

MAHONE BAY CENTRE
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, March 20, 2017 at 7 p.m.
at the Mahone Bay Centre

Present:

Michael Saker (Chairman), Teresa Patterson, Veryan Haysom, Anne Harrison, Bryan Palfreyman, John Perry, Roxanne Lindsay, Helen Steenburgh,

Regrets: Moira Devereaux, Ted Hobson, John Merchant,

Guests: Paul Seltzer, Honourary Chairman

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Mahone Bay Centre Board of Directors was called to order at 7:05p.m. by Chairman, Michael Saker.

2. MINUTES

2.1 Approval of Minutes

MOVED by John Perry that the minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2017 be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Veryan Haysom. Carried

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.1 Financial

Helen Steenburgh reviewed the financial report which showed an unencumbered cash balance of \$12,372. This is quite tight, particularly as it will be six weeks or so before we receive the ACOA grant for the boiler. The Father Christmas Fantasy World money has yet to be received from the Chamber of Commerce (expenses still coming in).

An annual operating grant application from MODL in the amount of \$12,000 has been submitted. A decision is not expected until sometime in June

MOVED by Bryan Palfreyman that the financial report be accepted as submitted. Seconded by Roxanne Lindsay. Carried

3.2 Executive Report

The chairman read a report on the important steps underway to find a new home for the MBC's Helping.

“The board last met Monday 6 Mar to discuss Veryan’s Option paper entitled HH Where to from Here? – Round 2. While we didn’t vote on the options, it was apparent that the majority agreed that the best option was to migrate the

service to an organization whose purpose was more aligned to this type of service. The VON, as suggested by Ted, seemed to be the first logical candidate.

Ted contacted me to ask what was decided; he was meeting with his advisory committee on Wednesday the 15th. I reported the outcome via email and offered to attend his meeting to explain our situation.

Ted opened the meeting by making introductions and then reading his email wherein he indicated his resignation from the board in the weeks to come. He then turned the floor over to me and I explained the reasons for the difficult decision we had to make. Questions ensued. Why can't you expand the MBC's mandate? (as explained we don't think it is in the best interests of the Centre). Can they have our options paper? --- no, it's confidential but we can make it available for them to read should they so wish. What is to happen with the socialization aspects of HH which has proven so beneficial etc. I was then allowed to leave so they could turn their attention to considering what to do next.

That evening Leslie sent Ted and me the following email: Good afternoon Gents,

First I wanted to commend you on how you both handled a very difficult conversation in such a sensitive and diplomatic way this morning. It was very evident how hard it was for the both of you. It was also very evident, to me at least, how much you both respect and value each other.

With that being said I wanted to end a day that got off to a fairly negative start on a positive note by letting you know that my meeting with Stephanie from VON went very well. It is looking very favorable that VON will be able to take on the transportation piece of our current Helping Hands program. Stephanie plans to set up a meeting with the VON board for next week when Steve returns and pitch the transition to them. Of course there will be many details to sort out but I think this is the first step in the right direction for everyone.

I met with Ted yesterday morning (the 19th). He will consult with Stephanie and Steve midweek and I have offered to attend. He mentioned the desirability of having a (written) story line regarding our decision and why we reached it. Veryan has offered to craft one." (end of report).

Following Mike's report Paul Seltzer expressed his feelings about all that Ted had done for the Helping Hands project. Paul further mentioned the good spirit and cooperation of the board on many levels from the beginning the of Helping Hands pilot project until now. He commented that many Helping Hands grants came about because of the Mahone Bay Centre's involvement. The chairman acknowledged all of the good that has come from Ted's efforts and the benefits being derived by our citizens in need. The issue at hand was not whether Helping Hands should continue; rather it was who is best situated to ensure the survival of Helping Hands as it continues to grow and expand.

3.3 Property

Mike reported that he is very impressed with Bailly's installation and start-up of the new boiler. In the process it became evident that the control system purchased in 2010 with the first replacement boiler was never properly installed: the full scope of controls had never been hooked up. The new boiler now carries the base load with the 2010 steel boiler on standby. The heating system water temperature is automatically adjusted to compensate for outside ambient temperature (a control feature that was always available but never set up). This should save fuel consumption and avoid overheating of the building during the swing seasons (spring and fall).

3.4 Rentals

Bryan reported that the Independent School has talked about future needs with the possibility that they will add grades eleven and twelve. Three grades are currently in one room. There is a ½ room available at the moment but they may need another large classroom. The school may also want to sublet their space in the summer.

3.5 Communications

The seven day schedule currently posted in the lobby is now also posted on the website. Kelly will administer this.

It was noted that the Town of Mahone Bay has learned that Pleasant and Clayburn Streets will be dug up simultaneously this summer. It is suggested that we work with the Town to promote free parking availability at the Centre. It should be up to the Town to provide signage to that effect.

3.6 Fundraising

The band has been booked for the June 23, 2017 event.

3.7 Program

Anne Harrison reported that the café is going well. There is a tiny tots program, sing-a-longs, bridge and other card games, and a singles group which is run separately from the café.

3.8 Centre Fit

Roxanne Lindsay reported that membership is down a bit with 55 current members. This is normal for this time of the year.

4 NEW BUSINESS

With the pending loss of several board members, the chairman said an item regarding the need for new directors and other volunteers will be inserted in the April Newsletter. Some suggestions were made for possible directors.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by John Perry that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.
Seconded by Anne Harrison Carried

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, April 18, 2017. (Monday is Easter Monday).