





2022 ANNUAL REPORT

BIDE AWHILE

Bide Awhile Animal Shelter Society

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

June 10th, 2023

Welcome Opening Remarks

Approval of Minutes of July 2022 AGM

Business Arising from the Minutes

President's Message, Aaron Veinotte

Strategic Plan Presentation, Aaron Veinotte

Executive Director's Message, Liesje Somers-Blonde

Finance Committee Report, Stacey Langley in lieu of Charley Baxter

Fundraising Committee Report, Angela Martin

Volunteer Committee Report, Rachelle Boutilier

Communications & Community Outreach Committee Report, Florence McLennan

Nominating Committee Report, Stacey Langley

Closing Remarks

Adjournment

MEETING GUIDELINES

House Keeping Items

Turn off cell phones for the duration of the meeting.

Please mute your microphone, only one speaker at a time should discussion occur,

Non-Members

We welcome non-members to our AGM. We request that they respect their role as observes only; therefor are not entitled to challenge, enter into debate, move, second or vote on a motion.

Debate & Voting

Voting is by written acknowledgement in the chat.

75% of attending membership must agree to enter into debate.

To pass a motion, 75% of the attending membership's support is required.

Role of the President

Ensures the meeting moves forward,

Limits discussion to matters within the scope of the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aaron Veinotte



As I reviewed key highlights of the 2022-2023 year at Bide Awhile to determine how to prepare this report, I have been reflecting on the phrase the secret of success is constancy to purpose. Because purpose is what drives this organization forward. We are here to help others, and clarity to what we want to achieve guides every action we take and every decision we make now and as we look into the future. I hope you'll see — as I do — how many of the key developments from the last year have and continue to help us align as a purpose-driven organization.

In mid-2022 we were delighted to welcome Liesje Somers-Blonde as Executive Director, who since taking on the role has become a true champion and steward of our organization. Working together with animal care and office staff including new Communications and Marketing Coordinator Sam Cole, Liesje has brought stability to Bide Awhile, instituted changes and initiatives that are helping us achieve operational excellence, bringing new and innovative ways of thinking that are leading to increased brand visibility and new opportunities for the organization. Staff have truly excelled by living our purpose, and I am excited to see where the next few years take us.

A key area of focus for the board this year has been developing a new strategic plan for Bide Awhile. I have been very pleased with the progress of our subcommittee advancing this work and will look for the membership's support in advancing these goals and objectives. A huge thank you to other committee members, Liesje from staff, Thom Williams, Flo Maclennan, and Fay Dickinson from the board, and past presidents Stephanie Willan and Nancy Mansfield for all their work on this initiatives. As we seek approval and look to operationalize this plan for the coming year, I grow ever more excited at the strategic opportunities before us.

Beyond the strategic plan, additional focus areas the board and staff will work together on over the next year include enhancing our capacity for fundraising initiatives and re-envisioning our approach to soliciting and managing volunteers. Both areas were impacted by the pandemic and yet remain important to our future success, and I look forward to what we can achieve with them together.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

Aaron Veinotte



It has been a privilege to serve in the president's role since January of 2023 after previously being vice president. I again offer my sincere thanks to departing president Jenny Allen for her leadership and many contributions to Bide Awhile over the years, as well as members of the executive committee and all directors for their efforts through this year.

Finally, I want to commend Liesje and her staff for going above and beyond in their efforts to shelter animals displaced by recent wildfires in the Halifax area. Beyond the immediate positive impacts on those animals and their families, this response has showcased Bide Awhile as both a pillar of support to our local communities and a partner to other shelters and anyone in a time of need. We continue to provide shelter for those affected even as our AGM takes place, and I appreciate the accommodations all in attendance have made to respect the privacy of these special guests.

These are but a few examples of our success as a purpose-driven organization. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Veinotte
President



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Liesje Somers-Blonde

I would like to thank the President, Board of Directors, staff and volunteers for the commitment over the last year. I know there have been a lot of changes, but I hope you can all see the progress we are making, and that this progress will help propel us forward into 2023/2024. Thank you for welcoming me and supporting me since joining the team in July 2022.

Bide Awhile welcomed myself, Karylyn and Mitchell to the team in July 2022, and most recently Melissa and Sam! We are building our team; we plan to hire one more part-time person for the summer and one full-time person by September since Chelsea is going to be taking some time off due to an injury that needs surgery.

