

# NBSRT Saint John Branch

## Minutes November 20, 2014

**Call to Order:** President Barry Harbinson called the meeting to order at 10:10 at Rivercross Church, Forbes Drive.

**Attending:** Barry Harbinson, Marg Urquhart, Gerry Mabey, Netta Chase, Nancy Steele, Judy Braman, Kathy Wilson, Robert Taylor, Pat Dugay, Jill Jollineau, Ellen Palmer, Mary Ann Patterson, John Sheehan

**Regrets:** Jean Cameron, Kathryn Dalling, Carol Harris-Raynes, Larry McPhee, Norma Murphy, Bill Mahaffey, Linda Perrin, Patricia Roy

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve as circulated: Marg Urquhart/Nancy Steele. Carried

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes with corrections: Robert Taylor/Nancy Steele. Carried

**Financial Report:** Statement is attached.

A \$100 honorarium was paid to Sculpture SJ with card of appreciation for Diane Alexander's presentation at the October luncheon.

The current balance in the chequing account is \$7878.86 and approximately \$12 000 in the investment account.

Motion to Approve Financial Report: Robert Taylor/ Nancy Steele. Carried

### **Business Arising From Minutes:**

1. Health Insurance- Meeting cancelled due to government review possibilities. It is regretful that the message did not reach everyone regarding the cancellation and some showed up. Thankfully Gerry Mabey was there to let them know of the insurance company's reluctance to discuss the drug plan if there was some change pending.
2. There were very good reviews on the luncheon both the food and the presentation of the guest speaker.
3. There has been a good number of participants for the Tuesday walking club.
4. Gerry Mabey suggested a 'get well' card be sent out to Patti Vaughan and he will contact Jean to let her know.
5. Gerry Mabey will contact Brian Walker from Investors Group and ask him to speak with the group at large, including former district 6 retired teachers. We would like the presentation to include information based on our current pension plan and to address the issues of timing for CPP, OAS, RSP refund implications and reducing income tax. The date suggested is late February, early March to be held at the district office 'Donaldson Room' with mandatory sign up. Info to go out with the newsletter but proceeded with an email 'heads up'. Registration in advance is recommended with a 'member's only' clause.

### **REPORTS:**

**Directors:** Nancy Steele had no report other than to encourage membership with all retired teachers.

**Pension:** The pension fund did very well for the last fiscal year with a return over the set goal. There will be a change in reporting to establish the new fiscal year from the trustees not the investment group. The Board of Trustees involved in the investment strategy and there is a concern that there is no expertise on the board in the area of financial investments for such a large portfolio. The trustees will receive some training and education sessions regarding risk management via John Sinclair. A message will be sent requesting a meeting with Larry Jamieson and the trustees to prepare report for biennial and to determine the progress with the contingency fund. Will there be an increase in January? What will the percentage be?  
Should we prepare a statement on our position? Our position is to 'wait and see' what the justice system renders and from that, prepare a response.

**Telephone:**

The telephone 'fan out' system has some difficulties due to vacations, snowbirds, etc and it is recommended that a buddy system be employed.

**Social:** Christmas Social will be December 4<sup>th</sup>, \$12. (Holiday Inn Express (north) with live music.

Discussion re the liability form from Hillcrest Baptist and the trouble it may cause in the event of an accident. Marg will speak with them this week.

October's meeting- location? Cost? The committee gave Marg U the go ahead to choose the spot she and her committee felt would attract the greatest number of retired teachers with the majority satisfied.

Some of the feedback provided in the October meeting included: museum tour, trip to St Andrews with a sculpture tour, shopping trip to Bangor

**Publicity:** not 1 newsletter returned ☺

**Scholarship:** information regarding the student receiving our scholarship has been received and she will be invited to the May luncheon.

**Wellness:** no report

**School Days Museum:** Pat Dugay said no report at this time and accepted a sample of the 'contribution in memory' cards Nancy picked up at the meeting in September.

**Nominating Committee:** Four individuals have indicated their intentions to Marg U. She encouraged all to consider 'new blood' especially for committees.

**Website:** Ellen Palmer reported she attended the provincial meeting in Fredericton. She explained that 'Reflections' could now be accessed on the website for members. There is an attempt to reconcile the membership lists for consistency between the provincial association and local associations. They also reviewed the effectiveness of the website.

Concern was expressed regarding the reliance on one person having to do all the work for the website and the subsequent difficulties when a person is busy, not available. Perhaps we should obtain software that would allow multiple access all under the direction of Ellen and her committee. It was also suggested that the website be refreshed.

**Constitution:** It was amended two years ago and some difficulties with the changes have surfaced.

Gerry Mabey and Judy Bramen will examine the constitution and suggest some changes to precede the annual meeting. Questions included should the term be limited to a single repeat? Should that pertain to committee chairs as well?

**Budget:** At the March meeting, the budget will be presented in draft for consideration and editing. This will allow for the final budget to be presented at the AGM in May.

**Provincial Meeting:** The biennial meeting will be in Grand Falls in May (5-6). It will include a tour of the gorge. Nancy Steele, Barry Harbinson, Margaret Urquhart, Barry R, Kathy Dalling and Linda Perrin will attend with expenses paid by the provincial committee. Local participation is encouraged and Robert Taylor will inform the group of the possible fees and requirements for assisting local participation.

New Business

No new business was introduced.

Next meeting is January 15, 2015 with storm date Jan 22. 'Lick and stick party' to prepare January's newsletter will be held January 29, 2015. Both meetings will take place at Rivercross Church, Forbes Ave.

Motion to Adjourn. Margaret Urquhart.

Respectfully Submitted

Jill Jollineau