

Mahone Bay Centre Society  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Mahone Bay Centre, Tuesday, June 22, 2004, 7:30 pm

1. David Puxley, Chair, called the annual general meeting to order.
2. The sign-in list shows 18 members present and several non-members.
3. Minutes of the 2003 AGM were approved as read on motion by B. Douglas/K. Towse.
4. Agenda was approved as circulated.
5. Annual Report from the Chair: David acknowledged that this year has been characterized by challenges and victories. On the positive side, we expect to have a new employee soon in the office, we anticipate the possibility of a sizeable grant in the near future as well as the possibility of a significant new tenant, and we're enjoying better relationships with neighbours and the Town. David gave special thanks to all board members for their efforts, and particularly to Deborah Hickman who is stepping down after 5 years service, to Angela Bamford for her many volunteer hours keeping the office staffed, and to Penny Carver for her contributions in keeping the board on track. As well, David voiced appreciation for Gary Langille's enormous contribution of time and labour to the Building Management Committee.
6. Treasurer's Report: Keith Towse circulated the financial report noting that, while we still have a deficit, it is less than last year's. We've spent \$13,000.00 on developing the Youth Studio. We have received a grant from Service Nova Scotia to improve accessibility within the building and at the front door. We are in the final stages of receiving approval of major funding for refurbishing the exterior and developing the "old wing". We were right on target in anticipating the \$7500.00 deficit in 2003. Our 2004 budget shows income in excess of expenditure. The newly created Finance Committee has met several times and has been a great help to the Treasurer. Keith thanked Dick Crawford for his assistance with day-to-day financial matters and record-keeping. The Treasurer's report (attached) was approved on motion by Keith/Karen.
7. Youth Committee Report: Derrick Wickstrom reported that he has acted as interim liaison with the Youth Committee since our Youth Representative resigned earlier in the year. Derrick thanked Suzanne Lohnes-Croft, Gary Langille and Ron Hall for their dedicated efforts on behalf of the Youth Studio. He noted the committee's efforts to establish a core group of parents and youth to run activities in the Youth Studio. Funds have been obtained to hire a summer student who will conduct outreach activities this summer and run some weekly drop-ins. We hope to have the Youth Studio open on Friday and Saturday evenings in the Fall with different age groups each night. Derrick thanked the Anglican Choir Boys who donated \$200.00 to the Youth Studio.

8. Arts Committee Report: Deborah Hickman, Chair of the Arts Committee, thanked the Open House Committee – Thorne Sutherland, Sheldon Mitchell, Nancy Sherwood, Maria MacKenzie-Cann – for including an art show on the second floor during the open house. This art display stimulated a regrouping of the Arts Committee. The committee has been holding monthly meetings in the second floor common area where they plan to establish a permanent display area. The local branch of Visual Arts Nova Scotia will hold meetings here as well. The committee will hold rotating art shows, charging a small fee which will go towards improved lighting and display facilities.

Question from the floor: are only the visual arts represented on the Committee? Deborah replied that one committee member represents movement and dance and in other years there have been theatre projects. The questioner suggested that the term “culture” might provide a broader frame of reference.

Question from the floor: is the Irish artist coming to use Centre space? Deborah replied that she is coming although she did not receive the desired funding. A suggestion from the floor was to offer her free space for a few months as “Artist in Residence”. Another comment was that other tenants might question giving free space to a visiting artist.

9. Building Management Committee: Bob Douglas reported that the Youth Studio renovations are complete. The Centre has contributed materials for tenants’ project to improve the second floor common area with beautiful results. The Farmers’ Market will be at the Centre year-round and want to expand their activities to include attractions for children and youth. The market will use the Youth Studio in cold weather. We are currently negotiating with a major potential tenant for space in the old wing and anticipate that there will be arts activities in the attic in the future.
10. Community Kitchen Committee Report: No report available in the absence of a committee chair. D.Hickman noted that we have received a \$170.00 grant from the Town Recreation department designated for painting the kitchen. This money must be spent by the end of July.
11. Policies, Procedures and Charitable Status Committee: Penny Carver reported that the committee has met regularly through the year. The job descriptions of the board officers were completed with the approval of the Secretary’s job description. The committee prepared a draft policy on conflict resolution (which was approved by the board) and now is working on a code of conduct for directors. A complete revision and update of MBCS policies should be complete by late Fall.
12. Program and Special Events Committee: Sidney Lang thanked the committee and gave particular appreciation to Ellen Agger for her efforts to initiate a film series (unfortunately, the series did not get off the ground). The Big –Beef raffle and country dance were successful fundraisers. Sidney recommended that the Centre do more collaborative fund-raising efforts with tenants. The Old School discussion series was very well attended. The Tale Spinners story program for pres-schoolers

was held at the Centre. It is difficult to get and retain committee members as we need to increase our overall membership base.

