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**Niagara Historical Society**

**127th Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 6 pm**

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome and confirmation of a quorum (George Webber)
   1. Present: With Directors, Members in person and Members online, a quorum was declared.
   2. George welcomed everyone to the 127th Annual General Meeting of the Niagara Historical Society.
   3. George conveyed regrets from the President, Mona Babin, who was unable to attend in person due to Covid.
2. Approval of the Minutes (David Hemmings)

**MOTION: (Alex Topps, Judy Thornton)**

**To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of October 14, 2021.**

**Passed**

1. President's Report **Mona Babin** 
   1. Sarah Kaufman read the President’s report from Mona Babin, which had not been circulated prior to the meeting.
2. Town Representative Report **Allan Bisback** 
   1. No report
   2. Ted commented that Allan was unable to attend, as he had other obligations (i.e. the election) but that he had attended every meeting of the Board and provided valuable advice.
3. Finance and Administration Committee Report **Ted Rumble** 
   1. Ted’s Report
      1. Set up capital campaign chequing and savings accounts.
         1. Separate accounts for operating vs. capital campaign makes bookkeeping cleaner.
      2. Set up electronic banking.
         1. Since all transactions require two signatures, this was a challenge.
         2. Now up and running so we can do almost all transactions online.
      3. Investment policy
         1. Sandra Aversa has undertaken to develop an investment policy.
      4. Line of Credit
         1. The capital campaign income (donations and grants) may not coincide with our expenses, so we may run temporary deficits during construction.
         2. We are currently researching our options with respect to arranging a line of credit.
      5. Human Resources
         1. The committee determined that funding is available for a part-time person to be increased to full time. In addition, we will provide increased benefits for our staff (dental and eye care)
      6. Cash position is strong.
   2. Amy presented the Budget for 2023, which had previously been circulated
      1. She explained some of the numbers presented
      2. No questions from the membership

**MOTION: (Ted Rumble, George Webber) To appoint Bridgman & Durksen as our auditors for the 2023 fiscal year.**

**Passed**

1. Membership and Operational Fundraising Committee Report **George Webber** 
   1. Report circulated in advance.
   2. Membership
      1. Membership has increased
      2. We now have 10 “Loyalty Partners” (merchants who offer a discount to museum members.
   3. Fundraising
      1. Polo this year raised over $60,000 – thanks to Amy and staff for wonderful work
      2. History in the Vineyard events led by Mona Babin have been successful. Another event, this time in person, is planned for November 30th.
2. Physical Plant and Planning Committee Report **Jim McArthur** 
   1. As reported
3. Publications & Communications Report **John Sayers** 
   1. No report
4. Governance Committee Report **Judy Thornton** 
   1. As reported
5. Capital Project – Planning & Logistics Committee **Alexander Topps** 
   1. After a lot of work and many meetings, the Site Plan Agreement with the Town has been finalized and is about to be signed, allowing us to proceed with the expansion.
   2. Now looking at Building Permit applications.
   3. Earliest possible date to start construction is May 2023, but the fall of 2023 is more likely.
6. Capital Fundraising Committee **Sarah Kaufman/Peter McKinley (Global Philanthropic)**
   1. Sarah explained how the expansion will allow
      1. increased exhibition space,
      2. accessibility to everyone,
      3. new research space,
      4. a multi-purpose lecture hall, and
      5. increased storage space.
   2. Sarah showed the concept video of the planned expansion.
   3. Peter explained how volunteers have been making connections for us to further our fundraising meetings with prospective donors.
   4. Comment from the floor – there is an opportunity to rent space for corporate events, and the expansion should be planned to allow for this.
   5. Question from the floor – “What about parking?” Sarah explained that we are not required to provide additional parking as part of the expansion, and we will continue to rely on street parking.
   6. Sarah invited members who may wish to donate to the expansion fund to contact her or Peter.
7. Managing Director's Report/Collections Report **Sarah Kaufman** 
   1. Sarah summarized her detailed report circulated in advance.
   2. We received three Niagara Advance Reader’s Choice Awards this year (museum, kids camp, summer camp)
   3. We also received the Ontario Museum Association award for Excellence in Publications for our Making Her Mark book.
   4. Photographic Memories exhibition was very successful; current All Along the Waterfront exhibit has also been very successful.
   5. Museum visitors increased over 2020, which was a Covid year.
   6. Our social media numbers increased as well.
   7. 70% of people open our weekly e-blast, which is remarkable.
   8. The Poppy Project was well received in 2021, and will be presented again in 2022
   9. Tiny Museum up and running with over 4000 visitors.
   10. Collections 23 donors, 76 items
       1. We received the Jim Smith collection of historic photographs of Niagara-on-the-Lake.
   11. Digitization of our collection is now up to 18,000.
       1. Will eventually be available online.
   12. Volunteer Awards Ontario Volunteer Service Awards
       1. Steven Baxter
       2. Judy Thornton
       3. Rene Bertschi
       4. Gail Santsche
       5. George Dell
       6. Peggy Bell
   13. New signage erected.
8. Report from the Nominations Committee **David Hemmings**

**The following are proposed for the new Board**

President - Mona Babin

Vice President - Alexander Topps

Treasurer - Sandra Aversa

Secretary - Ted Rumble

Director - Ben A. Buholtz

Director - Stewart Hall

Director - Paul Harber

Director - Tim Johnson

Director - Jim McArthur

Director - George Webber

Nominated Director - Laurie Harley

**MOTION: (Alex Topps, Stewart Hall) To accept the new slate for the 2022-2023 Nominating Committee**

**Passed**

1. **Closing Comments (George Webber)**
   1. George thanked the many people who contribute to the success of our museum, including Staff, Directors, and Volunteers.
2. Adjournment

**MOTION: (Ted Rumble, Gail Santsche) To adjourn the meeting**

**Passed.**

**Important Dates:**

**October 20-22:** Cemetery Tours 6:30 & 7:30pm

**October 24:** Famous and Infamous

**November 1-14:** The NOTL Poppy Project

**November 2:** Doc Club, 10 am

**November 28:** Famous and Infamous

**November 30:** History in the Vineyard @ Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery 5:30pm

**December 3 & 4:** Rotary Holiday House Tour

**December 7:** Doc Club, 10 am

**December 18 – January 1:** Museum closed.