

ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS

Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Thursday, September 17th, 2020, 10:00 am

Virtual via Zoom

1. Call to Order

President, Oralee O'Byrne, called the meeting to order at 10:04am, starting with Land Acknowledgement and a Welcome. Anita Price reviewed AGM Zoom logistics and advised that AGM documentation is available on the ANSM website: <https://ansm.ns.ca/ansm-annual-general-meeting-2020.html.html>. Poll showed 32 ANSM Members were in attendance. Quorum was determined.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Lisa Wolfe and seconded by Susan Marchand-Terrio. Poll showed 100% approval. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Annual General Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2019

Secretary Judy Frotten read the minutes from September 19, 2019. Oralee O'Byrne made the motion to approve the minutes and Lisa Wolfe seconded. Poll showed 30 (yes) and 3 (abstentions). Motion carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 ANSM Membership Fee Structure

Katie Tanner presented the proposed revised fee structure on behalf of the finance committee. Categories are: Institutional memberships, with fees ranging from \$100 to \$500 according to budgets; Individual memberships, including student and virtual memberships, ranging from \$25 to \$50; Corporate membership for \$500, as supporters of ANSM. ANSM Board approved this Fee structure and decided to wait until 2021 to incorporate the new fees due to Covid-19 pandemic.

4.2 Bursary Program

Anita Price advised that we had decided at last year's AGM to use left over funds from Muse-Fund wrap-up to set up a bursary program, however due to the pandemic, all in-person workshops have been cancelled. It is still ANSM's intention to form a committee to build this Bursary program and make it available next year.

4.3 Heritage Strategy for Nova Scotia

Anita Price advised that the strategy or council concept keeps coming up. As a result of last year's decision to endorse the dialogue around a heritage strategy, a group representing heritage organizations met in January, guided by Andrea Arbic who volunteered as consultant. The meeting was not conclusive, with more conversation required to move this forward. At the tail end of these discussions, we went into the pandemic, so we are in abeyance mode. We at least started the process to have conversations with other heritage organizations and hope to move forward with this sometimes in the future.

5. Annual Reports

5.1 President's Report

Oralee O'Byrne presented her report, acknowledging the difficulties and challenges of the past year, and speaking on ANSM's many accomplishments and successes, including Museum Evaluation Program,

Accreditation, Advisory services, Nova Muse, etc. She commended ANSM staff for being so reactive at the start of the pandemic in order to adapt immediately to online platforms. She thanked Anita & staff and the Board, congratulated the Accredited museums, thanked the Membership for their continued support. She acknowledged support from Nova Scotia Communities, Culture and Heritage, as well as Canadian Heritage and their Museum Assistance Program. Oralee is finishing her last term on the Board and says she is proud of ANSM's accomplishments and their leadership role in the museum world.

Oralee O'Byrne moved to accept the President's report. Angela Saunders seconded. Poll showed 29 (yes) and 3 (abstentions). Motion carried.

5.2 Presentation of the Annual Report

Anita Price presented her Executive Director's Annual Report, reminding everyone that the report can be found on the website. ANSM has been extremely busy in the past year. Touching on salient points: Beacons have gone out regularly; website is an active communication tool for ANSM (and they continuously add to Resources section); NovaMuse-collections website, tied to Advisory service, continues to evolve and grow. On the training front, 3-year cycle of Core Curriculum continues to be offered, as well as other workshops such as "Care of Textile Workshop" as offered by CCI – though these are moving to virtual format due to the pandemic. We are excited to partner with national partners on a Panel for Museums on Social Justice later this fall, to discuss the many important issues that have come up. Our Indigenous symposium planned for this year has been postponed, most likely for 2 years, to give much time to have deep and honest conversations, and hopefully have the symposium when Covid-19 is not an issue. Engagement Map in the Annual report shows how ANSM is involved with sites province-wide, with training, site visits, evaluations. Proud that over 100 museums are participating in Evaluation program, including NS Museums. Accreditation was launched this year, with four sites receiving the recognition. Anita asked if there were any questions regarding her report (there were none).

