

Minutes of NBSRTSJ February 20, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the executive of the NBSRTSJ took place on February 20, 2025, with the President Bob Bonner in the chair. Members in attendance* included Bob O'Connell, Marg Urquhart, Rena MacGregor, Mary Power, Barry Harbinson, and Marijke Blok. Bob called the meeting to order at 10:10.

*As the road conditions kept many people away and/or late due to road clearing, Marg moved that the meeting be changed from an executive committee meeting to an executive meeting to fulfill the quorum conditions of the constitution. Bob O'Connell seconded and the motion was passed.

AGENDA

The Agenda was accepted following a correction for the May luncheon date: The HOPE Centre is not available on May 22, so the date has been moved to Wednesday, May 21.

MINUTES

The minutes were accepted . . .

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Marg asked about another Wine and CHEESE, but as no social committee member was present *at that time*, Barry suggested the topic be referred to the social committee.

Nominating Committee

On the heels of the May 21st HOPE Centre clarification, a discussion ensued concerning the closing of nominations for the upcoming election. Barry and Judy are co-chairs of the nominating committee, and Marg suggested approaching newer members (who have retired in the past four years) to sit on the committee as they might know of recent retirees who would be willing to offer for positions.

Marg noted that Barry and Judy must put out the call for nominations with a deadline, as the constitution states the membership must be notified of candidates one month before an election. Barry agreed and said the co-chairs would meet and set a date soon. Stay posted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following report was presented by Barry:

Bank balance (February 19, 2025)	\$6,040.55
Uncleared cheques	\$645.00
Added income	\$0.00
Cash on hand	\$150.00
Current balance	\$5,545.55
Investments (July 31).	\$34,182.20
Membership shares	\$2,357.53
Total assets (2025-02-19)	\$43,235.28
Outstanding cheques	
NBTA 0820	\$500
Assumption Centre	\$145.00 (November)

Bob asked about receipt of monies from the NBSRT; Barry reported that dues are sent quarterly, with a payment coming in March.

Marg reminded us that the 75th birthday of the NBSRT SJ is coming in 2026 and she suggested we look at setting aside funds in the budget to fund celebratory activities. Barry informed us that monies accumulated during covid were invested, and he suggested we access some funds to supplement costs of birthday

celebrations – he then presented a novel idea that every member receive a discount based on age: a 90-year-old would receive a 90% discount, a 70-year-old would receive a 70% discount . . .

Barry also suggested forming a subcommittee to start looking at ways to celebrate throughout the entire year.

Committee Reports

Social

There was no committee member present to report, but sent info. An email went out yesterday (Feb. 19, 2025) about a card party.

Wellness

Again, there was no committee member present to report, but info. had been sent. The monthly hike at the Irving Nature Park went well.

Functional Breathing held yesterday at RiverCross with Danny Marmen had 15 – 20 participants.

Excursions

Barry reported that no group tickets have been released for *Come from Away*, but we'll keep looking for release dates.

He mentioned another possibility – a trip to **KIRA** (St Andrews) in the summer , as they have announced there will be a full musical presented, as well as their annual *Broadway by the Sea*. The title will be revealed in May.

Marg explained we will always welcome excursion suggestions, and Barry suggested pieces of paper for suggestions be handed out at our local AGM.

Bill Randall's Aging Seminar

Bob Bonner contacted Bill to invite him to present for us. Bill thanked him for the invitation and gave possible dates: April 14 – 17. The 17th is the date of the executive committee meeting, so Wednesday, April 16 was chosen. There was a discussion about feasibility as Bill has presented several times, including on Zoom, but one was largely a Central Branch presentation and the Zoom session which coincided with our Cards Day. We believe there will be interest, especially, as Marg pointed out, Bill recently had an article in Reflections.

Again, after some discussion, we decided a light lunch would be provided and time set aside for a Q&A at the end – so Bob B booked the room at RiverCross from 12:00 – 3:30, allowing for set-up, lunch, presentation and Q&A.

Recognizing the need for assistance, we asked Marijke if the social and wellness committees would work on this; she agreed.

*Email update – Marijke has Frances Brownell booked to cater the lunch and Ellen set to handle registrations for the “no fee” event as part of our NBSRT 50th Celebration.

Membership Update

No report.

Barry noted we need to start building as we are losing more members than we are gaining. Marg said in the past she had suggested attaching info. sheets/applications/invitations to retiring teachers at the provincial luncheon in May but had been told by Larry Jamieson that there was to be no active recruiting at the luncheon. Barry suggested we try again with a welcome letter, invitation to the fall TGIR (Thank Goodness I'm Retired) Brunch and an application form.

Reflections

Marg has been looking for someone willing to take on the role of correspondent, and she would be happy to work with that person. A few names were mentioned, but no-one has accepted the position, thus far.

Newsletter

Marijke reminded us the nominations/info. for the elections be sent out to the membership a month before the elections, and, as the elections will be at our AGM on May 21, the newsletter must be in the hands of members by April 21. Allowing for time to edit, print and distribute, Marijke would need to send it on the 14th, so she would need an April 7th deadline for submissions.

*email update: we would like to include the information on Bill Randall's Aging Seminar on April 16th, so, in order to be "sure" it's in people's hands with a few days to spare, before the 16th, Marijke would like to mail it on the third. Thus, the new **deadline for submissions** is **April 1st** (no joke! 😊).

Provincial AGM

Barry reminded us that the AGM will take place in Miramichi on May 13th and 14th, and we have allocated up to \$4000.00 towards sponsoring our members to attend: individuals driving \$300.00 and non driving participants \$200.00. All pertinent info. On the AGM is in the most recent edition of Reflections.

After some confusion about attendees for the fall meeting, there was a need for clarification for the spring AGM. The directors' expenses are covered by NBSRT. Barry thought there might be fun activities planned as we're celebrating the 50th anniversary of the NBSRT.

Duties/responsibilities of committee members.

A discussion on attendance at meetings developed with concerns being raised about the lack of attendance by some members. Bob B said Covid and Zoom meetings changed things – numbers are down since in person meetings resumed. Barry has experienced people claiming they wouldn't mind doing a job if meetings were not required. Marg reminded us that we're all volunteers, but Rena said there are, or should be, expectations for attendance.

A discussion of "types of meetings" – Executive Committee versus Officers Meetings developed. It was suggested more Officers' Meetings could be held to lessen the frequency of Executive Meetings. It was noted that Executive Committee members would be welcomed at the Officers' Meetings.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Barry Harbinson,

Respectfully submitted

Mary Power
(Scholarship Committee)