

Bide Awhile Animal Shelter Society
Minutes for the Annual General Meeting – July 20, 2022

Welcome & Approval of Minutes — Jenny Allen

- Jenny welcomed attendees to the AGM
- Jenny requested a motion to approve the previous AGM's minutes. Stacey Langley motioned to approve the minutes and Emma Menchefski seconded.
- Motion carried

Business Arising from 2021 Minutes — Jenny Allen

- Jenny confirmed no business / action items arose from the previous minutes.

President's Annual Report — Jenny Allen

- This AGM comes 10 months following the 2021 AGM
- The past year has presented continued challenges from the pandemic including limits on community initiatives and volunteers.
- Adoptions have continued throughout the year. The Animal Care Manager departed the organization during the year and Chelsea Pugh, lead Animal Care Attendant, has stepped up to fill the gap.
- Paul Jenkins, Bide Awhile's Executive Director, departed the organization during the year. During his time, he made significant strides on several shelter priorities including Keela, the stakeholder and financial database. Michael Stack, Communications Coordinator has stepped up during this time and made many additional contributions to the shelter during this gap. Jenny provided kudos to Michael.
- Jenny introduced Liesje Somers-Blonde as Bide Awhile's new Executive Director, starting employment on July 25. Liesje spoke about her excitement to get started and meeting stakeholders.
- Jenny thanked all staff and board members for their efforts this year, particularly with respect to staffing gaps.

Shelter Report — Jenny Allen

- 279 cats came into the shelter in 2021 and 273 adoptions were completed
- Our partnership with 9 Lives Cat Rescue Society continues by supporting their initiatives with our low cost spay and neuter program and referring animals in need to us.
- The board continues to support increasing pay for animal care attendants through a multi-year process
- Keela is now established in the organization thanks in part to Paul's efforts during his time with the shelter. Despite some early hiccups in data amalgamation, processes are flowing smoothly now.
- Volunteer programs continue to be a challenge due to pandemic restrictions, though staff and board members are looking forward to rejoining the community at events such as the Bluenose Marathon and upcoming parades.
- Jenny again thanked Michael for his efforts during the year and particularly for stepping up following Paul's time with the shelter.

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- Jenny made a motion for the shelter to research, quote and implement energy efficiency upgrades for the shelter in the coming year. She provided an overview of potential options and confirmed the shelter would follow implementation recommendations from efficiency experts.
 - This work supports shelter operations, long-term sustainability and helps it align with Humane Canada recommendations for shelter environments.
 - Aaron Veinotte motioned to approve moving forward with exploring and implementing energy efficiency options as outlined. Thom Williams seconded and all voted in favour. The motion is approved.

Finance Committee Report – Christine Latter-Stratton

- Christine reviewed 2021 financial statement; highlights included:
 - The year ended with cashflow of \$180,365.
 - The investment portfolio increased to approximately \$1.3 million.
 - Year-over-year revenue increased by approximately \$131,000 due in large part to bequests including the Hopgood Estate; donations and members decreased.
 - Expenditures decreased by about approximately \$16,000.
- Stephanie Willan asked:
 - if membership fee decreases were fewer new memberships or maintaining existing memberships and Christine confirmed it is a mix of the two.
 - for specifics on advertising costs which appear to have doubled to \$4,000. Christine advised this is likely from calendar printing costs though advised someone would review and follow up to confirm.
- Thom Williams asked about average membership costs and Michael Stack provided a range.
- Jenny provided commentary about the fee decline including how some of this can be attributed to the Keela transition and staffing challenges to monitor memberships. Enhancing the shelter's approach to soliciting and maintaining memberships is a priority for the new board year.
- Christine requested a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Stacey Langley provided the motion and Emma Menchefski seconded. All attendees voted in favour and the motion was passed.

Fundraising Committee Report – Stacey Langley (in lieu of Committee Chair Emma Menchefski)

- Sponsors are currently being pursued for the 2023 Calendar and expect to be confirmed for the fall.
- Flo MacLennan commented that the pet photo challenge has had delays and deadline for entries will likely continue past July. Emma confirmed that is the case.

Communications & Community Outreach Report – Genevieve Sharkey

- Committee activities have been impacted by pandemic considerations.
- Genevieve provided kudos to Michael Stack for his efforts including with the Committee.
- Notable highlights from the year included:
 - Returning to Christmas at the Forum in person
 - An information desk at Ren's Pets

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- Participation in the Betty White Challenge, a social media campaign soliciting donations for animal care organizations in honour of Betty White. This led to approximately \$9,000 in donations.
- Plans for the coming year include preparing a social media calendar, launching public awareness activities about shelter programs and initiatives, and pursuing a presence at more in-person events given the lightening of pandemic restrictions.
- Stephanie Willan asked if activities for the coming year will include a membership drive. Jenny advised it would and Stacey provided commentary about membership-related activities this year including reducing the total number and variety of memberships in anticipation of a drive.

Volunteer Committee Report – Florence (Flo) MacLennan

- Committee activities have been significantly limited by pandemic considerations such that the Volunteer Committee was largely inactive. Flo advised the board remains eager to return to in person events and refocus the shelter’s volunteer activities.
- The shelter participated in the 2022 Pride parade in Halifax; Flo thanked stakeholders and volunteers for their help in making the shelter’s entry successful.
- Flo confirmed the shelter will also participate in the 2022 Natal Day parade and requested volunteers.

Nominating Committee Report – Stacey Langley

- Stacey thanked Nominating Committee members for all their efforts and support this year.
- The following board members will not be returning in the new board year:
 - Natasha Chestnut
 - Michael Hughes
 - Gwyneth Christoffel
 - Christine Latter
 - Donna Jewers
- The following Directors have completed their fourth term and are reoffering for a fifth term:
 - Jenny Allen
 - Stacey Langley
 - Aaron Veinotte
- The following Directors have completed their third term and are reoffering for a fourth term:
 - Emma Menchefski
 - Kimberley McOnie
 - Florence MacLennan
- The following Directors have completed their second term and are reoffering for a third term:
 - Genevieve Sharkey
 - Rachelle Boutilier
 - Melissa Manette
- The following Directors have completed their first term and are reoffering for a second term:

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- Arvind Babajee
- Thom Williams
- New nominees are:
 - Kristin Matthews
 - Rylie Peacock
 - Rebecca Rawcliffe
 - Fay Dickinson
 - Charley Baxter
 - Angela Martin
- The slate of proposed officers is:
 - President — Jenny Allen
 - Vice President — Aaron Veinotte
 - Secretary — Thom Williams
 - Treasurer — Charley Baxter
 - Past President — Stacey Langley
- Stacey requested a motion to accept the slate of officers and board members as presented. Stephanie Willan motioned to accept the slate of officers and board members as presented and Rachelle Boutilier seconded. All attendees voted in favor and the motion was passed.
- Stacey commented on looking forward to the new board year and bringing Liesje onboard.

Closing – Jenny Allen

- Jenny requested a motion to approve all reports as presented. Aaron Veinotte motioned to approve all reports as presented, Thom Williams seconded and all attendees voted in favour.
- Jenny commented on the coming opportunities to the shelter and excitement around that, including ideally reopening to the public.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28.

Minutes submitted by Aaron Veinotte, Recording Secretary for 2021-2022 board year.