

MINUTES of the December 2018 Svims Annual General Meeting (AGM)

SVIMS(South Vancouver Island Mycological Society)

Time: 7:00 PM December 6th

Place: PACIFIC FORESTRY CENTRE

506 West Burnside Road,

Saanich,BC V8Z 4N9

Preamble: The meeting date was confirmed at the board meeting of November 7th 2018 and subsequently the general membership informed in an official notification on the website and list serve with 2 further reminders. The membership was encouraged to submit nominations for all of the board positions. No nominations were received prior to the AGM as also additions or amendments to the agenda. The agenda was accompanied by attachments of the 2017 AGM, the financial statements of the 2017 year end and the up to date treasure's report to the date of the call of the meeting. The membership was reminded that voting, discussion and participation was limited to active members of Svims in good standing.

The meeting was chaired by President Andy MacKinnon with the recording secretary David Walde. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

A call for additions or modifications to the agenda from the attending members and none received.

There was no discussion regards the minutes of the December 2017 annual general meeting which had been pre circulated as above ,and previously approved in draft at the January 2018 board meeting. Moved for acceptance: Tony Trofymow Seconded: Mabel Jean Rawlins

Vote: UNANAMOUS for acceptance.

UPDATES on the various activities of the membership.

Andy MacKinnon on the Svims Annual Cowichan foray in October. Report and species list to be attached . It was a very successful event with residential and day attendees, and subscribed almost to capacity. It was a great social and educational event. The forays were rewarded with bountiful collections keeping the team of ID experts occupied till late into the night. It was encouraging to see the enthusiasm of the beginners from the September 2018 ID class. A highlight was the round table discussion of the specimens by all the attendees under the guidance of Shannon Berch. ACTION: Andy for report and species list.

Ben Hircock on the Annual Svims mushroom Show held at the Cordova Bay 55+ Centre in October. The event was very well publicised with posters as well as media coverage in the local papers and TV Chek news. Reporters were on site with live coverage. The public response was excellent with 500-550 attendees. Ben has decided to step down as lead this coming year with his role being accepted by Andrew Anderson. The same site has been booked for the 2019 event.

The Survivor's Banquet and Raffle due on January 12th at 5:00 PM. Mel Hess provided further details and indicated that postings were already on or due to the list serve, website and the Facebook page.

Mel also provided us with a status report on our news magazine (Fungifama)which revived in 2018 with 2 issues both excellent and highly commendable. The next edition is due in the spring of 2019. The editions are available on the website.

Mabel Jean Rawlins provided a report on the Svims Calendar which, this year was a sellout which not surprising with the superior quality of the production pictures. Her report is attached.

Thor Henrich has done a huge amount of work on behalf of Svims on the library committee. He has catalogued the entire library collection as well as the voluminous book and magazine donations from Bryce Kendrick and Shannon Berch. Because of space limitations at the PFC the collections have been subdivided between active material and those archived, the latter being kept off site but accessible as necessary through a member of the library committee or David Walde. A new sign and out log being tried and a request made for 2 more volunteers to help at the time of the meetings as then so busy and congested with time shortages that occasionally members borrowing material that then gets missed on returns. Till this issue is resolved the board has requested that the funds for new purchases be deferred. Thor was thanked for his years of service to Svims. He is stepping down from his role as volunteer librarian in May 2019 and handing over to Jeff Wright. ACTION: Jeff to recruit 2 additional volunteers and provide feedback on the new log.

Ian Gibson ,the Svims website administrator not present and he will be contacted for a report on its status.

Kevin Trim the Facebook site administrator also not present but had indicated to the board no concerns with the increasing activity on the site.

Tabitha Jones organises the billets , hostings and transportation of our out of town guests and speakers. She was not present but indicated she had no issues and has agreed to continue in this capacity.

Isabelle Grenon is our refreshment coordinator, but was not present. She indicated no concerns and will continue in this capacity but only for another year. Presently her assistants Anne Henderson and Dianne Humphrey who was last year's coordinator. ACTION: Approach a volunteer to join her this year in anticipation on taking over the role in December 2019.

Kem Luther has been extremely active in organising the speakers for the monthly meetings. He has already filled a number of the slots for 2019 going into 2020. This involves considerable time in the coordination with other agencies to get the best speakers at an affordable cost to Svims but remuneration costs an increasing issue to be addressed. The next speaker in February as per tradition for years- Paul Kroeger. His topic is pending.

Our foray leaders for decades have been the mighty duo of Oluna and Adolf Ceska. As so many speakers have indicated repeatedly , they have been an invaluable resource for Svims with their expertise in identification,documentation and photography. They are giants in the mycological field locally, regionally and nationally, and, over the years innumerable members have been mentored and benefitted from their tutelage skills. At this meeting both tended their withdrawal from this role one that will be irreplaceable. This has been the worst news for Svims for this and foreseeable years to come. ACTION: New foray lead roster volunteers.

