

Annual General Meeting 2017

Held at the Saturna Recreation Centre on Saturday 22nd July 2017 at 1.00pm.

Item 1.0) Call to Order

The President, Lee Middleton called the meeting to order. An Attendance List was taken and the President declared a quorum, there being at least 10% of the Members present.

Item 2.0) Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded and carried.

Item 3.0) Minutes of the AGM 2015

The Minutes of the AGM of July 2015 were posted on the SNC website prior to this AGM.

3.1) In Item 1.0) The word “forum” was corrected to “quorum”

3.2) A motion was made to approve the minutes, which was seconded and carried.

Item 4.0) Business Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

Item 5.0) Reports

5.1) Treasurer’s Report

It was noted that costs had exceeded revenue for the year (2016). This was caused by an increase in management costs and equipment costs associated with trying to establish new feeds from the Mainland. The deficit was balanced by releasing funds from the Savings Account. Those reserve funds will be required to match Federal Grant Funding, should we be awarded them.

In response to questions from the floor, the Treasurer confirmed:

a) Income fluctuations are largely due to the changing number of people receiving full or part-time service. In addition some bad debts were written off.

b) Management costs also include – Book-keeping, Consultants, Tower/Tree Climbers.

c) Forecast costs for this year are not yet available because of numerous unknowns and unclear solution to the “New Link” problem.

Financial Statement was approved by motion.

5.2) Technical Report

The establishment of a new feed to Saturna and the upgrade of the backbone distribution to improve reliability, remain the priorities. We have two options- Beacon Wireless based on Saltspring island and Rock Island based in San Juan for that feed.

In response to questions from the floor, the Board confirmed:

a) Both feed options would be able to provide a Canadian identity.

b) The fall-off in service during high demands is due to a bottleneck in the current Orcas island feed over which we have no control. In addition we have had failures of new generation radios.

c) The Board is aware of the frustrations of members who are receiving poor service, and is improving monitoring and response to failures of the system.

5.3) President's Report

The President outlined the difficulties we have experienced of trying to improve the service given the isolation of Saturna and its difficult topography.

Two initiatives offer possible solutions. Firstly an application has been made for a Federal grant of some \$400,000 to build a new link to Saturna. We will know at the end of this year if we have been successful.

Secondly we have had informal discussions with Beacon Wireless of Saltspring Island to see if there are mutual benefits in cooperating. They have faced similar problems and have greater experience.

The President then introduced Siegfried Luft President of Beacon Wireless who gave a presentation of his company and how they might help us, and who then answered questions from the floor.

Item 6.0) Election of Directors

The president explained that the Coop Act restricts the number of Directors who have financial compensation to less than 50% of the board of nine directors, and that the Act places onerous conditions of how business is conducted to avoid conflicts of interest.

The floor expressed a preference that Directors have no financial ties to the Coop, and asked that those with such ties withdraw their nominations to the Board.

6.1) The current Board resigned.

6.2) Lee Middleton, Andree Fredette, Barb Ropars, Ellen Bourassa, Mairead Boland, Ron Lewis, David Cheslow, Matt Morrow, were elected to the Board by acclamation.

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Item 7.0) Special Business

None

Item 8.0) Unfinished Business

None

Item 9.0) New Business

9.1) Thanks were given to the 2016 Board for their efforts.

Item 10.0) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3.00pm.