

**Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**23 June 2018, 1:30 p.m.**  
**St. James Church, Great Village, N.S.**

Secretary Sandra Barry called the meeting to order and welcomed about twenty-five members and guests to Great Village, St. James Church and the EBSNS AGM for 2018. She noted the busy agenda and pointed out particularly that the guest speaker Brian Bartlett would be followed by a walk over to the Elizabeth Bishop House for a brief ceremony to mark its designation as a Municipal Heritage Property, followed by the usual reception in the Legion catered by the Fire Brigade Auxiliary. Before turning to business, Sandra thanked Laurie Gunn for all her efforts to resurrect the artist retreat at the Elizabeth Bishop House.

Sandra then read the Minutes of the 2017 AGM. She moved the minutes be accepted as read. Second: Susan Kerslake. Approved.

Treasurer Joy Graham presented the Financial Report for the term 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. As of 31 March 2018, the balance of the EBSNS bank account was \$6,699.32. Joy noted a few particulars, such as the transfer of some monies to the St. James Church of Great Village Preservation Society for the EB House, which came through the EBSNS PayPal account. As there were no questions, Joy moved the Financial Report be accepted as read. Second: Susan Kerslake. Approved.

Joy distributed an information sheet, with an income and disbursements breakdown for the period from 1 April to 23 June 2018. The balance of the EBSNS bank account of 23 June was \$6,139.55.

Sandra presented the Nominating Committee Report. The proposed slate of officers and board from 2018–2019:

Executive

Patti Sharpe – President  
[vacant] – Vice President  
Sandra Barry – Secretary  
Joy Graham – Treasurer

Board:

John Barnstead  
Bruce Gray  
Laurie Gunn – Past President  
Meredith Layton  
Janet Maybee  
Libby Schofield  
Laura Sharpe

Pat Townsend

As there were no nominations from the floor, Sandra moved the slate of officers be accepted as read. Second: Susan Kerslake. Approved.

Because President Patti Sharpe was delayed in attending, Sandra invited Laurie Gunn to say a few words about this year's "Echoes of EB" art gallery exhibit and the "Elizabeth Bishop's Beginnings" exhibit. She noted that the artists involved in the first exhibit were: Taiya Barss, Emma FitzGerald, Kathleen Flanagan, Richard Rudnicki, Mary Lou Payzant, Roxanne Smith, and Susan Tooke. Taiya and Emma were both in attendance. Sandra thanked Pat Townsend and Acadia University Archives for once again loaning artefacts for the EB's Beginning's display. Laurie and Sandra invited people to mingle and view both exhibit.

Upon Patti's arrival, she presented her President's Report, noting another busy year and the sadness of losing two EBSNS members: Marjorie Peppard and Judith van Duren. Judith had been the EBSNS Vice President for several years. Both creative and expressive women will be greatly missed. Patti also noted the exciting developments at the Elizabeth Bishop House and briefly explained the deliberations of the EBSNS board about whether the society could take on the care of the house, in the end deciding it could not. She noted how grateful we all were that the St. James Church of Great Village Preservation Society agreed to assume ownership and responsibility for it and that the EBSNS would support this effort in whatever way it could. She also noted that next year the EBSNS would mark 25 years and invited all to join us next year to celebrate this milestone.

Sandra moved the adjournment of the meeting. Second: Susan Kerslake.

She then introduced the guest speaker, Brian Bartlett, former EBSNS board member and editor of the EBSNS *Newsletter*, soon to be retired professor of English at Saint Mary's University, who presented a lively reading from his recently published book, *Branches Over Ripples*, a series of *plein air* meditations written over the course of a several years, almost always beside water. He read two meditations, one written beside the Great Village River and the other inside the EB House bathtub. Brian answered some questions and told those assembled that he was currently working on another series of meditations being written at sunrise. We will look forward to reading those when they are published.

Sandra thanked Brian for this reading and Laurie Gunn invited everyone to walk to the EB House for the Municipal Heritage designation ceremony, which took place at 3:15 p.m. with the help of Christine Blair, the Mayor of Colchester County, who did the unveiling of the plaque. Once this exciting event concluded, everyone wandered to the Legion where the Fire Brigade Auxiliary had performed their usual magic of an abundance of delicious sandwiches, sweets, coffee, tea and punch. Much good conversation followed.