



Annual General Meeting
Monday, March 24, 2021, 7 pm
Held Virtually with GoTo Meetings Platform

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Patricia Wallace, John Green, Geoff Dawe, Anna Kroeplin, Peter Styrmo, Ronen Grunberg, Alan Lambert, Jeff Thom.

Staff: Kathleen Vahey – Curator, Julie Preston – Administrative Assistant.

Members: Helen Burlanette, John Smale, Alicia Cherayil, Dan Revington, Claude Arcand, Helen Roberts, Jacqueline Stuart, Jan Stainer-White, John Bare, Yves Larouche, Bob McRoberts, Lissa Dwyer, Joan Gardner, Laureen Campbell, Erika Baird, James Hoyes, Lori Hoyes, Dianne Grassie, Dan McGeown, Bill Newman, Martin Paivio, Michelle, Primeau.

Town Representatives: Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Humfryes, Councillor Gaertner, Robin McDougall- Director, Shawna White – Director.

1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:01 p.m.

At 7:01 p.m., the President declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The President read a formal acknowledgement in honour of and recognizing Indigenous Peoples with respect to treaty lands.

3. WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

The President welcomed Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Humfryes, Councillor Gaertner and Town staff, as well as special guests and AHS members who were in attendance.

Patricia reviewed protocols for the virtual meeting and that it will be recorded for documentation. There will be a reverse voting system in place due to the virtual platform. Questions and comments will be taken at the end of the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Helen Roberts, seconded by Helen Burlanette,
THAT the AGM's agenda be approved as presented.

Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved by Bob McRoberts, seconded by Ronen Grunberg,
THAT the past Minutes from the February 10, 2020 AGM be approved.

Carried.



6. MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Mrakas was honoured to join tonight's AGM and acknowledged Councillor Humfryes and Councillor Gaertner who were in attendance as well. He recognized that during the long continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, AHS had to change ways to operate, along with other community groups, businesses and schools. He is proud of how Aurora quickly adapted to implementing new methods and procedures to operate safely.

He acknowledged the dedicated AHS volunteers with their strong commitment to Aurora's history and preservation of Hillary House. He sincerely thanked AHS for its ongoing contributions, and extended a special thanks to the AHS Board for continuing to help generations learn about our town.

7. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President listed accomplishments and sound business decisions undertaken by the AHS Board and staff during a very challenging year due to the COVID pandemic.

The finalized version of the AHS Strategic Plan will be available soon that focuses on new priorities on education, preservation and restoration.

Collaborations with community partners, the Town, and governing bodies have been strengthened and appreciated over the last year. The President thanked the AHS Board, volunteers, Council, Town staff, and members for their support and work this year. She also thanked new Curator, Kathleen Vahey and Administrative Assistant, Julie Preston for their outstanding work this year.

The Readman House lands that neighbours directly south of Hillary House, will be under development in the near future. The AHS Board has been working with the owners to come to a mutually beneficial agreement that strengthens Hillary House as a National heritage site, with approval from the Ontario Heritage Trust. It is anticipated that the developer's plans will be submitted to the Town's Planning Department in 2021.

This year, all focus will be on restoration of the Hillary House, therefore the re-erection of the Coach House has been delayed indefinitely. The Restoration Working Group will provide further details on restoration plans.

Parks Canada will honour its agreement from decades ago to repair and maintain the exterior fence parallel to Yonge Street. Work is to commence this Spring.

The President thanked the Town for erecting AHS's new "Museum" street banners.



8. CURATOR'S REPORT

Kathleen Vahey reported that in early 2020, there were successful events until the COVID lockdown in March prevented any further in-person programs or event. There were then extensive preparations for reopening plans and virtual opportunities.

- Christine Elliott MPP toured Hillary House.
- Canada Summer Jobs grant was approved for an Intern from Fleming College
- Collections management projects continued and accounted 450 additional objects.
- We engaged the community in meaningful ways virtually and through social media with videos and postings.
- The transcribing project was successful in the past and has started up again.
- 65 volunteers provided 3,260 hours of work in 2020.
- The Gift Shop did well this year and was repainted and refreshed.
- We held a successful online auction.
- The AHS website was relaunched.
- Hillary House was the backdrop of wedding photos, which we plan to continue.
- We are looking forward to offering more virtual programs and will continue to participate in Town events and collaborations.

