

**Tolstoi Holy Trinity Church Historical Society Inc.**  
**(o/a Tolstoi Heritage Centre)**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**September 27, 2020**

1. Meeting called to order at 2:13 p.m.  
Attending directors (5): Denise Lubiansky (chair), Sandra Drewniak (secretary-treasurer), Wayne Arseny, Angela Smook, Bev DeMontigny.  
Absent directors (2): Brent Patten (vice-chair), Rene Robidoux.  
Six other members also attended, establishing a quorum.

*Note: According to our bylaws (filed with the provincial corporations branch), an AGM must be held within 90 days after fiscal year end. Because of the Covid19 pandemic, the Province of Manitoba enacted a state of emergency that amends the Corporation Act to override that bylaw. (Item 7: Any AGM required to be held between March 31 and September 1 must be held before September 30<sup>th</sup>.)*  
*Also because of the pandemic, our federal charities return filing deadline with the Charities Directorate is amended to December 31<sup>st</sup>.*

2. Chair, Denise Lubiansky, welcomed the membership to our 8<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting.
3. There were no additions to the agenda.
4. Sandra read the minutes from the last annual general meeting held on June 23, 2019. **Motion to accept the minutes as read: Sandra Drewniak/Bev DeMontigny. Carried.**
5. Chairperson's report: Membership was at 69 members until just before the meeting, when two more individuals signed up. We held three directors' meetings before the pandemic shutdown in late March 2020, causing us to postpone our planning session scheduled for April. We applied for three grants, two of which were successful:
  - (1) Sturgeon Foundation grant of \$1000 for an electrical upgrade. Connected to this grant is the Manitoba 150 infrastructure matching grant which we are still awaiting.
  - (2) St. Labre 200 grant – the event was cancelled before the grant applications were reviewed.
  - (3) Covid19 Emergency Support Fund for Heritage Organizations awarded a grant of \$5000 for organizations to maintain their heritage collections.The grants helped replace funds lost when we cancelled our 2020 fundraising activities – spring spaghetti supper, concert, spring raffle, and Harvest Festival.  
In 2019-20, volunteers performed spring cleanup, lawn maintenance, tree removal, building maintenance, and open house tours. Volunteers also took part in the 2019 Harvest Festival, the Goats Reunion social, and the Christmas Craft and Bake Sale. The exterior painting project was completed and the electrical upgrade was started.
6. Sandra presented the annual financial report (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020). Bank balance at March 31, 2020 was -\$2,800.74 (i.e. into our line of credit). **Motion to accept the financial statement as presented: Sandra Drewniak/Joyce Drewniak. Carried.**

Sandra also presented a financial report for the period from April 1, 2020 to September 22, 2020. There were no fundraising events during this period. Revenue consisted of donations (\$947) and a grant (\$5000). The major expense was the electrical project (\$3,631). Bank balance was still into the line of credit, but reduced to -\$1839.84. We are still awaiting the Manitoba 150 grant of \$1000.

## 7. Old business

- a. Electrical system upgrade – Note: The furnace still needs testing and maintenance. The upgrade included:
  - i. Additional amperage/breakers/wiring/outlets for the stage area (for musical instruments), entrance, north and south walls (for displays), loft, south room (for a refrigerator), outside outlet.
  - ii. Repair/purchase/install outside light fixtures over front and back doors.
  - iii. Repair fluorescent lights.
  - iv. Install electrical panel in the garage, trenching/wiring, exterior outlet.
- b. Summer openings report
  - i. The building was open to tours on Sundays from noon to 4 p.m., from July 12<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup> inclusive.
  - ii. Approximately 60 people visited and about \$260 was donated.
  - iii. Jo-Anne devoted her spare time to organizing the book collection.
  - iv. We received many questions and positive comments, and were able to market the Centre to the public. Mary-Ann suggested we post an insert in the Southeast Journal, or arrange for an interview, next spring before the tours start. Wayne suggested we add a second informational sign to clarify the purpose of the organization.
- c. Post office barn – The owners of the barn are concerned it may soon succumb to the elements and would like us to complete the moving project. Wayne will take the lead.
- d. Other old business – None

## 8. New business

- a. Bylaw changes – None
- b. Grant opportunities – We could be eligible for an accessibility grant but the application would require a great deal of preparation. The discussion was referred to the directors' planning session.
- c. Collections – Jo-Anne spoke of preserving the collections which were inherited with the acquisition of the church, and of the acquisition of additional artifacts. We all agreed preserving what we have is of high priority. We will need a plan/shopping list/budget for supplies.
- d. Prioritizing possible future projects – General discussion regarding these projects emphasized a variety of opinions regarding priority:
  - i. Furnace maintenance and startup
    1. Allow use of the building in colder temperatures
    2. Would test the durability of the existing interior paint
    3. Affordable and necessary
  - ii. Accessibility
    1. Necessary to make the building useful and accessible to all
    2. Our concerts attract many elderly people
    3. The sidewalk would have to be resurfaced
    4. Grants are often available
    5. Portable vs permanent installation

- 6. Appearance in keeping with the building
- iii. Post office barn relocation
  - 1. Definitely a time constraint
  - 2. Logistics of move
  - 3. Foundation and location
- iv. Porch windows
  - 1. Rapid deterioration, especially woodpecker damage on north window
  - 2. Cost of replacements has skyrocketed due to pandemic
  - 3. If necessary, just board up the area to prevent further damage until replacement is available
  - 4. Wayne to obtain estimates, costs may be as high as \$1000 each window
- v. Washrooms
  - 1. Tabled, as costs are prohibitive at this time
- vi. Interior painting
  - 1. Tabled, as it's only cosmetic
- vii. Refrigerator
  - 1. Looking for donations or an inexpensive used fridge for events
- viii. Display cases
  - 1. Tabled.
- e. Fundraising
  - i. Christmas Craft and Bake Sale – cancelled
  - ii. Spring Spaghetti Supper – on hold
  - iii. Spring Concert – on hold
  - iv. Raffle – on hold
  - v. Cookbook – Denise, Angela, and Sandra will organize
  - vi. Calendar – on hold
  - vii. Other – None
- f. Other new business - none

9. Election of three directors:

- a. Rene Robidoux nominated by Sandra Drewniak, seconded by Angela Smook
  - b. Wayne Arseny nominated by Bev DeMontigny, seconded by Jo-Anne Drewniak
  - c. Brent Patten nominated by Mary-Ann Drewniak, seconded by Joyce Drewniak
- All candidates accepted their nominations.

**Motion that nominations cease: Angela Smook/Jo-Anne Drewniak. Carried.**

Directors entering their first year of a two-year term: Rene Robidoux, Wayne Arseny, Brent Patten.

Directors entering their second year of a two-year term: Denise Lubiansky, Sandra Drewniak, Angela Smook, Bev DeMontigny.

**10. Motion to adjourn at 4 p.m.: Bev DeMontigny/Mary-Ann Drewniak. Carried.**

**Sandra Drewniak  
Secretary-Treasurer  
September 28, 2020**