

PEI Museum & Heritage Foundation
Webex Meeting
7:00 p.m., April 8, 2021

1. Welcome:

PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation Board Chair, Vivian Beer, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ms. Beer introduced Matthew McRae, Executive Director of the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation, as well as Board Members Betty Jeffery, Robert Nicholson and Elizabeth Noonan, Joan Sinclair, Greg Munn, and Gordon Lavoie

2. Introduction of Speaker:

Matthew McRae introduced the Anne Neatby and Janet Whytock, who was the guest speaker for the evening.

3. Guest Speaker:

Anne Neatby and Janet Whytock gave a presentation about the making of their exhibit *William Stewart: Portrait of an Artist* which will be installed at Eptek Arts & Culture Centre in the summer of 2021.

4. Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Greg Munn and seconded by Dan Gordon Lavoie that the Agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Minutes of December 2, 2019 AGM:

The Chair asked members to review the minutes. She then called for a motion to approve the Minutes.

It was moved by Greg Munn and seconded by Joan Sinclair that the Minutes of November 27, 2018, be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Business arising from Minutes:

None.

5. Chairperson's Report:

Ms. Beer presented former Chair Carolyn McKillop's report as it appeared in the Annual Report.

6. Executive Director's Report:

Dr. McRae reviewed Dr. David Keenlyside's report as it appeared in the Annual Report. After several years in the Department of Education, we moved to Department of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture. This has been a banner year, the best year yet for visitation at the sites. School visitation continues to grow at Orwell Corner due to our targeted programming. Considerable thought and planning continues to be devoted to developing new programs for school audiences at all grade levels, especially in regards to natural history.

There have been several staffing changes over the past year, and we really appreciate the people who stepped up while we made these changes. Interviews were held to replace Boyde Beck, and we have hired Matthew McRae as the new Curator of History. Rachel Lapointe, Site Manager at the Acadian Museum, has left the Foundation for another job opportunity. Noella Richard was hired to fill the position. Dr. David Keenlyside announced that he would be retiring on May 1, but due to the Covid-19 crisis he decided that he would stay on until June 1. Dr. Matthew McRae will be the Acting Executive Director.

It has been another busy year for publications. Two issues of *The Island Magazine* have been published, as well as *Yesterday, Today: A Portrait of Summerside, Prince Edward Island* by Eddy Schwartz, *Beyond the Asylum: The Evolution of Mental Health Care in Prince Edward Island* by Tine Pranger, and *Mammals of Prince Edward Island and Adjacent Marine Waters* written by Rosemary Curley, Pierre-Yves Daoust, Donald F. McAlpine, Kimberly Riehl, J. Dan McAskill.

Continued Capital funding from the Province focused this year on replacing the sprinkler systems in Beaconsfield. This project took ten days of work to properly move and catalogue all of the artifacts. Heat pumps were installed in the Carriage House, and the windows were replaced. The roof at Green Park was also replaced.

The Foundation's social media platforms saw very good growth and engagement. In October of 2019 there were 25,000 people following us; by March of 2020 our following had reached 90,000 people and is still growing. We created our online collection this past year and have a new data base that just launched recently and will eventually include the whole collection.

The Annual General Meeting was supposed to be held at Eptek Art & Culture Centre this year but was held virtually due to Covid-19 so Nikkie Gallant, Site Manager, gave a short presentation on the past exhibits and changes that have happened in the past year.

7. Financial Report:

Dr. McRae presented the Audited Financial Statements as they appeared in the Annual Report. He noted the financial statements are consistent with past years. He explained that most of the surplus is in the Endowment Fund and is not a liquid asset. There is a significant increase in salaries this year because Dr. McRae had been hired to fill the Curator of History position, which had been vacant for several years. There are also major discrepancies because of the edukits and the digitization salaries that effected salary appropriation and expenses. The Foundation did receive money from the Cultural Action Plan to cover these salaries. Dr. McRae stressed that the Foundation is an arms-length organization and that we need our own money to maintain operating and asked everyone in attendance to consider becoming a member and to make purchases at the museum gift shops or on our Shopify store.

8. New Business:

The Chair opened the floor to questions or any new business. There was none.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Beer thanked everyone for their work and attendance at the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.