NB Media Co-op
Annual General Meeting
Thursday September 23, 2021 at 5:00pm

Members present by Zoom: Sarah Kardash (SK), Tracy Glynn (TG), Aditya Rao (AR), Susan O'Donnell (SO), Judy Burwell (JB), Leslie Chandler (LC), Ronald Batt (RB), Gerry McAlister (GM), Tom McLean (TM), Kristi Allain (KA), Kylie Bergfalk (KB), Jean-Claude Basque (JCB), Daniel Tubb (DT), Amy Floyd (AF), Tobin Haley (TH), Matthew Hayes (MH).

Non-members present by Zoom: Julian Walker (JW)

Regrets: Helene Branch (HB), Jean Derosiers (JD), Eric Forgues (EF), Sophie Lavoie (SL), Carole Tranchant (CT), Mathieu Wade (MW)

1) Appointment of Meeting Chair: AR was appointed chair. Moved by GM, seconded by SO. Adopted by consensus.

2) Appointment of Minute Taker: SK was appointed minute taker. Moved by JCB, seconded by JB. Adopted by consensus.

3) Approval of Meeting Agenda: Moved by JCB, seconded by TM. Adopted by consensus.

4) Introduction of Members Present (see list above): All present introduced themselves in a round of introductions.

5) Approval of Minutes from 2020 AGM: Minutes were circulated by email prior to the meeting. Moved by TM, seconded by SO. Adopted by consensus.

6) Year in Review: Annual Report for 2020-2021: Presented by TG, previously circulated by email. The report highlights top stories from the year, as well as popular stories on housing. The NB Debrief was a highlight of the year – tv series in cooperation with CHCO-TV. We increased social media followers and held a very successful membership month with many new members joining and substantial funds raised. The first annual Brian Beaton Prize in Journalism for Justice was awarded to Abram Lutes. We continue to publish The Brief on a reduced schedule (every 2 months) due to Covid and other considerations. The partnership with RAVEN at UNB continued to be very successful. The report also covered events, donors and partner organizations, and expressed sympathies for friends and allies lost last year.

SO mentioned the success of article series such as 'letters from the future' (resulting in a book publication), and encouraged folks to consider article series for future projects. TM commented on the achievement of expanding into webinars, and tv series noting the impressive effort and resources put towards this.

7) Presentation and Adoption of the 2020-2021 Financial Report: Presented by TG, previously circulated by email. The financial year is June 1 to May 31. Membership donations doubled and union donations were greatly increased as well (partly attributed to a very large donation from CUPE NB). In total, income was much higher than 2019-2020. In terms of expenses, RAVEN covered website fees, and we had no banking expenses this year (previous year we had to purchase cheques). The membership prize was also donated this year.

SO suggested that we rename ‘Postage/Envelopes’ line ‘Circulation/Distribution’ to account for funds we may want to spend on online promotion. AR advised that this was considered in developing the proposed budget.

JCB moved to accept the financial statement, seconded by AF. Adopted by Consensus.

8) Presentation of Budget for 2021-2022: Presented by TG, previously circulated by email. A number of new things with this budget. We are hoping to significantly increase monthly donors to sustain the media co-op. We are also hoping to maintain the level of union donations but included a conservative estimate as it varies from year to year. We are hoping for donations specifically to cover the Brian Beaton Prize (a donation was made for 2021-2022). In terms of expenses, we have added ‘Digital Promotions’ in line with SO’s earlier suggestion. We are overdue to increase the rate we pay The Brief designer. We have further defined spending on AGM. Membership prize is typically a subscription to another independent media publication. There is a new fee for filing financial statements with the government. The board is still discussing the option of obtaining board insurance so we have included it in the budget to keep this option open. There are new expenses associated with the launch of the NB Debrief. We are hoping to publish more in French and highlight French language stories on the website and aim to open the media co-op to the Francophone community. JCB is working with several others to put this project in place, and many have already agreed to submit French language articles. We hope this will bring more readers, subscribers, and members/donors and look forward to serving the Francophone community. We are also hoping to hire a part-time staff person to help with administrative work ($20/hr, 10hr/wk).

SO offered congratulations on the Francophone content initiative and membership drives. SO moved to consolidate two line items in the budget – ‘Mailing The Brief’ and ‘Digital Promotions’ and rename them as ‘Circulation’ (broken down into The Brief and Online Publications). JCB seconded the motion. TM made a friendly motion to table this to allow the board to further consider the change. SO withdrew the motion.

TM commented that this budget represents a big step forward for the organization and was pleased to support it especially with efforts around Francophone service and membership. TM raised a question about the Brian Beaton Prize line item in Expenses – there was some confusion about the reference to two awards. To clarify the expense, it was agreed to delete this reference and reference the date prize is awarded instead.

Moved by KB to accept the budget, seconded by GM. Adopted by Consensus.

9) Special Resolutions on the Audit: TG explained the necessity of the special resolution that an internal auditor audit the books. SO and GM agreed to act as internal auditors - thank you!

Motion: The 2021 AGM will appoint SO and GM (NBMC members) to do an internal audit of the NB Media Co-op's 2020-2021 financial records. Moved by JCB, seconded by LC. Adopted by consensus.

Motion: Due to the high costs of having the NB Media Co-op's financial books audited, members of the NB Media Co-op resolve not to appoint an auditor for the upcoming financial year 2021-2022. The 2022 AGM will appoint a member to do an internal audit of the NB Media Co-op's 2021-2022 financial records. Moved by TG, seconded by JCB. Adopted by Consensus.

10) Board Elections – SO chaired board elections. Statements of interest were received in advance of the meeting. Members present spoke to their interest in the position.

1. Board of Directors
a) Returning board members: SK, AR
b) New board members: JCB, TG
Moved by KB, seconded by DT. Adopted by consensus.

2. Editorial Board
a) Returning editorial board members: KB, TG, MH, DT, SL
b) New editorial board members: JCB, HB, JD, EF, CT, MW
Moved by AR, seconded by LC, adopted by consensus

11) Other Business: TG thanked JB for all of her service on the board of directors, as membership coordinator, and for distribution of The brief. Farewell and thanks to Pete Johnston who has moved out of province for their contribution to the editorial board.

12) Adjournment: Moved by SO to adjourn at 6:42p.m., seconded by MH. Adopted by consensus.