

Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
14 June 2024, 11:00 a.m.
Elizabeth Bishop House, Great Village, N.S.

Sandra welcomed eleven members and guests to the EB House and to the 2024 EBSNS AGM.

Sandra read the Minutes of the 2023 AGM. Sandra moved that the 2023 Minutes be approved as read. Second: Meredith Layton. Approved.

Treasurer Joy Graham presented the Financial Report for the term 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The balance in the EBSNS bank as of 31 March 202 was \$3,022.61. As there were no questions arising, Joy moved the report be approved. Second: Rosaria Campbell. Approved.

Joy then distributed an update of income and expenses since 31 March, noting that the balance of the account as of 14 June was \$2,991.73.

Sandra presented the Nominating Committee Report. The proposed slate of officers and board from 2024-2025:

Executive

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

Board:

John Barnstead
Rosaria Campbell
Laurie Gunn
Meredith Layton
Lisa McCabe
Patti Miller (Past President)
Libby Schofield

There being no nominations from the floor, Sandra moved that the Nominating Committee Report be approved as read. Second: Rosaria Campbell. Approved.

Due to an unexpected medical issue, President Pat Townsend was unable to attend, so there was no President's Report. All those assembled wished Pat all the best.

Other business:

Sandra noted the passing of Lois Bray, a founding member of the EBSNS, in March. The EBSNS has made a donation in her memory to the Great Village Fire Brigade. Sandra mentioned that a memorial service for Lois will be held in Great Village on 20 July 2024.

Before the final AGM task (the raffle draw) took place, for the benefit of two unexpected but most welcome special guests, those assembled introduced themselves and welcomed these guests: Alyse Knorr and Kate Partridge, poets and scholars from Denver, Colorado, whose visit to Nova Scotia/Great Village just happened to coincide with the EBSNS AGM.

The final AGM task was the raffle draw for the Susan Tooke painting of the EB House. Kate Partridge was recruited to make the draw, a decidedly disinterested hand reached into the receptacle and withdrew the winning ticket: April Sharpe! April grew up in Great Village and in 2011 portrayed Elizabeth Bishop in the EB House during the EB100 Arts Festival. All assembled were delighted she was the winner. The EBSNS is deeply grateful to all who bought tickets, which were more or less sold out.

Those assembled then enjoyed a light lunch provided by EBSNS board members, including delicious chili made by Joy Graham.

In the afternoon, a small group gathered for a “Room by Verse” tour of the house. Initially, only board members were slated to read, but having two poets/Bishop fans from Colorado present, they were recruited to participate. Poems were read by: Laura Sharpe (“First Death in Nova Scotia” in the parlour); Rosaria Campbell (“The Prodigal” and “Filling Station” in the study); Sandra Barry (“Sestina” in the kitchen); Alyse Knorr (“The Moose” on the verandah); and Kate Partridge (“Poem” on the verandah). And a good conversation topped off this lovely ending to a pleasant day, with a hope that Alyse and Kate would return some day for a residency at the house.

Addendum:

Though not part of official business, it is necessary to note that on Saturday, 15 June, two excellent presentations were given at the EB House:

In the morning, Nova Scotia poet Brian Bartlett gave a lively talk with PowerPoint about Bishop’s Key West Houses, based on his visit to Key West in January 2024, and in the afternoon British Columbia writer Leesa Dean gave a talk about her book *The Filling Station* (published by Gaspereau Press 2022). Leesa and her family had spent a few days at the EB House courtesy of the EBSNS.

Between these fascinating presentations the EBSNS Board provided lunch again, which concluded with the cutting of a 30th Anniversary Cake by founding member Meredith Layton. Good food and good conversation was enjoyed by all.