



## **BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm**  
**Meeting conducted virtually**

### **MINUTES**

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Present: EXECUTIVE: Patricia Wallace, John Green, Geoff Dawe, Anna Kroeplin.  
DIRECTORS: Peter Styrmo, Ronen Grunberg, Alan Lambert, Jeff Thom.  
STAFF: Kathleen Vahey, Curator

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**1. CALLED TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.**

President, Patricia Wallace welcomed everyone to the virtual Board meeting and called it to order.

**2. DECLARATION OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None.**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION: 2021-AHS-015**

Moved by Geoff, second by John: THAT the agenda be approved as presented. **CARRIED.**

**4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: February 8, 2021:**

Alan asked that wording be revised under item #8, d) "...Building permit may need to be procured...".

**MOTION: 2021-AHS-016**

Moved by Alan, second by Peter: THAT the February 9, 2021 Minutes be approved with a revision. **CARRIED.**

**5. AURORA FACTOID:**

Peter shared an interesting look at Aurora in 1940-1945 when he attended Aurora High School. He painted a real picture of the locations of various local businesses, the Town Hall, Fire Department, United Church, a movie theatre and a pool hall over a hardware store. He was thanked for this fascinating report, and the President asked if we could produce a video of his recollections to post on the AHS website.

**6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Patricia reported that she and Alan met virtually with Mayor Mrakas to provide an update on current and upcoming projects of the AHS, as well as a financial update. Items discussed included the verandah restoration, financial management upgrades, staffing stability, the Readman House development, grant acquisition. The information was received very positively.

- Patricia met with Robyn McDougall – TOA Director of Community Services, who is managing AHS’s funding agreement with the Town. Ms. McDougall discussed the terms of the three-year agreement and the amendments required annually to keep it current, including updated Schedules A and B and proof of insurance. Patricia will ensure this information is sent, as well as provide our AHS Annual Report, once complete.
- Patricia was contacted by AHS founder and former long-serving board member, Dr. Leslie Oliver who advised he and his wife Mary Jean are moving to Owen Sound in April. As such, he has donated approximately 50 boxes of his personal AHS working documents to the Museum & Archives. Also, he has donated three paintings by a his brother, Murray of interior rooms of Hillary House. After some discussion, it was agreed to display them at Hillary House.
- Patricia thanked Jeff Thom for the summary of the changes to the bylaws that can be presented at the AGM. The summary report was emailed to the Board to review.

## **7. TREASURER’S REPORT:**

As there hasn’t been any financial activity in the last month, there isn’t a report for this Board meeting, however Geoff is working on the financial report for the upcoming AGM.

## **8. OTHER REPORTS**

### **a) Curator’s Report:**

Kathleen had submitted her written report with the Board package, and added the following:

- Donations and membership sales went well in February, plus there were sales in the Gift Shop.
- She encouraged Board members to keep track of their volunteer hours that are due in June.
- She has updated the COVID Safety Procedures.
- 41 people have registered for the upcoming AGM.
- She continues to work on various grant opportunities.
- Social media is doing well – local history posts get 500 to 4,000 views and many shares.
- 25 people “attended” the first virtual Speaker Series in February. Kathleen is providing technical support to members who are unfamiliar with virtual platforms to join in future.
- The event schedule has 1-2 happenings each month, and she is looking for more fundraising ideas. Discussion ensued on a possible golf tournament and partnering with another group/organization to organize and run it. Geoff will reach to Westview Golf Club.
- We have applied for a grant to hire an Event Coordinator to help with fundraising events.
- Regarding the Programming Plan, John recommended that AHS partner with other groups for a combined event. Kathleen noted that AHS is teaming up with Aurora Museum, King Museum and Stouffville Museum for an exhibition in the next few years.
- A Georgian College student will be filming the interior of Hillary House and agreed to share the finished product with AHS to use.

### **b) Restoration Working Group:**

Alan reported that he has been working with ERA and they have finalized the RFP form and have identified 4 appropriate bidders for the verandah restoration.

Our Easement Alteration application needs to be reviewed and approved by the Heritage Trust. Once we receive approval, the RFP can be released to tender. He thanked his team for all of their work on this process.

**MOTION: 2021-AHS-017**

Moved by John, second by Peter: THAT the reports under #6, #7, and #8 be approved. **CARRIED.**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Pandemic Procedures Update**

Kathleen reported that we have been following protocols, but have not yet updated our Official Plan to include a Safety Plan as recently required. She reviewed the recommended updates for the Board's approval.

**MOTION: 2021-AHS-018**

Moved by Geoff, second by John: THAT the revised Safety Plan be approved. **CARRIED.**

**b) AGM Responsibilities – Deferred.**

**c) 2021 Executive Committee Nominations**

As per regular procedure, the specific Executive Committee roles will be nominated directly after the AGM. Currently, the VP and Secretary will become vacant and open for nomination.

**d) Request from Len Bulmer, Former De La Salle College Building**

Since AHS has a designated seat on the Town's Heritage Advisory Committee, Mr. Bulmer has submitted a letter requesting that the AHS Board support his request to revoke heritage designation of the former De La Salle College building based on incidents that occurred over years of abuse towards its residents.

After much discussion, an initial motion was put forward but then withdrawn, and the following motion was approved:

**MOTION: 2021-AHS-019**

Moved by Patricia, second by Geoff: THAT AHS support the Part IV Heritage Designation of 50-100 Bloomington Road West based on the Bylaw passed by Aurora Town Council on May 28, 2019. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**e) Facility Maintenance Issues**

The Facility Maintenance Committee Chair is stepping down due to personal time constraints. Patricia noted that it has been very challenging for this new Committee to recruit volunteers to help. Discussion ensued on hiring a handyman or recruiting a skilled volunteer to work on Hillary House 3-4 hours per week. Patricia and Kathleen will update the maintenance schedule in order to have an up-to-date scope of work document.

It was noted that the ballroom floors and walls need to be sanded and painted, and curtains and carpets need to be cleaned. OHT has been consulted re painting work.

**f) Town of Aurora Volunteer Service Awards**

Patricia asked the Board to send her any nominations they may have.

**g) Proposed Fundraising Events**

Patricia has heard considerable interest from various community members that AHS should a virtual Hillary House Ball. She and staff will investigate how to organize and run a successful virtual event. A tentative date has been selected as October 23, 2021. She noted that all Board members need to be prepared to help.

**10. ADJOURNMENT – 9:45 p.m.**

**MOTION: 2021-AHS-020**

Moved by Alan, second by John: THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

**CARRIED.**

**11. NEXT MEETINGS:**

- i. Special Meeting - Wed., Mar.24, 2021, (immediately following AGM for Election of Executive)
- ii. Regular Meeting - Mon., Apr.12, 2021, (format TBA pending pandemic restrictions)