

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
HALIFAX CENTRE
JANUARY 19, 2001**

Present: David Tindall, Pat Kelly, David Croston, Dave Lane, Stephen Tancock, Paul Evans, Michael Falk, Michael Gatto, Roy Bishop, Clint Shannon, Dave Chapman

Absent: John Jarvo

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Pres. David Tindall.

1. Approval of the agenda.

The council approved the agenda for the meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting.

The council approved the minutes of the December 15th meeting.

3. Business arising from the minutes of last meeting.

Dave is still looking for a good low priced VCR for the centre. The centre reports were filed and acknowledged by the national office. Shawn has brought over the centre equipment that was stored in his garage.

4. Reports from the members of the executive.

4a. President- A report of the decisions made at the extra council meeting on January 10th was circulated by e-mail and is to be added to the January minutes. We received a letter from the Charlottetown centre asking for a sample of our typical agenda and a brief history of our centre.

4b. 1st VP- No Report

4c. 2nd-VP- David has made an inventory of our merchandise and he will try to contact Ian for other info needed.

4d. Secretary- Forms for the registry of joint stock companies are ready for mailing and the minutes for the 2000-year will be given to the archives soon.

4e. Treasurer- Records of donations were sent to Bonnie so tax receipts can be issued.

4f. Editor NN- Mike presented the council with a sample of the new format or look for Nova Notes. The council discussed the layout and agreed to the changes.

4g. Nat'l. Rep.- Dave has booked a flight to the national meeting in Toronto for March.

4h. Obs. Chair- No Report

4i. Librarian- Miss. Cunningham has donated some of Dr. Murray Cunningham's astronomy T-shirts. The tire losing air on the library cart has been fixed by Steve and he has donated a small pump for it. The Nova Notes issues are complete from vol.9 1978 to present thanks to some donations by David Tindall and others. Only a few are missing previous to 1978 the list will be put in Nova Notes to see if we can find some of them.

5. Meeting report volunteer- Clint Shannon

6. Other Business

*Dave Lane motioned to dissolve the Observatory Committee and to eliminate the position of Observatory Chair as it's continuing operation can be handled by the Observing Chair, Clint Shannon seconded and council passed the motion.

7. President's Report to the 2000-01-19 RASC Council Meeting

Most members of the council met at an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday 2000-01-10, to plan for the centre in the new Millennium. We are very grateful to Mary Lou Whitehorne for offering her home and refreshments.

This was a freewheeling session that lasted about three hours in which a variety of topics were discussed. The focus was on attracting members of the public who attend meetings to become members, and to retain the members that we currently have.

The following were the main conclusions:

Survey: Paul Evans agreed to draft a survey to gauge members opinions on various topics.

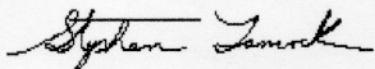
Greeters: David Chapman and Mary Lou Whitehorne agreed to be "greeters" to welcome people attending the main meeting... find out how we could serve them better and generally offer a warm and welcoming environment. This will also fit well with Michael Falk's suggestion that he leave the council meetings early in order to tend our library.

Handbook Talks: There was a general feeling that these should be re-instated and Dave Lane offered to do the first one – for which, as was the previous tradition, he gets to pick the person who will do the next.

Talks for Beginners: There was some suggestion that we should have one of these after the main meeting... but nothing firm was concluded.

Refreshments: We agreed that refreshments should be re-instated and Pat Kelly offered to pick up Tim Bits, pop and juice. We decided to try having a 10-min. refreshment break after the main talk.

Centre Telescopes: We should take stock of our holdings, many of which were thought to be in a poor state of repair. Dave Lane offered to do this, in conjunction with Paul Evans. Steve Tancock offered to help with repairs.



Stephen Tancock Secretary
Halifax Centre R.A.S.C.