Shannon Berch has developed an ID curriculum second to none that available through any mycological society. The initial course was run in 2017 and the second in September 2018. Both classes were at capacity and oversubscribed. Shannon was assisted by mentors from the attendees of the previous year. These class members also assisted and developed their skills at the Cowichan foray. She updated us on the status of future classes. The plans are to run a course in April and then again in September with no limitation on the number of enrollees. These are tentatively scheduled to be held at UVIC. These 2 day classes to date have been very generously offered without cost to members. Action: Ask Shannon if she would consider adding her curriculum to the website.

Financial update: Kurt Raeder has been our new treasurer from mid-year with the resignation of our previous great treasurer and volunteer Jaz Grenier. There was close coordination of the hand over between the two. An unaudited financial statement was previously attached to the agenda for this meeting and the unaudited figures were updated at the meeting with a slide presentation. There has been a healthy and increasing surplus on the books of approximately \$15,000. There was discussion on how this surplus could be spent with the final conclusion that this be left to the board. Kurt presented his unaudited financial statement for acceptance.

MOTION : For acceptance of the unaudited financial statement as presented by the treasurer.
Proposer: Jeff Wright. Seconder: Shannon Berch. Vote: Unanimous.

Membership report by Gillian Phillips. She has been working closely with Kurt on membership renewals and payment through the website with a new etransfer service which will extend to all payments for any of our events. The number of members has increased in this past year with approximately 250 in total, but this number however in constant flux with membership renewals in progress for 2019. A better idea of the final numbers will be provided in the New Year. An updated list of all members with contact numbers essential to meet our Societys Act requirements and our Foray guidelines which presently being reviewed. She has also been working on the list to better target notifications on the list serve which has not been updated for some time.

Her report presented for acceptance.

Motion for acceptance of the membership coordinator's report. Moved: Anne Henderson.
Seconder: Allen Szafer Vote: Unanamous.

ACTION: clarify what exactly needed from Gillian to meet the Societys Act requirements. Clarify the conclusion on how best to stratify the notifications to the membership and whether this should replace the list serve.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: by Andy MacKinnon. He felt it was an awesome year with a very congenial board. He covered a number of the activities of the Svims as indicated above but wanted to highlight a couple. First: the achievement of certification and compliance with the new Societys Act and the contributions of Jamie Hall and the staff of our law firm of Pope Reed as well as the Svims secretary David Walde. Second: The unanimous support of membership in proceeding with a more active conservation role as proposed by Andy at the November meeting. This being part of our constitution but not been acted on to date. A member-Pippi Lawn- had volunteered at the November meeting to initiate this activity and unanimously and strongly supported by the membership. The board was to meet in January and define the framework of this role. Action: Pipi Lawn status and role.

Andy acknowledged the support of the Pacific Forestry Centre (PFC) in allowing our monthly meetings to be conducted gratis and thereby making the membership in Svims more affordable to all. He pointed out the untiring support and supervision of Richard Winder and Tony --- in the sponsorship to PFC.

Andy then proceeded with the main event of the evening. The ELECTION of a NEW BOARD FOR 2018-2019.

As indicated in the preamble there were no nominations received for any of the positions prior to the AGM , other than for the present board allowing their names be resubmitted for the same positions except for one Director at large. The roles and responsibilities for each of the positions had also been pre circulated and referenced to the website.

A further call for nominations was made prior to a vote for each and every position. The call was made x3 with each position as it came up for a vote .Discussion was encouraged.

VOTING:

President: Andy MacKinnon by acclamation.

Vice President: Melanie Hess by acclamation.

Secretary: David Walde by acclamation.

Treasurer: Kurt Raeder by acclamation.

Membership coordinator: Gillian Phillips by acclamation.

Directors at Large: 4 positions open. Only 3 members standing for re-election.

Lise Gagnon: Acclaimed

Andrew Anderson: Acclaimed.

Rolf Mayrhofer: Acclaimed.

No nominations were received for the 4th position held presently by Kevin Trim who had not clarified his intentions of running again. Kevin Trim a long standing highly respected member was not present. The membership felt that he should be given the benefit of continuing as a Director at Large especially as no opposing nomination, but only if he agreed to this. The board was directed to clarify his intentions and to leave the position open. The board has a potential candidate for the position but whether that person willing to consider the position also remaining in doubt. Action: Clarify the intentions of Kevin of whether he willing to continue on the board.

A call was made for any other topics for discussion by the memberships. No further issues tendered and therefore the meeting closed.

Time: 7:45 PM.

