

**Brant Historical Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 25, 2018  
Brant Museum and Archives, 57 Charlotte St., Brantford  
Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Tim Philp (Chair), Leisah Marie Jansen, Jean Kendall, Willy Hilgendag (Treasurer), Annette Minutillo (Secretary)

**Regrets:** John Anderson, Colleen Armstrong, Doug Summerhayes

**Absent:** Michael St. Amant (Past President)

**Staff:** No staff present.

1. **Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.**

2. **Additions to Agenda - none**

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved by Leisah Marie Jansen and seconded by Jean Kendall that the Agenda for the Meeting be approved. Carried unanimously.**

4. **Approval of the Minutes of the June 26, 2018 Directors meeting** (sent previously) as amended with Lisa's name corrected at #3.

**Moved by Jean Kendall and seconded by Willy Hilgendag that the Minutes of the June 26, 2018 meeting be approved as amended. Carried unanimously.**

**Approval of the Minutes of the August 1, 2018 Directors meeting** (sent previously).

**Moved by Leisah Marie Jansen and seconded by Jean Kendall that the Minutes of the August 1, 2018 meeting be approved. Carried unanimously.**

5. **Executive Director's Report - Tim Philp**

Tim reported that BHS has been awarded a Cultural and Built Heritage Grant in the amount of \$107,699.17 for repairs to the roof, electrical system, and other enhancements for the museum. The Board was clearly appreciative, and Tim noted that these were 100% dollars. The roof repair will start sometime this fall; Tim is just waiting a signed contract from the City. The building will be wired for security cameras as part of the electrical upgrades, which will be a big job for staff. In addition to mapping out the locations of plugs and lighting, the entire attic will need to be emptied as the attic floor will have to be taken up to complete the electrical renovations. Tim shared that the server is now at 30% capacity as staff digitize the archives. Hopefully these files will start to become available on-line within the next few years. The capacity of the system will need to be increased within a year to stay ahead of demand. Tim also recommended that sometime this year new hard drives are added to the old server as a backup - this can then be constantly synchronized. Tim noted that a cleanup of archives space is underway to better organize workflow.

The Docent program needs more volunteers and Tim requested that Jean share this information with the Events Committee in the hopes they may be able to assist in finding new volunteers.

Gift shop is not performing as well as needed. We need to make that work or give it over to theatre space. The theatre will have large mounted TV (about \$2000) which will give history of Brantford/Brant as grounding for tours.

Tim raised the possibility of book publishing as a source of revenue. Dave Levac's history as Speaker would be good project (written by Levac and Tim Philp). Tim will approach Bill Hanna about assisting in this and the Board was supportive of Tim pursuing this.

There was some discussion around the mask that used to be mounted on the front of the building. There is a need to have something that will draw attention to the Museum. Leisah noted that there was some controversy around it when it was taken down. Tim will approach Six Nations Band Council and if we are unable to reinstate it, will discuss partnering with Six Nations to commission something new that would be equally iconic.

**Moved by Annette Minutillo and seconded by Leisah Marie Jansen that the Executive Director's Report be received. Carried unanimously**

6. **Treasurer's Report** - Financials were circulated at the meeting.

Willy shared his pleasure regarding the grant that recently came from the city and BHS will look to the City for increased funding going forward. BHS has received the loan from Enterprise Brant, but has not yet paid back the Endowment Fund Loan. There is still some question as to what the endowment funds can be used for, and the Board may need to go to the membership to re-evaluate the parameters of its mandate. There is still some money coming in from Myrtleville for programming and additional funds for student placements is still expected.

**Moved by Willy Hilgendag and seconded by Jean Kendall that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Carried unanimously**

**ACTION:** Annette will circulate a copy of the Endowment Fund By-Laws to the Board.

7. **Member Event Planning Committee**

Jean Kendall shared on the event 'Day With The Attiindaron' - 20 people attended and it was very well received. A great event which should be repeated.

She noted that the Committee had met on September 5 to plan for the Speaker event on October 4, (Gary Baldston - Ploughshares to Swords) which will be held at Myrtleville. An All Hallows Night event at Myrtleville is also being planned as a murder mystery. It was noted that there is no space for the speaker series at the museum until after the electrical renovations etc are completed (to continue at Myrtleville for now). Jean confirmed that using Myrtleville instead of downtown has reduced the number of attendees.

The Board would like to support a Christmas event early in December, perhaps a wine and cheese, which is hoped to be organized by the event committee. It would be held at the museum for members and volunteers.

**ACTION:** Jean and Event Committee will pick date and provide a budget to Tim

**Moved by Jean Kendall and seconded by Annette Minutillo that the Event Committee Report be received. Carried unanimously**

**8. No Business arising from the Meeting of June 26, 2018**

**9. New Business**

- a. George Brown - Willy Hilgendag shared a bit of background about George Brown, offering numerous reasons why BHS should celebrate him on the anniversary of his birthday November 29, 1818. The Board fully supports such an event and would suggest using the front gallery room for display. This will also meet the expectation to rotate displays.

ACTION: **Tim** will give Nathan the head's up that such an event will be happening

ACTION: **Willy** will connect with Nathan and Lilia to plan and coordinate the exhibit space

ACTION: **Willy** and **Tim** will create a video about George Brown that can be shown

- b. Approve change of meeting date to Wednesdays  
Since the next meeting is Halloween we will continue with Tuesday for October. Tim may have a conflict for Tuesdays. The Board will discuss the move to Wednesdays at the October meeting.

**10. No Announcements**

**Next Meeting: October 30, 2018**

**Jean Kendall moved that the Meeting be adjourned at 8:15 pm**

TP/am