Shelter

We had 2 dishwashers installed, one for the upstairs and one for down in isolation. We have a new washer installed as well, one without an agitator which will be good for the beds that we need to wash. We moved the staff room and isolation around, so now the staff room is on the main floor and isolation is on the lower floor. This is helpful for disease management; surrenders come to the basement door and go straight into isolation. This helps keep the main entrance free for adoptions and donations. We had our cat activity wall installed in the main room after a fresh coat of paint was applied and we are happy to report that all the cats and kittens love it! We have installed a live kitten cam, hosted by novascotiawebcams.ca, so you can watch the cats and kittens 24/7. The back half of the shelter was painted by volunteers and Board Members; even though we used the same colour, the fresh coat of paint has brightened up the shelter immensely. We plan to continue through the year, brightening up and refreshing all of our spaces.

Shelter Volunteers

Volunteers have been welcomed back to the shelter on Monday to Saturday from 6-8 to socialize with the cats and walk the dogs. We had six co-op students from various high schools, and they all had a wonderful experience volunteering with us. We had two Return to Duty Military Personnel join us as well. We have one person from Peter's Place Brain Recovery Centre who comes weekly. We have had reading circle return from Colby Elementary School with staff and students enjoying their time with us immensely.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE (Continued)

Liesje Somers-Blonde

We have one person coming from Independent Living Nova Scotia. Our Hopgood Pet Visitation program has been increasing in popularity! We are visiting four facilities per month, and we have a flexible visitation program with Hospice Halifax. We hosted a water stop this year at the Blue Nose and harnessed the energy and power of the Nova Scotia International Student program, they along with Board Members and staff put on an incredible show of spirit and BAW paw-sitivity. This was the first year we had an adopted shelter companion, Winnie, as a team mascot. Hopefully we can continue this for next year with a willing adopted companion. It was a great event and we plan to do it again next year, hope to see you there!

Nova Scotia Wildfire Crisis Response

In the past, Bide Awhile has been involved in helping the community when there is a crisis and most recently in the case of the wildfires, BAW played an important role in helping displaced Nova Scotians and their companion animals. We worked closely with the SPCA-Dartmouth asking the SPCA to do the initial triage and sending us displaced companions. We housed 17 cats, 8 dogs and 2 bunnies for the duration of the evacuations. We offered food, littler, leashes and carriers to both the Barrington and the HRM based Animal Control Officers. We supplied veterinarian prescribed food to displaced community members with the help from our partners at Waverley Animal Hospital, Penhorn Animal Hospital and Eastern Passage Village Veterinary Hospital. It is through these contacts and these relationships that we will have a better plan for next time. While we hope there never is another next time, it's better to be prepared. We will all sit at the table and discuss our Crisis Response Plan. This is an exciting time for all to be part of the conversation and the solution. Helping companion animals and their families is the heartbeat of Bide Awhile!

Foster Programs

Our Long-Term Foster and Palliative Care program is still going strong with a total of 17 cats currently in the program. We will be evaluating this program during 2023/2024 to set up some parameters on how cats/dogs qualify for the program, what we will cover and what the foster will be responsible to cover for all future participants. We have a great group of fosters, and they all care deeply for the companions that are in their care, continuing these relationships and encouraging new fosters is of the utmost importance to us.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE (Continued)

Liesje Somers-Blonde

Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program
We are working closely with 9 Lives Cat Rescue to provide them with 30 spay/neuter certificates per month and selling 10 per month from the shelter to community members. Spay/Neuter is an important conversation to be having with the community right now, especially since we are seeing record numbers of intake and adoption here at Bide Awhile and we haven't even entered "kitten season" yet.

Up Coming!

Trio's Place Garden
The gardens are being beautified and added to, we are excited to have a committee started to find ways to get more people involved in the garden. We are selling Bide Awhile Bees Wildflower mix seeds. Valerie will be happy to take you on a garden tour later today during our open house, or stop by and see her, she is often found weeding and enjoying the beauty that surrounds us here at the shelter.

BABz (Bide Awhile Bee zzz) the Queen Bee
Being installed today! She will have her own 24/7 webcam on novascotiawebcams.ca, I hope you'll tune in and see what she's buzzing about. We know that it typically takes a few years for the honey production to be adequate to have for sale, so we will rely on Greenfield Hives & Honey to help us through this process and provide us with some in the meantime, however, keep an eye out for the Bide Awhile Bee Honey in the future. There will be a few live events on our Facebook and on the 24-hour web cam, so stay tuned to see what's the buzzzzz here at the shelter.

Respectfully submitted,

Liesje Somers-Blonde
Executive Director

ANIMAL STATISTICS

Due to various staffing changes, certain data is unclear for the 2022 year.