13. Committee reports accepted on motion by Ellen Agger/ (seconder unrecorded).
14. Tenants Association: In the absence of Thorne Sutherland, the Tenant's Association representative on the Board, there is no report.
15. Nominating Committee: In her role as Chair of the Nominating Committee, Deborah Hickman chaired this section of the meeting
  - A. Deborah presented the slate of candidates for the board; *new candidates* – Mike Goodfellow, Maria MacKenzie-Cann, Paul Seltzer, Bill Kowalski, Greg Muzzatti; and *reoffering candidates* – David Puxley (Past Chair) Bob Douglas, Karen Runge, Keith Towse, Sidney Lange, Penny Carver, Dan Baxter, Derrick Wickstrom. Thorne Sutherland will continue as Tenant Rep. The Youth Representative position is vacant.
  - B. All current directors stepped down from office.
  - C. All candidates introduced themselves to the meeting.
  - D. Deborah asked three times for nominations from the floor.
  - E. There being no further nominations, the slate of candidates was acclaimed.
  - F. In response to a question from the floor, discussion clarified that MBCS members may attend board meetings. Non-members may attend if making a presentation to the board.
  - G. Election of Officers: Deborah nominated Keith Towse as Chair of the Society. There being no further nominations from the floor, Keith was declared to be the new chair. Similarly to the situation last year, we are not nominating a Vice-Chair at this time but ask the board to appoint a VC in a few months after the new members are more attuned.
16. Deborah thanked tenant Nancy Sherwood for her efforts to produce a note card which can be used as a fundraiser this summer.
17. Derrick advised that the Youth Action Team asked for use of the Centre on July 3. Issue referred to board meeting to follow immediately after the AGM.
18. Ellen wants to continue the excitement of the AGM in the newsletter which she sends out. She asked for lots of input from members to convey this feeling in the newsletters; the newsletter is a vehicle to inform and recruit members. Georges Dupuis and Flavia Lytle volunteered to help.
19. Keith announced that the Centre will have a new employee, Carol Snyder, who will perform administrative tasks starting June 29, 9-12 and 1-4 weekdays.
20. Keith thanked outgoing chair, David Puxley, for his generous volunteer efforts.
21. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Minutes prepared by Penny Carver, Secretary, MBCS

Nominating Committee Report  
June 1, 2004

### Board Composition and Candidates

Of the 15 seats available on the board, 12 are currently filled. 3 directors are not re-offering; Dick Crawford, Deborah Hickman and Arlene Baillie.

The tenant rep. on the board Thorne Sutherland is staying though he may be replaced by the tenants during the year. The Youth seat is vacant.

There are therefore 4 seats open for Directors at Large. We have three candidates who have agreed to offer: Paul Seltzer, Mike Goodfellow and Maria Mackenzie-Cann. We are meeting with a fourth possible candidate this week.

### AGM

The AGM is scheduled for June 22. It will begin at 7:30 preceded by a potluck dinner at 6:00 in the Community Kitchen.

Each candidate, including those re-offering will be asked to stand, introduce themselves and give a brief statement outlining their interest in serving on the board and what they believe they can contribute.

Our theme for a speaker this year is 'Building at the Heart of Community', an historical topic for the 250<sup>th</sup>. Noel Dexter, a former principal of Mahone Bay School was invited but was unable to attend. Mike O'Connor, also a former principal will be asked to speak for 15 minutes.

### Our New Board

To ease our new directors onto the board and to re-acquaint ourselves with the procedures of consensus decision-making Penny and I have invited Sue Bookchin to mentor the board for a couple of months.

Sue will work with the new Chair to plan a session to examine decision making preferences and then review and put in place a procedure for smooth and amicable decision-making.

Submitted by Deborah Hickman,  
Chair, Nominating Committee