



Fostering Excellence in Leadership • Program Development • Safety in Camping Since 1941

Minutes of the CANSPEI Annual General Meeting
May 7, 2020 at 6:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Lara Abramson. Present were Board Members:

Lara Abramson (President)
Amelia Campbell
Tiffany MacInnis
Mat Whycott

Donna MacPherson
Wayne Peters
Trent Raynard
Russell Prime

And Camp Representatives:

Isabel Fearon
Kathryn Kosman
Whitney Canning
Matt Sheriko

Sharon Howatt
Kayla Graham
Bob Howell
David Throop

Nick Szymanis
Steven Smith
Chris O'Neill
Shannon Weckman

Regrets:

Derek Mitchell (Adventure Camp)

Lara welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced the meeting as our first virtual AGM, and turned the meeting over to Mat to orient us to the Zoom format.

Mat presented "How to Plan in a Time of Unknown".

- What is your camp's mission? Participants commented on their mission statements in brief.
- Has the mission changed due to COVID-19?
 - Some camps have cancelled already for the year.
- Gas companies had to adjust signage when prices went over \$1.00/liter. What do we need to do to adjust.
- What story do you want to tell in November 2020?
 - Did our mission keep us focused, or was it absolutely crazy?
- Dilemma:
 - Camp takes kids away from technology
 - Little or no face-to-face
 - Is camp financially feasible
 - Operating safely
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- The common Threads:
 - Connection and purpose for campers
 - Need for others is important

- We care and want to do camp
- So many ideas, and sometimes that's scary
- Information received from Canadian Camping Association (CCA)
- This is not going to be CAMP as we knew it.
 - Same, but different.
 - "You could run camp in a parking lot with the right people."
 - What does a shorter camp season look like?
- The Opportunity:
 - Reach for the stars!
 - Engage future leaders (2021 and beyond)
 - Build community with families and campers
 - Be creative. Surprise and delight. Keep it simple.
 - Be a place for emotional wellness
 - Take time to prepare for 2021

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Mat Whynot seconded by Tiffany MacInnis to approve the minutes of the 2019 AGM.
Approved.

Committee Reports:

Accreditation Report

Amelia, Trent, Wayne - Three committee members going through the Accreditation Standards manual to streamline and make it easier to understand. Hoping to have it out to camps later this year.

Membership Engagement

Donna, Mat – Membership Engagement is a priority, Newsletter and Campfire Conversations to get information out to camps (looking for additional information from camps). Increased social media posts, to reach out to camps.

Training and Grants

Tiffany, Lara - Canoe/Kayak, Low Ropes course offered last year. Facilitation Skills planned to be presented this year, to make the Low Ropes course instructor course more available.

President's Report

Thanks to the board members for all the work being done. Since we lost the Exec. Director position due to financial constrictions, we went back to an all-volunteer board. Some of the back-office activities include:

- Administrative review of the processes of the organization
- Member tracking
- Accreditation (Standards review, lists of who is accredited, etc.)

- Online membership form and online participant outcome survey
- Overhaul of the website (accessible, user-friendly, thanks to Trent Raynard)
- Better communication with camps
- CCH funding receive

CCH was pleased with our goals related to their shared strategy.

CCA – looking at insurance for camps. Their planning for inclusion of indigenous community was interrupted by COVID-19. *Lara, I wasn't sure what you had said here, so could you clarify? Thanks.*

Due to COVID-19, we have decided to cancel in-person training for this year.

Moved by Amelia Campbell, seconded by Russell Prime, to accept the reports as presented. Approved.

Review of 2019-2020 Financial Statements

Amelia presented the Financial Statements for 2019. She noted that Prepaid Expenses were for CCA membership for 2019 AND 2020. Some outstanding bills from 2018 were paid off. Overall, with some tightening, we start off 2020 in a good financial state.

Moved by Steven Smith, seconded by Mat Whynott, to accept the Financial statements as presented. Approved.

2020-2021 Budget Presentation

Proposed budget was presented by Amelia Campbell.

Moved by Amelia Campbell, seconded by Donna MacPherson, to accept the proposed budget for 2020-2021. Approved.

Nominations for Directors & Officers for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year

President – Lara Abramson
Vice-President – Donna MacPherson
Secretary – Wayne Peters
Treasurer – Amelia Campbell
Director – Tiffany McInnis
Director – Trent Raynard
Director – Mat Whynott
Director – Russell Prime

Moved by Amelia Campbell, seconded by Steven Smith, to accept the proposed slate of Directors. Approved.

New Business

Directions for the new year:

- COVID-19
 - Information on the website
 - We wish we had a solid answer as to what camps should do
 - Meeting with Recreation Nova Scotia for an update on their recommendations
- Zoom account purchased, and will be available to member camps who don't have their own access to Zoom (e-mail to info@canspei.ca to schedule)
- Follow-up on Meeting with Outdoor Summit Council
 - 8 other Provincial Camping Associations
 - Goal to create guidelines for outdoor rec organizations because of COVID-19
 - Provinces are all over the map with their plans
- Re-evaluating the bylaws of the organization
- Alternative training options

Moved by Amelia Campbell, seconded by Steven Smith to adjourn. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.