

**Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**17 June 2017, 1:00 p.m.**  
**In the Village Café, Great Village, N.S.**

President Patti Sharpe called the meeting to order and welcomed about forty members and guests to the EBSNS AGM for 2017. She noted that after the program, we would all walk across the road to the Great Village Legion for the reception.

Secretary Sandra Barry read the Minutes of the 2016 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 2016 to 31 March 2017. As of 31 March 2017, the balance of the EBSNS bank account was \$8,979.31. Joy noted that the miscellaneous item indicated payment from the Great Village Historical Society for their part of the insurance (\$250) for the pergola for two years, as well as the sale of some banners. As there were no questions, Joy moved the Financial Report be accepted as read. Second: John Barnstead. Accepted.

Joy distributed an information sheet, with an income and disbursements breakdown for the period from 1 April to 17 June, 2017. The balance of the EBSNS account as of 17 June was \$7,204.26. The decrease indicated expenditures for the permanent exhibit/art gallery.

As Nominating Committee member Bruce Gray was not able to attend the meeting, President Patti Sharpe proposed the slate of officers and board for 2017–2018. She noted that while the EBSNS has a good and active board, there are two openings and we would welcome anyone interested in participating:

**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  
Libby Schofield

Laura Sharpe  
Pat Townsend

As there were no nominations from the floor. Patti moved that the slate of new officers be accepted as read. Second: Susan Kerslake. Acceptance was unanimous.

Patti Sharpe presented her first President's Report (full report attached), making specific note of the new exhibit/gallery, which would be officially opened shortly. She reported that the EBSNS and GVHS had extended their agreement with Wilson's Fuel regarding the pergola and historical panels. The new agreement is open-ended, all parties involved being pleased with the structure as is. She reported that one of the panels, which had been damaged, was redone and the other seven sealed as a preventative to future damage. Patti noted her own emerging awareness of Elizabeth Bishop's connection to Great Village, which came not while she was growing up in Great Village, but when she returned in the 1990s after being away for some years.

The business of the meeting having concluded, Cathy Mazur moved for adjournment.

At which time Laurie Gunn, a member of the Exhibit Committee, offered some remarks about the process of the creation of "Elizabeth Bishop's Beginnings" exhibit and "Echoes of EB" art gallery. She thanked all the artists participating in the inaugural exhibition: Joy Laking, Bruce Gray, Christene Sandeson, Janet Guinan, Andrew Meredith, Deverne Rushton (as well as herself); Carl Smith, who had installed the lighting; Garry Shears who had built the beautiful display cabinets; Rick Penny for the photographic reproductions; Acadia University Archives for the loan of items from the Bulmer archive deposited there; to Alfred Villeneuve for donating a beautiful painting to help raise money; and all the patrons who donated to support this project. She asked that any patrons in the audience raise their hands. Several hands were raised. She then invited people to take some time to have a look at the exhibit and artwork during the break before the guest speaker would present.

After the mix-and-mingle, Sandra Barry called everyone back to their seats and introduced the guest speaker for the day, Nova Scotia writer, scholar and academic Alexander MacLeod. Alexander mesmerized those in attendance with a gripping read of one of his own short stories about loss and grief, about the long journey of memory shot through with unexpected experience, about our relationships with our family and ourselves, a story of fraught identity and unseen consequences of our own and others' actions.

After this affecting reading, Sandra asked Alexander a few questions about writing and Elizabeth Bishop. Before closing this part of the program, Alexander read Elizabeth Bishop's poem "The Fish," partly as a nod to the marvellous carving by Deverne Rushton, his three-dimensional interpretation of this beloved poem. And in conclusion, Alexander read a very short piece about a rabbit which he said was actually deeply inspired by this poem.

Before heading over to the Legion, there were two draws. The first was for a door prize: a lovely hooked rug chair seat done by Laurie Gunn. Sandra drew Binnie Brennan's name out of the pot. Binnie happily claimed her prize.

The second was the big draw for the raffle prize, Alfred Villeneuve's painting, which was on display in the church. Alexander kindly did the honours and dug deep into the big basket of tickets and pulled out Mary Blanchard's name. Mary Blanchard lives in Halifax and was unable to attend the meeting, but she would be contacted immediately and receive her prize by post.

Then the assembled trooped over to the Legion where the Fire Brigade Auxiliary had set up their usual bountiful, delicious repast of sandwiches and sweets, coffee, tea and punch. A pleasant time was had by all.