

MINUTES OF THE
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE
January 20th, 1995

Present: Ian Anderson, Roy Bishop, Nat Cohen, Paul Gray, Tom Harp, Pat Kelly, Dave Lane, Blair MacDonald, Shawn Mitchell, Doug Pitcairn, Clint Shannon, David Turner, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Joe Yurchesyn

The meeting convened at 19h07 at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, Halifax.

1) Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the agenda was moved by DT/CS.Motion carried

2) Approval of the Minutes of the December Meeting

Approval of the December minutes was moved by BM/SM.....Motion carried

3) Business Arising from the Minutes of the December Meeting

None

4) Reports from Members of the Executive

a) President (DL) No report.

b) First Vice-President (BM)

Blair has been in contact with a local high school teacher, John McNeil, who teaches a class in Astronomy. Call for volunteers for an observing session (BM/SM) and a class visit (DP).

c) Second Vice-President (SM) No report.

d) Secretary (TH) No report.

e) Treasurer (IA)

Ian reported our current cash balance to be \$ 5,700.

Motion to request a budget from the Observatory Land Search Committee to allow a cash flow projection to be made

was moved by IA/BM.....Motion Carried

f) NOVA NOTES Editor (DL)

Preparation for the next issue to start Feb. 1st. Articles are required.

g) National Council Representative (PK)

In order to facilitate the work of the Publication Revitalization Committee it was proposed by PK that the Chair of the committee (DL) attend the next National Council meeting in his place.

A motion to this effect was made by BM/MLW.....Motion Carried

h) Librarian (CS)

A review of the library has shown that additional cabinet space would be desirable. It appears that no additional space is available and indeed that we will likely have to fight hard to retain the space that we now have.

i) Observing Chairman (PG) No report.

5) Tonight's Agenda (DL)

It was generally agreed that DP was "qualified" to act as the meeting reporter for this evening. DP graciously consented. A brief discussion occurred regarding this evening's program.

6) Upcoming meetings (DL)

February: David Guenther (SMU) - Solar Seismology

March: Chris Corbally (Vatican Observatory) - History of the VO (or our choice)

April: Pat Kelly - Stonehenge or Doug Hube (would need to move the meeting to Apr 24th.)

May: Annual Banquet - Michael West (SMU)

June: TBA

7) Donations for The Atlantic Space Sciences Foundation (TASSF)

Motion: Be it resolved that the Halifax Centre (RASC) will accept donations from individuals and corporations for The Atlantic Space Sciences Foundation, who's purpose and goals are similar to that of the RASC. Donations are to be forwarded to the RASC National Office so that Revenue Canada tax receipts can be issued. Once the funds are returned from the National Office, they are to be forwarded to the Treasurer of TASSF.

Motion by PG/DT.....Motion Carried

8) Observatory Land Search Committee Report (SM)

A report on the meeting of a meeting of the OLSC held Jan. 12th was presented. The committee moved to shelve consideration of the proposed Gore site in favor of a concentrated investigation of the St. Croix site.

Several sites in the St. Croix (MBPP) area were investigated with the most promising being on a point of land adjacent to the roadside site from which several members have already observed. MBPP is willing to lease this site.

Preliminary discussions with the West Hants Building Commissioner indicate that there should be no difficulties in obtaining a building permit.

Funds will be solicited from the RASC membership.

Motion: That the Observatory Land Search Committee be empowered to negotiate a lease for land in St. Croix from Midas Basin Pulp and Paper. Final approval and ratification of the lease will be decided at a future meeting by the Executive Committee of the Halifax Centre of the RASC.

Moved on behalf of the OLSC by MLW/BM.....Motion Carried

9) Incorporation of the Centre (DL)

Due to circumstances which are not clear at this time, it is apparent that the Halifax Centre is not incorporated in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Motion: That the Centre President take such steps as are necessary to incorporate the Halifax Centre of the RASC with its current by-laws under the Laws of the Province of Nova Scotia

Moved by MLW/SM.....Motion Carried

10) Create a Banquet Committee (DL)

The format of last year's banquet was discussed. The potluck format was tried to see if there would be a change in the attendance. No particular effect was noted so there is no particular reason to continue this format.

Nat Cohen proposed that we consider the Waverley Legion Hall be considered as a location for this year's banquet. This was favorably received and NC offered to make the arrangements if he was so authorized.

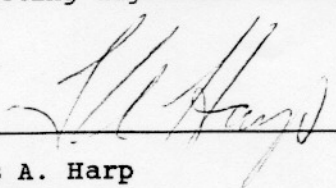
Motion to authorize made by BM/CS.....Motion Carried

Date to be confirmed by DL to NC.

11) Other business (DL)

The Nova Notes articles submitted over the last year will be reviewed by MLW, JY and DL in regard to the Burke-Gaffney Award. A report will be made at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 19h52 on a motion by BM.


Thomas A. Harp
Secretary

RASC Halifax Observatory Land Search Committee Meeting

Date: January 12, 1995

Location: Shawn Mitchell's residence

Present: David Lane, Paul Gray, Shawn Mitchell

Observers: Mary Lou Whitehorne

Motions: That consideration for the Gore site be shelved at this time to allow concentrated investigation of the St. Croix site. Moved by Paul Gray, 2nd by David Lane
Motion carried.

Action items discussed:

1. Need to visit the St. Croix site during the day and select and rank several potential observing sites. These sites will be submitted to Midas Basin Pulp & Power (MBPP) for their approval as potential sites that the RASC can lease. Plans were made to visit the site Jan 15, 1995, Sunday afternoon.

2. Shawn would make initial contact with the West Hants building development officer for building restrictions etc.

3. Fund Raising,

3. a) Shawn will get the present membership data base from Pat Kelly and mail merge the donation request letter in preparation of a mass mailing.

3. b) Apply to the Canadian Space Agency for matching fund after results of donation mail out are known.

4. Submit motion to RASC Executive Council.

Motion: That the Observatory Land Search committee be empowered to negotiate a lease for land in St Croix from Midas Basin Pulp & Power. Final approval and ratification of the lease will be decided at a future meeting by the Executive Committee of the Halifax Centre of the RASC .