ANIMALS IN

Period	Cats	Dogs	Total	Halifax	County	Rescues
2021	279	0	279	48	191	40
2022	~293	2	~295	-	-	-
2023 (to date)	188	7	195	100	51	44

ADOPTIONS

Period	Cats	Dogs	Total	Male	Female
2021	273	0	273	137	136
2022	238	2	240	-	-
2023 (to date)	211	8	219	96	123

SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

Period	Total
2021	267
2022	-
2023 (to date)	222

PALLATIVE CARE FOSTERS

Total
9
20
17

EUTHANASIA

Period	Total
2021	15
2022	-
2023 (to date)	7

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Charley Baxter, Treasurer

We are reporting on our fiscal year end, December 31, 2022. The financial statements provided in your meeting package include the information described below.

Miles T. Sweeney Limited, Chartered Professional Accountants' Review Engagement Report of (page 1).

Bide Awhile's Statement of Financial Position (page 2) as of December 31, 2022. This statement reflects Bide Awhile's assets and the liabilities we are required to settle in future periods. The difference between the asset and liability accounts is our net assets.

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (page 3) describes Bide Awhile's financial performance during 2022 compared with that in 2021. It shows revenues less expenditures, grouped by source (operations and other). Operations relate to the core activities of running the shelter – providing animal welfare services, donations received from our supporters and fundraising initiatives. Other relates mainly to investment activities.

Statement of Cash Flows (page 5) explains the change in the cash balance during 2022 compared with the previous year.

Notes to the Financial Statements (page 6-9) describe Bide Awhile's accounting policies and provide further explanation of items found in the financial statements.

Highlights for 2022:

Balance Sheet

Cash increased by $130,281, from $180,365 at the start of the year to $310,646 on December 31, 2022.

Our investment portfolio decreased by $53,235 year-over-year to $1,237,410. The decrease was due portfolio losses totaling $77,122 during the year, partially offset by an excess of deposits over withdrawals from our investments in 2022. At year-end, we held a combination of interest-bearing investments ($710,453) and shares ($526,957) in accordance with our investment policy.

Capital assets decreased overall due to amortization since no capital asset additions occurred.

Deferred contributions under Current Liabilities represents donations received for the Spook's Memorial Kitty low-cost spay and neuter program not yet utilized. The $17,817 decrease from $32,731 at the start of the year, to $14,914 at year end is a result of the cost of spay and neuter procedures subsidized during the year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Continued)

Charley Baxter, Treasurer

Deferred contributions related to the building relates to capital campaign donations received towards the construction of the Shelter. These funds are being recognized over the life of the building as Other Revenue partially offsetting the expense.

Revenues

Year over year revenue increased by $95,595. Significant contributing factors are highlighted below.

Bequests increased $204,886 in 2022. However, this increase was partially offset by a one-time $158,028 estate settlement received in 2021. On a net basis these amounts account for approximately 50 per cent of the total revenue increase.

2022 Donations, memorials and pledges were $249,804, a $41,700 increase over contributions from these sources in 2021. Most of the increase reflects higher cash donations. However, we also saw a $7,236 (14%) increase in Kennel Club pledges and a $5,418 (35%) increase in Memorials, the latter a reflection of the donors' desire to honor Betty White's memory.

Spook's Memorial Kitty's low-cost spay and neuter program continued to expand with $65,904 of the fund's deferred contributions being recognized to offset the cost of procedures completed. In 2023, for the first time since its creation in memory of Chris Hornberger's beloved cat's passing, the fund balance was completely depleted. Bide Awhile is looking at how to replenish the fund to continue its critical work.

Fundraising revenues were consistent with those generated in 2021, reflecting continued reduced activity as a result of Covid-19. I am pleased to report that fundraising is back in 2023 with successful Pours for Paws and Bluenose marathon events, and a re-boot of Cat Yoga!

With the ongoing support of the volunteers and our membership, we continue to look for new ways to consistently grow the shelter's revenue streams to a level that is sustainable into the future!

Expenses

Year over year expenditures increased approximately $23,540.

Significant causes for this change are outline below.

Salary and benefits increased $26,102 (13%) as a result of: changes in staffing due to realignment of responsibilities and expanded hours of operation; compensation increases associated with these changes and due to the significant inflationary pressures faced by our team members.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Continued)

Charley Baxter, Treasurer

Low cost spay and neuter program delivery costs increased by $12,653 (24%) due to increase in the number of procedures completed and procedure costs.

