



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday March 4, 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at
MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Welcome** by Chair of the MERA Board: Judy Watts called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm and welcomed MERA members to the 2018 AGM. Judy introduced Trina Conboy, our new administrator. Judy then explained the voting cards, new this year to ensure only eligible voters voted.
2. **Introduction of Guests:** none in attendance, 3 invited
3. **Approval of Agenda: MOTION:** It was moved by Bob Mingie, seconded by Wayne Stryde that the Agenda for 2018 be approved. Carried.
4. **Approval of the AGM Minutes of March 26, 2017 MOTION:** It was moved by Tom Shoebridge, seconded by Hilary Barrett that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting from March 26, 2017 be approved. Carried.
5. **Presentation of Annual Report of the Board of Directors** - Chair of the MERA Board Judy Watts presented her report which is attached.
6. **Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Financial Statements:** Treasurer Bob Mingie presented an Income & Expense Report, report is attached. The Financial Statements were available for review and had been e-mailed to the membership prior to meeting. Bob explained that MERA ran a small deficit in 2017 due to administration changes and initial expense of the investment in a new website. Bob recommended fundraising and grant opportunities be looked at for 2018 to counter a possible deficit due to continued expenses in investments in the new website and additional administration costs, and the probability that David Francey will not be able to do his biannual concert for MERA in 2018. The 2018 budget will be presented after the new Board of Directors meet in March. **MOTION:** It was moved by Peter Cochran, seconded by Jean Dunning that the Financial Statements be received. Carried.
7. **2017 Committee Reports:** please see attached as well as the website for complete reports
Programming Committee – written & presented by Ankaret Dean
Children's Programs – written & presented by Hilary Barrett – please see motion under other business
Pottery Studio – written & presented by Lyndal Neelin
Art Circle – written & presented by Gloria Shoebridge
Fibrearts Report – written by Cathie Huffman, presented by Hilary Barrett

Music Committee - written & presented Peter Cochrane
MERA Heritage Weavers – written & presented by Lise Loader

8. Proposed Change to MERA Bylaw

The board is recommending a bylaw change to clarify the requirement to be a member for 30 days in order to vote at all member meeting including the AGM. Two sections in the present bylaws have conflicting information.

The changes:

2. MEMBERS

2.1 Eligibility Any individual aged 18 years and older who is interested in furthering the objects of MERA may become a Member by completing a Registration Form and paying the applicable Membership Fee

2.2 Voting Every Member ~~aged 18 years and older~~ is entitled to one vote at the annual general meeting and every other meeting of Members provided that the Member has been a Member for at least thirty days before the meeting

3.2 Attendance at Meetings ~~Entitlement to Vote~~ Every ~~Each~~ Member shall be entitled to receive notice of and attend ~~and vote at~~ every meeting of Members

Some discussion was had about why the changes are needed and why there is a date to be considered in good standing for voting. Tom Shoebridge explained the history. **MOTION:** Moved by Tom Shoebridge, seconded by Lise Loader that the above changes be approved. Carried.

9. Election of Directors for 2018

Re-election to second three-year term

-Lyndal Neelin

New Nominations to the MERA Board of Directors for their first 3-year term:

Patti-Jo Wilson

Scarlett Damen

Re-elect Bob Mingie for another 1-year term as Treasurer, past his second term

MOTION: Moved by Jean Dunning, seconded by Gloria Showbridge to elect above to the Board of Directors. Carried.

10. Presentation of *The ANKARET* the Annual Volunteer of the Year Award: Presented by Judy Watts to Lise Loader for her outstanding work with the weavers and throughout MERA. Lise was given a lovely vase made by a MERA potter and her name will be written on the Helping Hands Wall.

11. Other Business

11.1 Hilary Barrett asked that officially we name Jan Griffiths as the Family Coordinator and that Jan become a board member. This will be discussed further with Jan and the new Board.

11.2 Hilary Barrett recommended that the Board purchase a new dishwasher so that health standards would be met when holding dinners. Discussion followed. Trina to get a copy of recent health inspection. Sean Gabriel-Buchanan spoke about the Health Unit inspection when the Community Café was brought back. One area of concern is the need for a dishwasher – this was discussed at length and will be discussed further when committee is formed. Tom Shoebridge has offered to help with committee

MOTION: That the Board assess whether the kitchen meets Department of Health Standards for the serving of food and take action to comply as necessary. It was also asked that a committee be formed and that the membership is kept informed. Moved by Hilary Barrett, seconded by Ankaret Dean. Carried.

Membership thanked Judy Watts with a standing ovation for her commitment to MERA over her term as Chair. Peter Cochrane was thanked for his work on the website.

12. Motion to Adjourn Moved by Molly Forythe, seconded by Gloria Shoebridge. Carried. @ 4:15 pm

JUDY WATTS, Chair

TRINA CONBOY, Administrator

Following the official AGM, a meeting was held with the membership about the future of MERA. Lyndal Neelin made a useful tree diagram to discuss the roots, the current and the future of MERA. This is attached. Helen Mogford and Barry Russell discussed the online survey they conducted. More information from that survey will be presented to the Board and membership at a later date.