

MINUTES OF THE
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE

September 16th, 1994

Present: Ian Anderson, Roy Bishop, Larry Bogan, Paul Gray, Patrick Kelly, Dave Lane, Blair MacDonald, Shawn Mitchell, Doug Pitcairn, Clint Shannon, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Sherman Williams, Joe Yurchesyn

The meeting convened at 19h05 in the board room at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

1) Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the agenda was moved by MLW/JY..... Motion carried

2) Approval of the Minutes of the May 24th Meeting

It was noted that David Chapman should have been listed as present..

Moved by PK/MLW that the minutes be approved as amended..... Motion carried

3) Business Arising from the Minutes

A new tripod, costing about \$400, has been ordered for the centre C8.

The national computerized membership system has been discontinued.

4) Reports from Members of the Executive

a) President (DL)

Murray Cunningham has donated his custom-made 4-inch Maksutov telescope to the centre, along with a nice tripod.

An astronomy resource guide has been produced by David Chapman, with input from DL, MLW and other members. We have 500 copies for distribution.

b) First Vice-President (PK)

The 1995 observing calendars which were sent by the Vancouver Centre have not yet arrived. This will be investigated.

We will have to order another box of Beginner's Observing Guides.

c) Second Vice-President (MLW)

A donations box for the Atlantic Space Sciences Foundation (formerly NSPAC) has been placed in the planetarium.

Weekly public shows were held all summer for the first time. The response was very good. This weekly schedule will continue for the fall and winter.

MLW and JY will be training the museum's new planetarium lecturers.

SM, JY and MLW have made repairs to the dome, tape deck, amp etc.

ASSF will be holding a "Touch the Future" workshop for teachers at the end of October and would like 400 copies of the new astronomy resource guide for distribution to teachers.

The GA guidelines are almost finished.

d) Secretary (PK) **No report.**

e) Treasurer (IA)

The fiscal year ends September 30th. All receipts, etc. must be in by September 27th.

f) NOVA NOTES Editor (DL)

DL apologized that the last issue was so late in getting out.

g) National Council Representative (JY)

A report of the national council meetings held at the GA was in NOVA NOTES..

h) Librarian (SM)

A few new books have been purchased for the library.

The NOVA EAST T-shirts have been ordered. We sold 33 eclipse T-shirts.

i) Observing Chairman (PG)

We had a good summer for observing, especially the Perseids session at Dollar Lake which drew between 150-200 people.

It might be a good idea to reintroduce the gawker's list for phoning those members who are interested when there will be observing sessions. This will be announced at the meeting.

Moved by IA/SM that up to \$400 be approved for the purchase of a new tripod..... Motion carried

5) Tonight's Agenda (DL)

As David Turner will not be able to make the meeting, we will need a meeting reporter. DP volunteered.

6) Upcoming Meetings (DL)

The meetings for 1994 are booked. Ideas for 1995 were: Pat Kelly on "Decoding 'Stonehenge Decoded' "; MLW on her trip to the IAU GA; talks from two of the new faculty members at Saint Mary's.

7) Creation of Nominating Committee (DL)

Moved by PK/PG that the committee consist of DL, MLW and JY..... Motion carried

8) Observatory Land Search Committee Report (DL/SM/JY)

After an exhaustive search of many possible sites, it was decided that the area around East Gore represented the best location for a centre observing site.

Moved by SM/PG that the observatory land search committee (subject to approval of the centre by ordinary resolution at the October 1994 regular meeting) be empowered to take the steps necessary to select and negotiate to purchase a parcel of land in the region of Gore, Nova Scotia which will become the centre's permanent observing site and future site of the centre's observatory. The subsequent purchase of the selected and negotiated parcel of land will be subject to available funding and the specific approval of council at a future council meeting.

..... Motion carried

9) Nova East 94 Status (DL/SM/DP)

Everything is under control. The park has all of the information that it needs. The T-shirts and door prizes have been ordered. A new sign to make the group campground has been made and handouts have been prepared for distribution to attendees. The list of speakers for the public shows has been finalized.

10) Plan to Encourage Youth Membership (DL/DC)

Posters announcing our prizes for the science fair will be sent to schools and distributed to science teachers who will be attending the "Touch the Future" workshop.

There will also be extra publicity for our December meeting, as the main speaker will be a teenager.

11) Other Business

a) It was felt that since Clint Shannon was planning to move to the Gore area, that he should be added to the observatory land search committee.

Moved by PG/DL that the Clint Shannon be added to the observatory land search committee.

..... Motion carried

b) In light of his many efforts in aid of the centre over the years, it was felt that the centre should nominate David Chapman for a national membership certificate.

Moved by MLW/JY that David Chapman be nominated for a national membership certificate.

..... Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at about 20h03 on a motion by PK.

Patrick M. Kelly

Secretary