

Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Irish Benevolent Society of London & Area (Society).

MINUTES

Saturday, June 27th, 2020

Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Present:

Officers and Directors: Bob McNaughton (Immediate Past-President and Director), Jim Nother (President and Director), Jane Corbett (1st Vice-President and Director), Jo-Ann Leavey (2nd Vice-President and Director), Jeff McNaughton (3rd Vice President), Charles P. Corbett (Treasurer and Director), Doug Reycraft (Assistant Treasurer and Director), Dave Corbett (Director and Webmaster), Dan Hardy (Director), Nicole Spriet (Director), Shaune McLeod (Director) and Jim Hardy (Secretary).

Members: Patrick Heffernan, Anthony Nother and Mary McGuinness.

Regrets: Fr John Comiskey.

1. Welcome: Bob McNaughton, Immediate Past-President, chaired and called the Meeting to order. He introduced the 2020/21 Officers that were appointed by the Directors at their meeting on June 6th, 2020.

2. Appointment of Secretary of the Meeting. It was moved by Jim Nother and Seconded by Shaune McLeod that Jim Hardy be appointed as Secretary of the Meeting. APPROVED.

3. Confirmation of Notice of Meeting or Waiver thereof.

Jim Hardy, Secretary, indicated that the formal “Notice of Meeting” did not comply with Section 3.06c of By-Law No.1. Doug Reycraft moved, and Shaune McLeod seconded, a motion to waive the “Notice of Meeting”, as per Section 3.08 of By-Law No.1. APPROVED

4. Confirmation of Quorum for the Meeting.

Jim Hardy, Secretary, confirmed that there fifteen (15) Members in attendance at the Meeting. This was in compliance with the Quorum requirements of Section 3.11 of By-Law No.1 (minimum of ten).

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting.

Charles Corbett moved, and Nicole Spriet seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting that was held on Saturday, June 22nd., 2019. These Minutes had been previously circulated to the Members. APPROVED.

6. Installation of New President.

Bob McNaughton installed Jim Nother as President and Chair of the Society for the 2020/21 year and presented him the Society’s shillelagh as a symbol of his office. Jim Nother gave a brief outline of his Irish heritage and his family’s history in London. He also outlined some of his plans for the upcoming year. Jim subsequently took as Chair of the Meeting at that point.

7. Presentation of Past-President’s Medal. Charles Corbett presented Bob McNaughton with his Past-

President's jewel and thanked him, on behalf of the Members, for his service in the past year.

8. Welcome to New Members. Jim Nother introduced those Members (4) who have joined the Society in the past year and urged all to solicit Members. Application forms are available at www.irishbenevolentsociety.ca or from jamesthardy@sympatico.ca. or any Director.

9. Report of the Nominating Committee. Jim Nother, on behalf of the Nominating Committee presented Jane Corbett, Bob McNaughton and Anthony Nother as candidates for Directors for a three year term and Jeff McNaughton for a two year term. Shaune McLeod, moved, and Charles Corbett seconded, that their nomination as Directors be approved. APPROVED

10. Appointment of Honourary Life Members. Jim Nother presented Mary Cahalan and Dave Goddard as candidates for Honourary Life Members, citing their past and ongoing service to the Society. Jane Corbett moved and Jo-Ann Leavey seconded, that their nomination as Honourary Life Members be approved. APPROVED

11. Treasurer's Report and Approval of the 2019 Financial Statements. Charles P. Corbett presented the Treasurer's Report and the Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31st, 2019. The Treasurer pointed out the effects that COVID 19 had on the world's financial markets and in particular on the value of our investment portfolio. Notwithstanding these

problems the Society has been able to maintain its benevolent activities and as pointed out by the Treasurer, *“There is money in the bank and all bills have been paid.”* Charles Corbett moved, and Doug Reycraft seconded, a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and the 2019 Financial Statements. **APPROVED.**