Animal Care costs increased by $5,225 (6%) primarily due to higher veterinary costs. This was due in part to a combination of our palliative care program and cost increases. Office supplies and repairs and maintenance costs were $6,805 (22%) higher due to investments to improve efficiency and addressing some deferred maintenance.

Offsetting these increases was a $26,769 (44%) decrease in Professional fees. This is primarily due the Executive Director being a salaried position throughout 2022.

Other Income

In 2022, Bide Awhile's investment portfolio incurred a $77,122 loss representing an overall return of (6.1%).This loss represented a $141,717 decrease from investment income of $64,595 generated in 2021. The return of inflation not seen since the 1990's led to rising interest rates resulting in poor performance by both stocks and bonds. Due to the conservative nature of Bide Awhile's investment policy, our performance, while negative, outperformed benchmark indices.

Overall, Bide Awhile generated a surplus of $71,044, an overall decrease of $69,662 (49.5%) compared to 2021 results. While overall results declined, primarily due to the investment losses noted above, the impact was mitigated by an $72,055 improvement in operating performance, mainly due to increased bequests.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Angela Martin, Chair

The Fundraising Committee is picking up momentum as we enjoyed being able to host in-person events and participate in community activities in 2022. Fundraising is an integral part of Bide Awhile's sustainability, and we are grateful to everyone who helps to support our initiatives. We look forward to hosting innovative and successful activities in the coming year.

Pet Photo Challenge and Calendar Sales
We published our annual calendar for 2023 and are pleased to have raised: $14,685 in sales. Our calendar showcases winners from our annual Pet Photo Challenge fundraiser that raised: $1,800.

We thank everyone who makes this annual initiative a great success, especially veterinarians and retailers who sell our calendar, and the generous people who purchase our calendar. Watch for our 2024 calendar rolling out later this summer!

Cat Yoga
Thanks to our yoga instructor, we were able to host multiple cat yoga events throughout 2022. Supporters loved having the chance to get active while also snuggling cats! This popular program raises around $800 each session.

Tails in Motion at the Blue Nose Marathon
Our Tails in Motion team has been active in training activity for this year's Blue Nose Marathon, and already getting plans under way for the 2024 event! We're looking forward to introducing mini fundraisers, training runs, and other fun initiatives to support awareness and raise money on behalf of Bide Awhile.

Kennel Klub
Our monthly Kennel Klub supporters are a key part to Bide Awhile's fundraising. In 2022, the Klub contributed over $80,000.

Additional Initiatives
Bide Awhile has received vital fundraising support from Blue Nose Recycling, Global Pet Foods, raffles at the Halifax Cat Show, retail partners and promotion from the Bedford Players. We are thankful to our community partners for your support and look forward to working with you in 2023/2024.

Our Fundraising Committee is actively recruiting new members to help us plan and execute events in 2023 such as Pours for Paws, Pawlates, and Cat Yoga.

Please reach out to Angela: angelam@bideawhile.org to get involved.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Rachelle Boutilier, Chair

Now that Covid-19 is basically behind us, Bide Awhile has been very fortunate to see a revived Volunteer Committee, and is incredibly grateful for all of our volunteers. We rely heavily on them and could not do what we do without them.

Now that restrictions have lifted, we have been able to start up some of our programs again. One of the most exciting is the return of our Hopgood Pet visitation program, where volunteers take kittens from the shelter and spend time at seniors' residences throughout HRM. This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize the kittens before being adopted, as well as bring some fun cuddles to hundreds of seniors over the year.

Special thanks to Helena MacIntyre, who is our point of contact between the shelter and various facilities, managing our monthly schedules. We would like to grow this program to more facilities as more volunteers sign up.

We continue to use our TimeCounts database to maintain volunteer information, schedule events and cat socialization time, send mass communications, etc. We purchased a paid membership of the software in late 2022 to allow more functionality and get the best use and value of the system. Our Office Administrator, Karylyn Madill, takes a lead on this and we hope to benefit from the program's full potential in the coming year.

We have been fortunate to bring in some new volunteers this year to assist at public event tables such as Christmas at the Forum and the Dartmouth Cat Show, where the volunteers promote the shelter, selling tickets on various raffle items, help sell calendars, etc. We hope to grow this group of volunteers to attend tables in the future. We also have been very fortunate to have been offered the chance to set up promotional tables at various locations of Ren's Pets and Global Pet Food stories around HRM. We will be looking for folks to help out at any of these fun days to come.

Good news this year: Big Brothers Big Sisters have begun a program with Bide Awhile in 2022. On Sundays, Big & Little matches can schedule time to come to the shelter for cat socialization. This is a wonderful partnership between the two organizations. It provides an opportunity for Matches to have a free activity as a hang-out and allowing the Littles some fun play time with the cats. A win for all!