9. FUNDRAISERS 2021

The President reported that AHS is planning a virtual Mother's Day tea in May, a golf tournament in June, a virtual Scotch Tasting in September, as well as a Harvest Tea in September. (Dates to be determined.) Patricia called for volunteers to help organize and run a virtual Hillary House Ball on October 23rd.

10. LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE – John Bare, Chair

John Bare referred to photos of the grounds and listed all of the improvements he and his team of outstanding volunteers undertook in 2020. He thanked volunteers, students, the Aurora Garden Club, the Town of Aurora, and local companies that donated/discounted materials and supplies, such as New Roots and Rent Source.

Some major improvements were the re-laying of the front brick pathway, and the installation of garden lights and exterior lighting.

The President thanked Mr. Bare and his team and noted she received many comments about the beautiful gardens.

11. RESTORATION WORKING GROUP

Al Lambert thanked John Green and Peter Styrmø for their vast knowledge of Hillary House and their work in this group. They have been working with ERA Architects to identify restoration priorities of Hillary House that align with AHS's Strategic Plan. This summer, the



Verandah Restoration Project will commence as it is architecturally significant in Canada. The Scope of Work and specs have been prepared for the tender to go out soon, with work to commence this summer.

Moved by Erika Baird, seconded by Lissa Dwyer
THAT all reports as presented be received with thanks. Carried.

12. TREASURERS REPORT

Geoff Dawe noted that a clerical amendment was recently made to the 2020 Unaudited Financial Statement, (fund balances were reversed on the 2019 and 2020 totals). He reviewed the reports in detail.

He reported that AHS finances are solid due controlled spending and receiving various grants and subsidies from all levels of government, as well as many donations from members. A new bookkeeper has been hired, a different accounting software has been installed, and AHS now has a credit card.

Moved by Geoff Dawe, seconded by John Smale,
THAT the 2019 Audited Financial Statements be approved. Carried.

Moved by Geoff Dawe, seconded by John Smale,
THAT the 2020 Unaudited Financial Statement be received. Carried.

Moved by Geoff Dawe, seconded by John Green
THAT Bateman, Graham & Fitzpatrick CPA's be appointed as the 2021 Auditors for AHS. Carried.

13. BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Jeff Thom reviewed the recommended Bylaw amendments that will bring them into conformity with Federal and Provincial regulations guidelines, and will reduce duplication and increase consistency and clarity of language.

Moved by Jeff Thom, seconded by Anna Kroepin,
THAT the bylaw amendments be approved as presented. Carried.

14. 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The President reported that the Board received two resignations in 2020 from Stan Neal and Paul Martin, and that terms are concluding for John Green, Peter Styrmo and Anna Kroepin. She thanked all for their dedicated service to the AHS Board.



15. NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

Geoff Dawe, Chair of the Nominations Committee, explained the process for potential candidates to be elected to the AHS Board. Advertisements were posted in print and on the website and social media. Applications were received and vetted, then the successful candidates were interviewed by the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Dawe summarized the selected candidates' relevant experiences that would be beneficial to serve on the AHS Board.

Moved by Geoff Dawe, seconded by Al Lambert,
THAT the recommended slate of Director Candidates be approved for 3-year terms,
being Dan McGeowan, Martin Paivio, Michelle Primeau and Jan Stainer-White. Carried.

Moved by Geoff Dawe, seconded by Peter Styrmø,
THAT Ronen Gruenberg's term be extended for 1 year as an AHS Board Director. Carried.

The President thanked and welcomed the new AHS Board members. She noted that the first Board meeting will be March 25, 2021 to elect titles.

16. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Jan Stainer-White noted that she has seen beautiful improvements to Hillary House with its new lighting and colourful gardens. She is very excited to be elected to the AHS Board.

Erika Baird congratulated the AHS Board, staff and volunteers for their outstanding efforts to support Hillary House and the Historical Society during the COVID pandemic. She commended the leadership of Patricia Wallace.

17. ADJOURNMENT – 8:06 p.m.

Moved by Lissa Dwyer,
THAT the Annual General Meeting be adjourned at 8:06 p.m.