



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

Minutes of the CANSPEI
Annual General Meeting
May 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by President Lara Abramson. Present were Board Members:

Lara Abramson (President)
Amelia Campbell
Tiffany MacInnis
Mat Whynott

Donna MacPherson
Wayne Peters
Trent Raynard
Russell Prime

As well as other members:

Sarah Atkins
Matt Sheriko
Chris Abraham
Janice Noble
Kathi Sheriko
Scott Thomas
Kayla Graham

Sara White
Julia Lawrence
Andy Kirk
Hannah & Alex (SLC)
Bob Howell
Derek Mitchell
Steven Smith

Lara welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting.

Update on Status of Reopening Camps in 2021

Camps planning to reopen: 7

Camps planning to NOT reopen: 3

Communities, Culture & Health (CCH) are our government contacts. Within past 6 weeks, we had a conference call with Dr. Strang and his team. Infectious Diseases dept. was already working with Brigadoon, but CANSPEI needs to apply to all camps. We sent on our draft guidance document for camps to reopen in NS but then the lockdown happened. Restrictions and timing for any reopening will be tight. No date in sight for an announcement.

In PEI, things are more optimistic. In touch with rep at Public Health. Campers and staff will likely be restricted to Islanders only. Waiting for the status to change to "Green".

Tiffany summarized the draft guidance document (available to camps on request).

Derek asked about the possibility of CANSPEI funding rapid testing (to be discussed). Mat Whynott added a link to Federal portal re: requesting testing equipment.

Lara welcomed the newest member camps (5) this year.

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Matt Whynott, seconded by Tiffany MacInnis, to approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting. Approved.

Board Reports

President's Report

Lara noted that we have 8 board members, who have taken up some of the duties of the former Executive Director, Derek Mitchell. She noted the numerous committees involved, and thanked everyone for their work in all areas. We now have our forms and documents online. We are in the process of reviewing our bylaws. We're working on developing a strategy for social media interaction. Thanks to Donna MacPherson for acting as our liaison with Canadian Camping Association. Lara will be stepping down as President, after three years in that role, but will remain on the board for the coming year, to help with the transition. She thanked Wayne Peters for his work over the past several years, as he will also be stepping down this year.

Accreditation Report

Wayne Peters reported on the significant effort in revising the Standards document and the associated checklist document over the past year. Many thanks to Trent Raynard and Amelia Campbell for the tremendous effort. This year, we accredited Debate Camp for the first time, and re-accredited Johnson Christian Park. Derek Mitchell noted that Swimming Standard R.5.109 is a significant change from NLS standards, and this will be reviewed.

New Program Grants

In 2020, we did not have any applicants for our Program Grant. We now have a Professional Development grant for camps (up to \$500) to enhance Leadership within camps. We have two applications for 2021.

Membership Engagement

We started meeting virtually just before COVID. It's good to see such numbers in our Town Halls. Thanks to Trent Raynard for his work on the website. Thanks to everyone for being engaged.

Training

Tiffany MacInnis reported that much time was spent in early 2020 planning for training, the COVID happened. This year, we can't plan much further.

Finance

Amelia Campbell reported on the finances. This year, the biggest expenses were insurance and Zoom. We have waived membership fees for last year, and this year. Moved by Amelia, seconded by Mat Whynott, to approve the financial documents on the website. Approved.

Amelia then presented the budget for 2021-22, also presented on the website. It is very similar to the previous year, as little has changed. Moved by Amelia, seconded by Donna MacPherson, to accept the budget. Approved.

Nominations for Directors and Officers for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

The proposed slate of officers for the coming year is presented on the website. The only Nominee is Julia Lawrence. We're also looking for someone on PEI, if possible. Anyone interested in serving on the board can fill out the nomination form on the website. If you have an interest in serving on a committee, e-mail the board (info@canspei.ca). Trent moved, seconded by Amelia, that the members allow permission for the board to add members to the slate of Directors over the next year if needed. Approved.

Julia Lawrence spoke on her experience with camps, and her desire to serve with CANSPEI.

Moved by Lara, seconded by Russell, that the slate of Directors and Nominees be accepted as presented. Approved.

New Business

Lara congratulated Debate Camp for its new accreditation, and to Johnson Christian Park for its re-accreditation.

Two camps have applied for new grants this year. Debate Camp and Camp Kidston have been approved for Program Grants this year. Congratulations to these two camps.

Russell reported on the Provincial Awards program (Award of Recognition) and the Betty Campbell Camper Award. Kerry Crowell (Camp Peniel) and JCP's Douglas Atkinson and Patricia Howell have been presented with the Award of Recognition. Congratulations!

Russell moved, seconded by Matt Sheriko, to establish a committee to handle interactions with the province, going forward, in light of the dealings we have had with them regarding COVID. Approved.

Moved by Amelia, seconded by Steve Smith, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.