Thank you again to Valerie Myra who attends the shelter's memorial garden, Trio's Place Garden. Her tireless efforts do not go unnoticed. There is opportunity to have more hands on help in the garden, working alongside Valerie, even if you do not have a green thumb!

COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Florence MacLennan, Member

This report is presented on behalf of the team working to advance the goals of public engagement and communication. This work had been challenging for all the reasons so familiar to us in recent years, but thanks to the commitment of everyone associated with Bide Awhile we have persevered.

As you have heard in previous reports, the pandemic halted many of the Shelter's typical activities and so our team looked for ways to stay connected. Staffing everywhere was an issue and that was certainly the case for Bide Awhile. Our Communications Coordinator was particularly busy, wearing many hats and so we worked to support Michael (Stack) on a variety of fronts.

We helped organize and plan social media posts in an effort to keep our supporters connected to Shelter news. We assisted with editing and publication of our newsletters and appeal letters. We also helped with calendar editing and sales.

Our committee members staged and help staff our booths at holiday craft markets. In addition to helping push our calendar sales, we enjoyed these opportunities to share information about our Shelter with the public and to hear so many wonderful stories about their connections to us.

We also tended to a few housekeeping items updating our Terms of Reference and reviewing website content.

We participated in three parades in 2022!

We shared the Pride Parade spotlight with Hot Country 103.5 who provided music and commentary as we walked the parade route. It was an incredible experience – thousands lined Halifax streets cheering us on and applauding our work. Our message – "Cats don't care who else you love!" seemed to hit the right note with so many. We are grateful to Russell MacKenzie, Rylie Peacock and staff from 103.5 for sharing the fun with us.

We were back for the Natal Day Parade after a two-year absence and the crowds didn't disappoint as they welcomed our "cat" Rosie back. We were thrilled to receive the "Best Original Entry" award.

And for the first time we participated in the Parade of Lights, again in the company of our friends from Hot Country 103.5 who provided holiday lights and music. There's something special about receiving holiday wishes from parade watchers who know and appreciate Bide Awhile's work.

Our thanks to Genevieve Sharkey for chairing the committee for the past two years.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Stacey Langley, Chair

The Nominating Committee's mandate is to recruit board members who are prepared to commit their volunteer efforts and talents to the work of Bide Awhile Animal Shelter Society and to take on leadership positions within the Society on various committees and as Officers.

For the 2023-2024 year, the Committee was open to all skillsets to round out our committees. With everything opening up again we have been working on rebuilding fundraising, community outreach, and volunteer activities.

We had a fantastic committee consisting of Angela, Flo, Kim, Liz, Thom and myself (Stacey). Unfortunately not everyone will be able to return to the board for the upcoming year.

The following Directors will not be returning for the 2023-2024 year;

- Jenny Allen
- Emma Menchefski
- Genevieve Sharkey
- Rachelle Boutilier
- Melissa Manette
- Arvind Babajee
- Kristin Matthews
- Rylie Peacock
- Rebecca Rawcliffe
- Stacey Langley

We would like to thank these members for their many contributions over their terms, we wish you all the best.

Recommendations for Directors and Officers for 2023-2024 term

The following Director has completed their fifth term and is reoffering for a sixth term:

- Aaron Veinotte

The following Directors have completed their fourth term and are reoffering for a fifth term;

- Kimberley McOnie
- Florence MacLennan

The following Director has completed their second term and is reoffering for a third term;

- Thom Williams

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Continued)

Stacey Langley, Chair

The following Directors have completed their first term and are reoffering for a second term;

- Fay Dickinson
- Charley Baxter
- Angela Martin
- Liz Doyle-Willis

There are 10 new nominees this year;

- Alison Carpenter
- Erin Davidson
- Wendy De Kimpe
- Jenny Dionne
- Cherie Dufour
- Stephanie Glendenning
- Jenna Gromack
- Trish Jolly
- Stephanie Ryan
- Dawne Shonfield

The proposed slate of Officers for 2023-2024

Aaron Veinotte as President
Thom Williams as Vice President
Charley Baxter as Treasurer
Kim McOnie as Secretary
Stacey Langley as Past-President ex-officio
Florence MacLennan in a General Advisor role

Thank you to all the Directors both returning and departing for all their efforts this past year, we had another year of change at the Shelter; from new staff to reopening our doors to reworking the rooms. It's been absolutely amazing and so positive, we are making new connections and revisiting what it means to Bide Awhile.