12. Waiver of Audit Requirements and Appointment of Public Accountants. Charles Corbett moved and Doug Reycraft seconded the following motions:

a) That the Society be exempt from the audit requirements of the “Canada not-for-profit Corporations Act” **APPROVED.**

and

b) Grant Thornton, LLP is appointed as the Society’s Accountants until the next Annual General Meeting or until their successors are duly appointed, at remuneration to be fixed by the Directors. **APPROVED.**

13. Amendment to Section 6 of By-Law No.1.

Dave Corbett moved, and Jeff McNaughton seconded, that Section 6 of By-Law No. 1, be amended to provide for the office of “Immediate Past-President”. **APPROVED.**

14. St Patrick’s Day Luncheon – March 17th, 2020. Jim Nother, Chair of the 2020 St Patrick’s Day Luncheon Committee reported on the planning that took place for that event and unfortunately how it had to be cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions. He thanked the Committee for their work and pointed out that their accomplishments would be carried forward for the 2021

Luncheon. He also praised the Western Fair District for their co-operation and goodwill by refunding ALL tickets that were purchased through them. Jim Nother moved and Bob McNaughton seconded adoption of the Report. APPROVED.

15. Emerald Evening – November 9th, 2019. Nicole Spriet, Chair of the Social Committee, reported on the very successful “Emerald Evening” that was held on November 9th, 2019. The event raised over \$8,400 that is to be used for future donations, as approved by the Board and the Social Committee, and to finance future “Gala” events. The Committee advised, and this advice was accepted by the Directors, not to hold the event in 2020 but plan doing so in 2021 due to the ongoing uncertainty of COVID 19 in the upcoming months. Nicole Spriet moved and Bob McNaughton seconded adoption of the Report. APPROVED.

16. Review of the Society’s Structure, Objectives & Purposes. Jim Nother, Chair of the Committee that is reviewing the Society’s Structure, Objectives & Purposes, gave an update on its progress. Most of the work done to date and that planned in the immediate future has or will utilize “virtual” meetings. Together, with Consultant Bill Wilkinson, the Committee is proceeding through the work plan, as previously set out, and hope to finalize their proceedings early in October. Jim Nother moved and Jo-Ann Leavey seconded adoption of the Report. APPROVED.

17. “Luck of the Irish in Canada, Volume 2”. Dan Hardy updated the meeting on the status of the Society’s history book, “*The Luck of the Irish in Canada, Volume 2*”. The book is virtually complete and will soon be printed and available for distribution at \$20.00 per copy (paper bound). Dan pointed out the excellent work that Dr Jason Winders has performed in acting as Author on this 2nd volume. He has not only added six chapters to the Volume 1 but has updated all of the original chapters. Jason Winders met with Gordon Sanderson, the author of Volume 1, to ensure that this was done to Gordon’s satisfaction. Dan Hardy thanked Jim Nother for his kind gesture to underwrite the cost of distributing a copy of the book to all of the elementary and secondary schools in the Thames Valley District School Board and the London District Catholic School Board. Dan Hardy moved and Shaune McLeod seconded adoption of the Report. **APPROVED.**

18. Confirmation of Proceedings of the Society by the Directors, Officers and Members. Jane Corbett moved and Jeff McNaughton seconded a motion to confirm the proceedings of the Society by the Directors, Officers and Members, since the last Annual General Meeting. **APPROVED.**

19. Other Business. Charles Corbett asked that the Society consider joining with Fanshawe Pioneer Village, the Irish Embassy and other Irish groups in the area to appropriately honour the anniversary of the arrival of the Talbot Settlement into the London area. President Jim Nother agreed to appoint an Ad-hoc Committee to

determine what the Society can do in this regard. Nicole Spriet pointed out that consideration should be given to role of First Nation peoples in such a celebration.

20. Termination of the Meeting. Patrick Heffernan moved for the termination of the 5th Annual General Meeting of the Irish Benevolent Society of London & Area at 10.09 am. The next AGM will be held at a time, date and place to be determined by the Chair of the Board of Directors. APPROVED