Business None

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consensus.