

Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
18 June 2016, 1:30 p.m.
In the Village Café, Great Village, N.S.

President Laurie Gunn called the meeting to order and welcomed about thirty members and guests to the EBSNS AGM for 2016.

Secretary Sandra Barry read the Minutes of the 2015 AGM. She moved the minutes be accepted as read. Second: Susan Kerslake. Accepted.

Treasurer Joy Graham presented the Financial Report for the term 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. As of 31 March 2016, the balance of the EBSNS bank account was \$7,387.26. Joy spoke about the donations received for the Art Festival in 2015, including \$1,000 from the Charles and Mary MacLennan Foundation, from the Municipality of Colchester County, from the province and various individual donors. She noted that the large amount for expenditures were related mostly to the Arts Festival. Most of the expenses were for honoraria and travel for the 30 or so artists who participated. As there were no questions, Joy moved the Financial Report be accepted as read. Second Barbara Bell. Accepted.

Joy distributed an information sheet, with an income and disbursements breakdown for the period from 1 April to 18 June, 2016. The balance of the EBSNS account as of 18 June was \$7,525.58. She noted that two of the Arts Festival artists, Janet Maybee and Harry Thurston, did not cash their cheques which amounted to \$196.84, so this amount would need to be added to the current balance.

Nominating Committee member Bruce Gray, proposed the slate of officers and board for 2016-2017:

Executive:

Patti Sharpe – President
Judith van Duren – Vice President
Sandra Barry – Secretary
Joy Graham – Treasurer

Board:

John Barnstead
Lois Bray
Bruce Gray
Laurie Gunn – Past President
Meredith Layton
Janet Maybee

Cathy Mazur
Libby Schofield
Laura Sharpe
Pat Townsend

As there were no nominations from the floor. Bruce moved that the slate of new officers be accepted as read. Acceptance was unanimous.

Laurie Gunn presented her final President's Report (attached), noting that 2015 had been a busy year for the EBSNS, because it presented The Elizabeth Bishop Arts Festival on 8 August 2015, when over 30 artists and artisans came to the village to celebrate the diversity and vibrancy of the arts in Nova Scotia. She also noted that the EBSNS created a new souvenir, the EB Fridge Magnet, using an image by Belarus artist Natalia Povalyaeva. This was Laurie's final report as President and she noted how quickly the time had gone. Laurie moved that her report be accepted as read. Second: Judith van Duren.

The first task of new President Patti Sharpe was to thank Laurie for all she had done during her term as President and present Laurie with a small token of appreciation. A hearty round of applause followed.

Patti then gave an update about the pergola. She noted that the Great Village Historical Society had installed the panels for the summer and planted beautiful flowers as always, and thanked them for this faithful attention. She noted that the laminate on one of the newer panels was beginning to bubble, crack and peel. She said that the designer of the panels, Arthur Carter, had been contacted and he was looking into the best way to repair the damaged panel. The board would be following up with him. Patti specifically thanked Gus Chisholm, who was not able to be at the AGM, for his help with keeping the panels in good repair.

New board member Janet Maybee gave an update about a recent meeting of people in West Colchester, some of whom had formed RASCALS a few years ago, to discuss the possibility of resurrecting the West Colchester Community Development Association. No firm decision had been made, but the discussions are on-going.

John B move to adjourn the 2016 EBSNS AGM.

After a brief break to partake of refreshments provided by In the Village Café, everyone gathered for the final event of the day, a talk by visual artist Emma FitzGerald. Sandra introduced Emma, who had recently done an artist residency in Rio de Janeiro with a project inspired by Elizabeth Bishop. Emma presented a fascinating multi-media talk about this residency. After giving background about how she came to learn about Elizabeth Bishop, she continued through photographs, video, artwork and stories to weave a delightful account of her time in the southern hemisphere following in Bishop's footsteps, in particular her time staying in Bishop's home in Ouro Preto, "Casa Mariana." It felt as if we were wandering with Emma and her unique walking stick (purchased in the antique shop in Great Village) through the land- and city-scapes of Brazil. After a few questions, Emma invited people to take a closer look at some of the artwork she had

brought.

Laurie thanked Emma for an engaging and inspiring talk and offered a small token of appreciation.

Slowly, the gathering dispersed and went out into the beautiful sunshine of the last day of spring 2016.