

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE TWENTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MAY 25, 1991

22 members in attendance

1. Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m. by chair Sheila Cole
2. Agenda adopted (M/S/C Bethune/d'Entrement)
3. Minutes of April 21, 1990 adopted (M/S/C Shackell/O'Connor)
4. Annual Report from Board of Directors-- submitted by Dan O'Connor  
Dan's remarks included "being at 6's and 7's over the hiring of a second director, including the non-starter ad in August 1990. Corporate funding remains an issue; there is a great need for membership feedback.  
M/S/C O'Connor/ Meggison
5. Financial Report: Nil d'Entrement-- for FY ending March 31/91  
M/S/C O'Connor/Macleod

M/S/C Meggison/Forrestall: that the EAC redeem or write off the NSPC bond showing on the books.

6. Director Lois Corbett's report

Lois stated that 1990 has been "the year of consultations", and that her work this past year has involved several trips to Ottawa for various CEN meetings, caucuses, etc. The benefits of these have included sharpening and articulating EAC's viewpoint, and sharing analysis with other ENGO's.

There has been only one director since June 1990, a source of over-extension to say the least.

Challenges over the next years to come include developing a deeper form of environmental literacy, a wider acknowledgement that radical social change is necessary. The environmental movement has been "in a boom" over the last three years, and a key strategizing question is how to mature, to keep up, to lead.... We have to provide alternatives, sharpen our focus; choose areas of expertise-- two or three major projects or themes. BTI, posters and steady networking are important to these ends.

Lois gave special tribute to Lynne Isnor, who is also one of the EAC veterans-- keeping matters in order and guiding the centre.

Question: Do we need a second director?

Answer: There is a strong need for a fund-raiser/development officer; and personnel to do research. The longer there is only one director, the greater the chance of the EAC being perceived as Lois when it should be perceived as much more.

Question: Why can't Lois do fund raising along with everything else?

Answer: It is a matter of priorities and what has to be done first, and how the BOD develops long range planning strategies. Cohesive plans have been slow to develop... but the BOD will be moving into fund raising as a priority.

Question: Is there a BOD fund raising committee?

Answer: No.

Question: What happened at the Auction/Anniversary Party last night?

Answer: There was a tremendous response indicating that the EAC has lots of barely tapped resources. Unfortunately, donations of auction items exceeded the available pool of bidders.

Question: What do you want from the new Board?

Answer: The EAC BOD has not been a traditional Board in the sense of having high profile names who mainly are seated on the Board to bring prestige or to nominally head fund raising ventures. We want a working board which pulls together like the outgoing board was beginning to do. The Board should be concerned with both fund raising and issues.

Question: What happened with the recent Board initiated membership drive?

Answer: (from Board member) there was not a significant response to the "doubling up " tactic.

M/S/C Isnor/Taylor-- for whole hearted acceptance of the report

## 7. Committee Reports

\*Halifax Harbour Cleanup Committee -- Mike Ruxton

Mike emphasized that the committee felt the site selection from HHCI was deficient methodologically and certainly democratically. The EAC committee members all believe that McNab's Island is best suited as a park, and that other potential sites were not evaluated fairly. If HHCI process had been legitimate, than we would have reluctantly accepted the choice of McNab's, but we don't. However, the last word is not said, and it is still up in the air as to whether the metropolitan area will have a sewage treatment plant before 2000 anyway.

M/S/C Sean Kelly/ Mike Ruxton

\* BTI Committee-- Brian Receveur and Robert Carlson

This committee introduced a resolution to be covered under new business. The next BTI deadline was June 5.

M/S/C Corbett/Bethune

\*Environment and Development Working Group-- Sean Kelly

This committee has developed a clear protocol for their mandate and objectives- making them more than a committee.

Jennifer Scott is working on a grant supported project "Sustainability and Natural Resource Communities"; there is a pending Thailand project including a work/study tour; the group has links with the CEN which is developing a program on "Environmental Fairness" in conjunction with the forthcoming "Brazil 92 Conferences. The ESD Group sent in the first submission on the computer WEB for all Canadian ENGO's to study.

Thailand is a chosen area because of existing CUSO links and the fact that our Cristina Pekarik is there already, working on a linkage.

M/S/C Robert Forrestall/Barb Taylor

\*Environmental Neighbourhood Network (ENN) Report--Ann Corbin

As with other committees, a written report was submitted, but Ann was not able to be present for questions. The management liason committee consisting of : Alan Warner, Cathy Bethune, Janet Ross and Lois fieded questions in lieu. General sense of more complete reports wanted to BOD and BTI.

At this time Sean Kelly accepted the Chair from Sheila Cole

\* Wilderness Committee Report-- Sheila Cole and Nancy Shackell

This active committee is also working on a preservation of green space in Halifax campaign, with an eye to making this a civic election issue.

M/S/C Sean Kelly/ Mike Ruxton

## 8. New Business

A) Between the Issues Resolution:

that EAC set aside sufficient funds to pay for an editor of BTI  
that six issues be produced each year  
that the BOD continue to solicit funds for BTI as a priority

Discussion points:

- the actual \$8,800 + postage was a significant variance from the \$4,400 budgetted
- would four issues a year be enough?
- should BTI have more autonomy; should an editor be able to make commission on ads?
- as BTI is fundamental to the EAC, should a second co-director be editor of BTI as well as other duties?
- BTI is much like a journal- should a real newsletter come out monthly and a BTI quarterly?

M/S/C O'Connor/Anita Regan: that the BTI committee will forward this resolution to the new Board of Directors for their first meeting in June, and that this AGM membership strongly supports that core staff time be allocated as a priority to BTI.

B) The Budget

Understanding that as revenue improves, budget expenditures may also rise:

M/S/C Ruxton/ Corbett approval of new budget

C) By-laws

The most recent copy of the EAC bylaws on register with the Joint Stock and Societies Registry is 1979!

M/S/C Reçevneur/Meggison that the bylaws be brought up to date and that DAN O'Connor agrees to follow through on the registration process, and that the updated Bylaws be available at the next AGM.

M/S/C D'Entrement/Shackell that the bylaws be further amended such that the criteria for membership in the Ecology Action Centre be on the basis of paid annual fee or five hours volunteer service a year.

9. Nova Scotia Environmental Alliance statement of principles workshop discussion: deferred for lack of time

## 10. Annual Awards

TARRED DUCK 1991: the Nova Scotia Power Corporation

SUNSHINE Award: the QEH Green Team and the Save Bouldarie Is. Society

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Nil d'Entrement

11. Nominating Committee Report-- Janet Ross, Cathy Bethune, Lois Corbett

11. Nominating Committee Report

The following nominees agreed to stand:

Cathy Bethune  
Sheila Cole  
Lois Corbett  
Peter Davison  
Nil d'Entrement  
Noel Knockwood  
Debbie Martinello  
Dan O'Connor  
Janet Ross  
Nancy Shackell  
Vicki Grant (starting September)  
Bill Lewis -- nominated from the floor  
Anita Regan-- nominated from the floor

M/S/C Bethune/Corbett Unanimous acceptance of the new Board of Directors

M/S/C Meggison/Barb Taylor: that the new board seek to broaden the sectoral representation (e.g. labour movement) on the BOD by soliciting new members to fill the available positions.

12. Meeting adjourned for pot luck supper at about 6:00 p.m.

--minutes respectfully submitted by out going Board Member  
Doug Meggison June 19/91