

FRIENDS OF HMCS HAIDA
MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 at 1900hrs
WEBCAST

PRESENT:	Jeff Topping	President
	Walt Dermott	Director, Past President
	Gisela Dermott	Corporate Secretary
	Rick Bialachowski	Director of Governance
	Ken Lloyd	Director, Visual Signals Team
	Mike Vencel	Director of Education
	Barbara Shackleton	Director of Marketing
	Karol Murillo	Director - Grants
	Joseph Iuso	Director - Website
	Matthew Venne	Director w/o Portfolio

MEMBERS: Andy Barber, Sandy Kenyon, Brett Solte, John Raymond Norgate, William Thomas, Jette Thomas, Rick Little, Jerry Proc, John Dolbec, David Raman.

BOARD APOLOGIES: Snezana Savic, Gail Urquhart, Peter Dixon

1.0 Call to Order

The Chairman and President Jeff Topping called the meeting to Order at 1905 hrs and asked Padre William Thomas to give the Act of Remembrance

1.1 Act of Remembrance: Padre William Thomas

1.2 Motion to Approve the Agenda

Moved by: William Thomas
Seconded by: Walt Dermott
Vote: Approved

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the September 12, 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Jeff Topping stated that the minutes of the September 12, 2020 AGM have been distributed to all members prior to the meeting.

Motion to Approve the Minutes

Moved by: Ken Llyod

Seconded by: Walt Dermott

Vote: Approved

2.0 Financial Review and Treasurer's Report

As of March 30, 2021, the corporation had assets of \$314,387 which is a significant increase over 2020. This is primarily due to a donation from an individual from British Columbia of approximately \$250K in securities to ensure the continued preservation of HMCS HAIDA and to use the funds where necessary to carry on the mission of the FOH. On the expense side, the commission fees listed in the Financials were in relation to the exchange of the donated securities. As we were closed for much of last year due to COVID, our income was extremely limited. The \$918 in 2021 shown for gift shop sales is due to the start of our online sales. The difference between the telephone and utilities expenses relates to the the extraction of the telephone expenses from utilities in 2020 to it's own expense line in 2021.

Motion to Approve the Treasurer's report.

Moved by: Ken Llyod

Seconded by: Sandy Kenon

Vote: Approved

3.0 President's Report

Jeff Topping introduced the 2020/2021 Board of Directors.

He re-iterated the vision and the mission of the FOH. He then listed a few examples for the outreach goals for the year as follows:

- Strengthen connection with RCN as the Flagship
- Grow online shopping to generate revenue
- Continue social media growth; grow online presence
- New Webinar Series
- Parks Canada – actions required to re-open site
- Keep volunteer base engaged

Jeff Topping then highlighted some of the events the FOH participated in this past year which included the HMCS HARRY DEWOLF commissioning, 2021 Navy Bike Ride, The Harry DeWolf Challenge, Consular General, Republic of Poland visit.

Motion to Approve the President's report.

Moved by: Andy Barber
Seconded by: Walt Dermott
Vote: Approved

4.0 Approval of the Actions of the Board of Directors for 2019-2020

Jeff highlighted various activities of the Board for approval.

The gift shop was opened with limited hours this season with the help once again of Ralph Edwards and Crystal Stevens while observing COVID protocols. The gift shop has again received a donation of a few thousand t-shirts which sell at pure profit.

The Board has been actively searching for grants from various sources. We have been successful in receiving a grant from the COVID 19 government program as well as one for summer youth employment.

The Board continues to work on the FOH Website along with our online presence (Facebook, Instagram, Shopify).

Ken Lloyd and the Vintage Signal's Team has been extremely active this past year in many activities which include the promotion of the history of HMCS HAIDA into the community and overseas. One of their current successes is working with LCdr Dermott on delivering a cyber course for the Canadian Cadet program.

The FOH has launched three Webinar presentations based on true stories. The first was entitled, "The Scharnhorst – The Last Signal", presented by our board member Ken Llyod. The next two presenters were sourced by Walt Dermott. They included, Sean Livingston, presenting "HMCS Oakville – Inspiring the Movie 'Greyhound'", and then Marc Stevens, presenting "Escape, Evasion and Revenge". All Webinars received excellent reviews. This also allowed us to create a call to action to those people who are not yet members to become so. Thanks for the entire Board for organizing these events and to Barb Shackleton for her technical support.

Membership has been decreasing and the Board is hoping to stop that downward trend and increase membership by new activities such as the Webinar series, and a renewal of our Website. Once we are able to volunteer aboard the HAIDA once again, we hope to encourage more people to become members.

Motion to:

"move that the acts, contracts, by-laws, proceeding, appointments, elections and payments made, done and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Friends of HMCS HAIDA, honestly and in good faith, in the best interest of the corporation and exercised with due care, diligence and skill, be the same hereby approved, ratified and confirmed."

Moved by: Andy Barber
Seconded by: Sany Kenon
Vote: Approved

6.0 **Election of Directors**

The following Directors have completed their three year term on the Board:

Gisela Dermott
Walt Dermott
Jeff Topping

All three have put their names forward to continue for another three years. Matthew Venne has also put his name forward to join the Board for a three year term. He is a partner with ROB Charter Professional Accountants. He has volunteered over the years with the Royal Canadian Legion and helps with their annual Poppy Campaigns. He will help with the FOH strategic plan going forward for the next five years. It was pointed out that there was a fourth name (Snezana Savic) on the slide where all members were asked to vote on. Jeff Topping acknowledged that and stated that Ms. Savic had not yet completed her three years and would remove her name from the list.

Motion to Elect the Nominated Directors:

Moved by: Mike Vencel
Seconded by: Ken Llyod
Vote: Approved

7.0 **President's Closing Remarks**

FOH Short Term Activities:

- In person events with RCN as the Flagship
- Grow online shopping to include more items and additional revenues
- Continue our social media growth
- Webinar series
- Parks Canada – Actions required to fully open site
- Keep volunteer base engaged

8.0 **Final Questions**

Rick Bialachowski pointed out that Snezana Savic's term does end in 2021 and therefore the slide with her name on it for the re-election vote was correct.

Andy Barber clarified that the HAIDA is the RCN Flagship, not the Honourary Flagship.

Andy Barber asked whether the Board had any plans to invest the large donation it had received. Jeff Topping stated that the Board has discussed it and will decide how to invest the funds based on it's future strategic plan for the organization.

Barb Shackleton asked whether there were any plans in place to increase our volunteer / membership base such as give out brochures for visitors to the ship to help increase revenues. Andy Barber said that he had signed up to various volunteer sites but with COVID it was hard to get volunteers as we did not have much to offer them as the site was closed much of the time? Jeff Topping stated that he spoke with the people of HMCS Sackville who had the same challenges and said that they would share best practices on how to handle these issues.

Barb Shackleton then brought up the subject of developing virtual tours of the HAIDA. This was tried in the past without any luck of funding from outside organizations. Jeff also reminded all that without the blessing of Parks Canada, we would not be able to move this work forward. Jeff did say that we could look at this a part of our strategic plan and vision for the next five years.

8.0 **Adjournment and next Meeting**

No date was set for the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

Moved by: Rick Bialachowski

Seconded by: Mike Vencel

Vote: Approved

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//Signed By//

Gisela Dermott, Corporate Secretary

//Signed By//

Jeff Topping, President