



NB MEDIA CO-OP

independent media by and for New Brunswickers

2014 Annual General Meeting

Minutes

When: October 2, 2014 at 7:00pm

Where: Grad House, 676 Windsor St., Fredericton, NB

Attendees: Adam Melanson, Norm Knight, Josephine Savarese, Chris George, Sabastion Brew, Sean Martin, Asaf Rashid, Susan O'Donnell, Margo Sheppard, Matthew Hayes, Sophie Lavoie, Gerry McAlister, Tracy Glynn

Regrets: Julie Michaud, Sarah Kardash, Patrick Colford

1. Appointment of meeting chair

Adam Melanson volunteered to be meeting chair. All approved.

2. Appointment of minute taker

Norm volunteered to take minutes. All approved.

3. Approval of meeting agenda

Matthew moved that the meeting agenda be approved. Margo seconded. All approved.

4. Introduction of members present

5. Approval of minutes from 2013 AGM

Tracy, Gerry and Adam were the only meeting participants at the 2013 AGM. They approved the minutes.

6. Year in Review: Annual report presentation

Tracy presented the annual report. Well received.

7. Presentation & adoption of 2013-2014 financial report

Tracy presented the 2013-2014 financial report. Question about mailing expenses. The expense line for mailing expenses, approximately \$2000, is the total for mailing 10 editions of The Brief per year.

Susan suggested The Brief be sent to Band Council offices.

Tracy asked for suggestions for distribution venues. Matt and Shawn, our social work interns, will work on identifying spots in the province not covered with The Brief.

8. Presentation of budget for 2014-2015

Tracy presented the budget for 2014-2015 as recommended by the board of directors.

Reflecting the loss of one monthly individual donor and that the active members of the NB Media Co-op are and will be very busy this coming year, the budget proposed is not one that shows growth but rather one that sustains our current activities.

Added more to the income line from organizational donors and took away from the membership line as it has been easier to ask unions and other organizations for money than it has been to recruit members.

Norm suggested putting financial numbers in The Brief as a request for donations -- to show that The Brief is actually funded by its members. Sean suggested that a percentage could be provided -- how much we get from memberships and how much we get from organizations.

Nikita suggested holding an annual fundraiser and said she was willing to help organize it.

Susan asked if members get The Brief mailed to them. Tracy said that Judy, the membership coordinator, asks new members if they want this; some of our members distribute some copies too and some don't want The Brief as they read the stories online.

The budget for 2014-2015 was passed by the members present.

9. Special resolution to forego audit

Adam suggested that an internal audit be done since the NBMC cannot afford an audit by an accountant.

Susan and Josephine volunteered to do an internal audit for the past year, 2013-2014. The audit would be done sometime in October.

Motion to forego the 2014-2015 audit was passed unanimously.

Motion that Susan and Josephine would do an internal audit for the past year, 2013-2014, and produced a brief report was passed unanimously.

10. Board elections

Board of directors: Tracy Glynn, Sarah Kardah, Adam Melanson and Asaf Rashid expressed interest in sitting on the board of directors for the 2014-2015 year. Members approved.

Editorial board: Tracy Glynn, Matthew Hayes, Asaf Rashid and Julie Michaud expressed interest in sitting on the editorial board for the 2014-2015 year. Members approved.

11. Other business

Where to go in the future discussion

All seem to agree that holding a fundraiser was a great idea. Maybe with El Jones.

Sophie suggested that when we ask band councils if they want to distribute The Brief that we also ask if they would want to write for us.

Margo asked if The Brief goes to the Multicultural Association. Gerry used to drop off copies there but he thought that they were not being picked up. Tracy thought that copies still should go there.

Asaf asked about French content. Tracy said we accept French content. Matthew said that we are not that well-connected to Francophone groups in the province.

Nikita asked a question about how we edit and reject pieces. Tracy said that collaborative editing is an important activity of the NB Media Co-op, to cultivate news writers. We have guidelines around rejecting pieces. We encourage more news stories than opinion pieces. Shawn suggested making it clearer on the website that we want news stories.

Tracy stressed the need for finding more active members of the NB Media Co-op.

Sean asked about whether we have done outreach to journalism students. Tracy said that we have a relationship with Jan Wong, a professor in the journalism school at STU, but not so much with other profs who see us as a blog and not a news source.

12. Adjournment

Minute taker: Norm Knight.