Anita thanked staff for their dedication and hard work, including a special thanks to Jennifer Winter and Sandi Stewart, who have moved on to new endeavours. She also thanked the Board, the many committee members and volunteers, as well as colleagues across the county.

Pauline MacLean moved to accept the Executive Director's Annual report. Lisa Wolfe seconded. Poll showed 28 (yes) and 3 (abstentions). Motion carried.

5.3 Financial Report – Financial Statements

Katie Tanner presented an overview of the financial report. She indicated that it is business as usual, except that there was an over expenditure as a result of a budgeting error (benefits for salaries should have been included). This has been covered by unrestricted surplus. ANSM is working on a strict/tight budget for next year, due to Covid-19.

Katie Tanner moved to accept the report. Lisa Wolfe seconded. Poll showed 30 (yes) and 3 (abstentions). Motion carried.

Appointment of Auditors for 2020/2021 Fiscal Year:

Katie Tanner moved to appoint Mitchell L. Miller, CA as auditor for 2020/2021 fiscal period. Seconded by Lisette Aucoin. Poll showed 30 (yes) and 4 (abstentions). Motion carried.

6. Election of Directors – Report of Nominating Committee

Members of ANSM Board Nomination Committee were: Judy Frotten (Chair), Oralee O'Byrne, Katherine MacLeod, and Terry Eyland. As Chair, Judy presented the report on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

Four Directors' terms are up in 2020: Oralea O'Byrne (finished her last 2-year term); Marla Webber (not re-offering); Del Muise (re-offering); Katie Tanner (re-offering). Judy Frotten is also stepping down (1 year early). **Therefore, there are 3 Board vacancies.** Nominations opened in April with Aug. 14 deadline. Four strong nominations were received. Nomination packages were shared with the Committee who met by Accutel on Aug.16. The Nominating Committee would like to recommend these candidates as the new ANSM Board Directors: Barry Rodenhiser, Lisa Wolfe, Joyce Rankin. (Note: Short biographies of the new Directors were shared during the presentation).

The Nominating Committee would further recommend that the following Directors be elected to fill the following offices for the coming year: Lisa Wolfe – President, Angela Saunders – Vice-President, Katie Tanner – Treasurer, Dr. Peter Cullen – Secretary

Therefore, the slate of Board Directors for 2020/2021 is:

Lisa Wolfe, President
Angela Saunders, Vice President
Katie Tanner, Treasurer / Central Region Director
Dr. Peter Cullen, Secretary / SW Region Director
Joe Ballard, NE Region Director
Joyce Rankin, CB Region Director
Del Muise, Director at Large
Barry Rodenhiser, Director at Large

Oralea made the request for nominations from the floor (asked three times). No further nominations.

Judy Frotten moved to accept the nominating committee report to elect the Directors and appoint the Officers, as presented. Seconded by Katherine McLeod. Poll showed 28 (yes) and 3 (abstentions). Motion carried.

7. Appointment of Nominating Committee Chair for 2021 AGM

Peter Cullen moved to appoint Lisa Wolfe as Chair of Nominating Committee for 2020/2021. Seconded by Barry Rodenhiser. Poll showed 28 (yes) and 3 (abstentions). Motion carried.

8. Other Business

8.1 Outgoing Board members

Katie Tanner kindly thanked outgoing ANSM Board Directors: Marla Webber (served 4 years), Oralea O'Byrne (served 6 years), Judy Frotten (served 5 years).

Adjournment

Joyce Rankin moved to adjourn at 11:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Frotten,
ANSM Board Secretary

NOTE: After the AGM, there was a video of Lieutenant Governor presenting ANSM's Award for Excellence in Museum Practices, Individual Contribution, to Debra McNabb, retired Director for Museum of Industry in Stellarton, NS. After the presentation, Katie Tanner presented the ANSM Award Committee Report.