

**Ecology Action Centre  
Annual General Meeting  
Halifax Nova Scotia  
14 June 1997  
MINUTES**

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Meeting held at Nova Scotia Museum, Bell Road

Board Members In Attendance:

Regrets:

Amanda Lavers	Ellen Redden	Chris Henkelmann
Pieter Jacobs	Allan Jenkins	Wendy MacGregor
Amanda Lavers	Chris Craig	Lisa Bugden
Mark Butler	David Brickman	Margaret Poole
Derek Davis		
Secretary - Lynn Brooks (Office Manager)		

**1. Call to Order**

7:16 p.m. Meeting called to order. Chair Amanda Lavers. Requests made for additions to agenda. Deleted from agenda was the report on food issues.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Adopted as is - moved by Pieter Jacob seconded by Alan Ruffman.

**3. Minutes of Previous AGM**

Adopted as is except for two corrections to the spelling of names Rob Hansen and Nancy Shackell. Moved by Alan Ruffman seconded by Mark Butler.

**1996-97 in review...**

**4. Report from the Board of Directors - Read by Amanda Lavers**

See Annex A for complete report.

**5. Report from the Office Manager - Read by Lynn Brooks**

See Annex B for complete report.

A question was raised from the membership regarding why renewals were not sent out more often. The answer was that the centre lacking a laser printer, relied on volunteers mainly Chris Henkelmann, to print the letters in volume on a laser printer. Karen Hollett and Rob Hansen both volunteered printer access. This was noted for future action.

**6. Financial Report - Read by Allan Jenkins**

See attached Financial statement as Annex C.

The Chair asked for the adoption of the reports as read, this was moved by Alan Ruffman and seconded by Chris Craig.

## 7. EAC Action....

The following were the reports either given verbally or read into the record:

**a. Halifax Harbour Committee-** presented by Rosalee Grette Lydon (No written report) Rosalee gave a brief history of the Harbour committee. She is presently the only active member of the committee. She has put her name forward to serve on the HRM Citizens Advisory Committee. The last report of the committee was in 1993. The work at that time was well received. Rosalee also reported that the HRM has a source control plan available for public scrutiny and that there would be a meeting at the Bloomfield Centre 16 June 1997 at 6 pm. There may be a role for the Harbour committee in the final draft of this policy.

Discussion from the floor:

EAC member Alan Ruffman added more details on the "stakeholders" committee. He noted that this committee needs new members to really get underway. This was the consensus of the majority of members present.

**b. Between the Issues Editor's Report** -presented and prepared by June Hall (editor). See Annex D for complete report.

Discussion from the floor:

Suggestions from membership included the following: the magazine should target the newly elected MPs for a small ad; and that we must ensure that copies of BTI are sent to the Nova Scotia Archives. A question was raised by Mike Ruxton regarding how books were selected for the magazine to review he suggested that publishing houses be contacted to see if they would provide new releases. He offered to make the initial contact.

**c. Coastal Water Trails** - Prepared by Sue Brown read by Lynn Brooks. See Annex E for complete report. No discussion.

**d. Sable Island Gas Committee** - prepared by Howard Epstein presented by Alan Ruffman. See Annex F for complete report.

Discussion from the floor:

A question was asked regarding the independence of the Energy Board panel. Alan Ruffman in reply stated it was difficult to read the panel as to get a feel of what will be the final outcome. A question was raised regarding other interested parties. Alan replied that yes, the all Canadian route through Quebec and Tatam Resources could be a third contender. It was suggested by Rob Hanson that the meeting acknowledge the hard work done by the Sable Committee. This was greeted with a round of applause from all attending.

**e. Library** - Prepared and presented by Ellen Redden. See Annex G for complete report.

**f. Marine Issues** - Prepared and presented by Mark Butler. See Annex H for complete report.

Mark Butler acknowledged the expanded role of the committee with a new focus on the ocean bottom. He offered a copy of the newly designed poster depicting dragging damage to the ocean floor to everyone present. He added that Nancy Shackell and Anglica Silva were continuing work on the Krill fishery.

Derek Davis presented additional information about the Gulf of Maine Alliance. He stressed the importance for EAC to be very visible on actions in regard to the Gulf.

Question from the floor: Has there been any response to the request to Establish Marine Protected Areas?

