

Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
22 June 2019, 1:00 p.m.
St. James Church, Great Village, N.S.

Secretary Sandra Barry called the meeting to order and welcomed about thirty-three members and guests to Great Village, St. James Church and the EBSNS AGM for 2019.

Before getting to business, Sandra reported on three interesting developments. She read a brief email from film-director John Scott about his Bishop documentary, “One Art.” John reported that he was making good progress and hoped to have the film locked by August and finished by the end of the year. Sandra also reported that American writer Liza Wieland had published *Paris 7 A.M.*, a novel about Bishop’s time living in France in the mid-1930s. Sandra also announced an exciting exhibit of EB House photographs by Halifax photographers Roxanne Smith and Kathleen Flanagan, opening at ViewPoint Gallery in Halifax on 4 July. Roxanne being present, Sandra directed all present to speak with Roxanne about this event.

The 2018 AGM Minutes had been printed and distributed to those in attendance. To expedite matters because of a busy agenda, Sandra moved the 2018 Minutes be accepted as presented. Second: Susan Kerslake. Approved.

Treasurer Joy Graham presented the Financial Report for the term 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, the balance in the EBSNS bank account was \$5,873.95. Joy noted a few particulars, including a \$1,000.00 donation by Deborah Felt. Since there were no questions, she moved the acceptance of the report as presented. Second: Susan Kerslake. Approved.

Joy distributed an information sheet, with an income and disbursements breakdown for the period from 1 April to 22 June 2019. The balance of the EBSNS bank account of 22 June was \$5,706.02. Joy acknowledged another generous donation of \$380 from Halifax story-teller Claire Miller, a contribution collected at a story-telling salon she held in her home in Halifax in May 2019.

Sandra presented the Nominating Committee Report. The proposed slate of officers and board from 2019–2020:

Executive

Pat Townsend – President
Laura Sharpe – Vice President
Sandra Barry – Secretary
Joy Graham – Treasurer

Board:

John Barnstead
Laurie Gunn
Meredith Layton

Janet Maybee
Patti Miller (Past President)
Libby Schofield

Sandra asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Claire Miller nominated Rosaria Campbell. Rosaria accepted the nomination. Sandra moved the Nominating Committee Report be accepted as presented. Second: Susan Kerlake. Approved.

Sandra noted the departure of board member Bruce Gray and observed how we will all miss his always genial participation. Sandra also thanked outgoing President Patti Miller for her positive and constructive leadership and noted how happy we all are she is staying on the board. Sandra presented Patti with a small token of the board's heartfelt gratitude. Sandra also thanked incoming President Pat Townsend and Vice President Laura Sharpe.

Before the conclusion of business, Sandra introduced NS writer Rita Wilson, who spoke eloquently about her upcoming book, *A Pocket of Time: Elizabeth Bishop's Poetic Childhood*, which will be published by Nimbus Publishing in the fall of 2019, with illustrations by Emma FitzGerald.

Laurie Gunn introduced Truro fabric artist Penny Lighthall, who also spoke eloquently about her exhibit of Bishop-poem-inspired hooked rugs, which comprised this year's Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop Gallery. Penny noted that these and more of her EB rugs will be exhibited at the Halifax Central Library in September 2019.

The business meeting being adjourned, those assembled took a short break to look at the exhibits and socialize.

At 2:15 Sandra called all assembled back for the concluding program. Before introducing the guest speakers, Sandra welcomed Vicki Harrison and her husband. Harrison is the author of *Elizabeth Bishop: Poetics of Intimacy*. They live in California and were due to spend the next week at the EB House.

Sandra introduced Halifax poet Margo Wheaton who gave a moving reading of Bishop's "Sandpiper," and read a number of her own powerful poems from her collection *The Unlit Path Behind the House*. Sandra then introduced Nova Scotia poet and naturalist Harry Thurston, who gave a spell-binding reading of his poems, including two inspired by Elizabeth Bishop. A short Q&A followed and then those assembled removed to the Great Village Legion where the Fire Brigade Auxiliary offered their usual delicious food, including a 25th anniversary cake designed like a book on which were inscribed the opening lines of "The Moose" and "Happy 25th EBSNS." A lively time of conversation and good cheer followed.