

**Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**17 June 2023, 1:30 p.m.**  
**Elizabeth Bishop House, Great Village, N.S.**

This being the first time the EBSNS has held an AGM in the EB House, Laurie Gunn, exemplary steward of this beloved heritage home and artist retreat, welcomed 20 members and guests to a place she noted that she loves to share with others.

Sandra read the Minutes of the 2022 AGM. Sandra moved that the 2022 Minutes, with one typographical error corrected, be approved as read. Second: Rosaria Campbell. Approved.

Treasurer Joy Graham presented the Financial Report for the term 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The balance in the EBSNS bank as of 1 March 2023 was 3,558.29. As there were no questions about the report, Joy moved the report be approved. Second: Rosaria Campbell. Approved.

Joy then noted that the balance of the account as of 17 June was \$3,644.14.

Joy reported that she had talked with the insurer of the pergola to request the removal of the Fine Arts rider, since we no longer have the display cabinets in the church. When the bill for the current premium arrived, it was the same as the previous year. She has been in touch with the insurance agent and that person is looking into an alternate insurer for the pergola. Even with insurance going up, the amount was over 30% higher and given the nature of the structure, all agreed that the premium was high. The assembled expressed heartfelt thanks to Joy for pursuing this matter. She will report to the board at a later date. Joy also noted that a third signer on the EBSNS bank account, which the board had agreed needed to be added, has yet to happen. It had been decided at a previous board meeting that Laurie Gunn be the third signee, so she and Joy will attend to this matter in the near future and report at the next board meeting.

Sandra presented the Nominating Committee Report. The proposed slate of officers and board from 2023-2024:

Executive

Pat Townsend – President

Laura Sharpe – Vice President

Sandra Barry – Secretary

Joy Graham – Treasurer

Board:

John Barnstead

Lois Bray

Rosaria Campbell

Laurie Gunn

Meredith Layton

Janet Maybee

Lisa McCabe  
Patti Miller (Past President)  
Libby Schofield

Sandra moved that the Nominating Committee Report be approved as read. Second: Barbara Bell. Approved.

Sandra noted an addition to the Board, Lisa McCabe, a writer from Lahave, N.S. Lisa was present and a hearty welcome was extended to her for being willing to join the merry band.

Due to a sudden family emergency, President Pat Townsend was unable to give the President's Report. All those assembled expressed their concern and wish that all might be well for Pat and her family.

Other business:

Sandra reported that recently she was contacted by Leslie Pezzack, the niece of Zilpha Linkletter, who was a long-time friend of Elizabeth Bishop. Leslie had found some EB-related papers and documents of Zilpha's and sent them to Sandra, who had made an inventory of them. One of the treasures was a letter from Bishop to Zilpha on 17 May 1979, which Sandra read. Sandra hopes that this material will go to Acadia University.

Sandra also reported that in September Vassar College will be mounting an exhibit of Bishop postcards, which will run there until January 2024. It is expected to go to Key West afterwards and the hope is that there will be a way to bring it to Nova Scotia (perhaps Acadia?) after that.

Sandra also noted that 2024 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EBSNS. A preliminary discussion was held about how to mark/celebrate this milestone. Rosaria Campbell offered an excellent suggestion that appealed to all assembled: that the EBSNS book the EB House for a week in mid-June 2024 during which we could organize a succession of events such as workshops, readings, hours tours, AGM, etc. The board will follow up on this suggestion at its next regular board meeting. It was agreed that the EBSNS would book a week with Laurie Gunn now, to secure the time (possible weeks: 10 to 15 June or 17 to 22 June 2024).

At the request of Meredith Layton, Sandra noted the passing of Arthur Chisholm of Great Village. Arthur had been a founding member of the EBSNS and served as President for several years. Sandra will send a sympathy card to Arthur's family on behalf of the society and convey how important Arthur was to the society.

The recent transfer of the two EBSNS display cabinets from the church to the EB House was noted and a heartfelt thank you and round of applause was offered to Garry Shears, who had built them and who was present, for his help in adjusting the large cabinet so it would fit in the parlour.

Then followed a break for refreshments supplied by EBSNS board members and friends.

Afterwards, everyone reassembled to listen to a fascinating presentation offered by writer Rita Wilson and illustrator Emma FitzGerald. They spoke about the creative process that led to their amazing collaboration on *A Pocket of Time: The Poetic Childhood of Elizabeth Bishop*. It is safe to say that the audience was rapt as they listened to Rita and Emma describe the amazing process that led to the creation of this timeless book about Bishop's (and all of our) connection to "home." It was enlightening and inspirational. Then they had those gathered do a drawing exercise about childhood memory and place, which was shared by each person with the group.

Reluctantly, the meeting came to a close with everyone looking forward to next year's events to mark 30 years of the EBNSN in Great Village.