Response: Process is underway but it is very early days and roles have to be defined for future action.

Comment from the floor was that this initiative was first brought forward in 1993 and its time for government to stop pussy footing around and get something done. The Gully would be a good place to start. It was further suggested perhaps it was time to launch a media campaign around this issue.

**g. School Grounds Naturalization** - Coordinator Rhea Dawn Mahar (report not available to be read at AGM).

See Annex I for complete report.

**h. Transportation Committee** - Prepared and presented by David Brickman.

See Annex J for complete report.

The report generated discussion from the floor as to whether the "Go Plan" will actually go ahead. It was felt that there was a need to discuss transportation in terms of a whole plan for the new HRM and how it should be developed.

**i. Wilderness Committee** - Prepared and presented by Eugene Tan.

See Annex K for complete report.

There was a question from the floor in regard to the logging in Point Pleasant Park. Eugene responded that the WC has joined with other groups to look at this issue and urban parks and their management as a whole.

A concern was expressed from the floor that mining is not being addressed, especially considering the planned kaolin mine and the expanding peat bog operations in the province. It was agreed that these are issues that needs watching but presently there is insufficient resources to take a position on these issues.

## **8. EAC Maintenance...**

**a. Fundraising Report** - Prepared by Margaret Poole read by Lynn Brooks.

See Annex L for complete report.

Comments from the floor were in regard to the absence of fund raising events in the last year or so. It was felt that every effort should be made to make sure an event occurs annually.

**b. Membership Report**- No report.

It was suggested from the floor that more effort should be made to get members to sign up on pre-authorized checking (PAC) as this would provide a stable source of monthly income for the Centre. The Office Manager agreed that this would be ideal and will send out PAC applications

with tax receipts for memberships over \$50.00.

**c. Volunteers** - Volunteer Coordinator Chris Henkelmann was away so the Office Manager gave a brief overview of the situation.

We receive on the average two queries a week in regard to volunteering with the Centre. With Chris away, the onus has been put on the Committees to contact the potential volunteers and welcome them to meetings. Unfortunately without someone to follow up, we have no idea how successful this has been and there is a concern that many volunteers may have been lost because of lack of contact. Hopefully with the return of the coordinator we will be better able to make use of all this potential help.

## 9. EAC Awards Ceremony...

Mark Butler was asked by the Chair to make the presentations. He explained how these awards have been around for many years and that the name came about after the sinking of the Broken Arrow in Canso which was responsible for the death of many marine creatures.

The Winner this year was a unanimous choice, the Tarred Duck was presented to the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources for its decision to delist the Jim Campbell Barrens from the list of protected areas. Since no one from the Government was available to accept the trophy, it was accepted on their behalf by David Brickman who came suitably attired for the event.

The winner of the Sunshine Award was again chosen in response to the Barrens situation, the choice being the Coalition to Relist the Jim Campbell Barrens. The award of a package of sunflower seeds was accepted by Eugene Tan Chair of the EAC Wilderness Committee. Eugene in accepting spoke eloquently on how this issue has galvanised public opinion as never before.

## 10. Business Arising...

This was opened to the floor to raise any issues of concern. None were forthcoming.

### 1997-98 in preview...

## 11. Up-and-comings

**a. Environment and Development Committee** - There was no report from the committee but the Chair, Amanda Lavers, gave a little background on how this group that started out as a committee of the EAC went on to become an independent group and is now once again a committee of the EAC. They will bring another dimension to EAC and we are very happy to welcome them back.

**b. Pesticide Committee** - Pieter Jacobs gave a quick overview of the meetings that were held in response to the letter from the Nova Scotia Community Health Promotion section of the Dept of Health asking to have their logo deleted from all remaining copies of the brochure "Get Your Lawn off Drugs". Apparently the Dept of Health received a lot of outside pressure regarding their support of our stand on this issue, and decided they no longer wish to be associated with the pamphlet. We complied with their request and then held meetings with members of RATE to determine whether we wanted to approach the Dept of Health about rewriting the brochure in order to continue to display their logo or to go ahead with a reprint of the brochure without their logo. With the present push to get a by-law passed in HRM, it is felt we need to look at this issue long term although at present there isn't a committee working on this issue.