

SQUAM LAKES NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

LAKE CRUISE HEADQUARTERS

On a stellar day at the new Lake Cruise Headquarters, following coffee and muffins, Iain MacLeod, Executive Director, welcomed all those present. Iain remarked upon the healthy number of members who are present. Iain asked that our retiring Trustees, new Trustees, Honored Staff and new Officers remain available for photographs following the meeting. Iain then introduced Ken Evans, Chair of the Board of Trustees, who called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

It was moved, and seconded, to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Ken then introduced Justin Van Etten, Treasurer and Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, to present a brief overview of our financial experience in 2018. Justin noted that the much warmer than usual weather during the summer of 2018 was likely our cause for lower admissions than we experienced in 2017. Justin also commented that, at the end of the year 2018, the stock market experienced a downturn contributing to our year-end loss. The 2018 loss is to be taken with perspective inasmuch as 2018 remains one of our strongest years of record.

Justin then introduced Chair Ken Evans who spoke to honor our five (5) retiring Trustees. Ken briefly explained our philosophy of term limits for Board Members. Ken expressed that, although we sometimes regret losing our Trustees, the health of the organization is invigorated by new Board Members. Ken then honored Mary Earick, who, after joining our Board in 2017, found her circumstances changed and thus a need to step down. Mary will continue contributing to our Education Committee and our grant writing practice. Barbara Lavarack is retiring after one (1) term and has promised to continue her wonderful efforts in our events and committees. Ken then honored Peggy Conner noting that she had served on every committee the Science Center has. Many thanks were given to Peggy. Also retiring is Susan McKimens who Ken complimented for her commitment and enthusiasm in all things Science Center. Susan was particularly helpful in developing our Executive Director evaluations. Last, but certainly not least, Ken acknowledged

Dave Martin's service as a Member of the Board, an Officer of the Board and noted, with a visible sign of relief that Dave has promised to continue to volunteer for committees while serving as one of our boat captains.

Next on the agenda was the Honorary Trustee introduction by our Executive Director, Iain MacLeod. Iain nominated Tashia Morgridge as Honorary Trustee. Tashia's accolades include having served the Science Center from 1999 through 2013. Tashia served on our Education Committee and our Nature Matters Capital Campaign. Tashia was the recipient of our 2014 Horizon Award and was the champion of our Blue Heron School Project. Iain enthusiastically moved to name Tashia Morgridge an Honorary Trustee. The motion was quickly seconded and unanimously passed.

Next to come before the membership was Governance Committee Chair, Sarah Brown. Sarah noted that the nomination of Tashia Morgridge as Honorary Trustee has unanimously carried. At the request of Sarah Brown, six (6) Trustees were nominated and approved for additional three (3) year terms. Those Trustees include Sarah Brown, Tom Cowie, Ken Evans, Anne Lovett, Emily Preston and Dick Starbuck. The Membership unanimously approved these additional terms. Likewise, the membership unanimously approved four (4) new Trustees to serve three (3) year terms. The new Trustees are Laurie Beeson, Laurie Burke, Paul Brochu and Kevin Barrett. The motion to elect these four (4) new candidates to three (3) year terms carried unanimously.

The next order of business presented by Sarah Brown was the slate of Officers to serve one (1) year terms. The motion to elect the four (4) Officers was seconded and carried unanimously. The officers duly elected are Justin Van Etten, Chair; Lea A. Stewart, Vice Chair; Anne R. Lovett, Treasurer; and Tom Cowie, Secretary.

The next order of business was the presentation of the Horizon Award by our Executive Director, Iain MacLeod. Iain explained that we have given the Horizon Award since 1995 to persons who have provided exceptional and extended service to the Science Center. Iain named our past recipients and announced that Laura Mammarelli was this year's recipient. Laura began contributing to our Science Center mission in 2010. Her background in Montessori Education and

her educational vision for early childhood education has played a significant part in the evolution and journey of the Blue Heron School. With many thanks, the membership acknowledged Laura and her contributions.

The membership then received the Executive Director's Report from Iain MacLeod. Iain began by reflecting on the importance of non-profit organizations in our State of New Hampshire. Without the efforts on non-profit organizations, the quality of life for residents in our state would be, in large part, diminished. Iain continued his report by noting that attendance in 2018 was fifty-seven thousand (57,000) people down from sixty-one thousand (61,000) people in 2017. Iain illustrated the relationship between hotter than normal days and our decrease in attendance. This summer's temperatures have been moderate and our attendance numbers are off the charts. Iain also provided an overview to the membership of our volunteer program, our school programs, guided discovery programs, our enrollment at the Blue Heron School, our efforts at bird banding and the feeding and caring for our animals. In all, 2018 was a good year.

Iain then discussed our Education Matters Capital Campaign that has a goal of raising \$2.8M. The money would be put towards four (4) general uses, including the construction of the Blue Heron School, scholarships for students to attend the Blue Heron School, the cost of construction of the new Lake Cruise Headquarters and the cost of the new raptor exhibit. Iain presented a slide show of the progress of construction at the Blue Heron School and offered a large "thank you" to Barry Gaw and Sippican Builders for their wonderful efforts for making this happen.

Iain, with a grin, noted that our "gamble" in arranging for five (5) dinosaurs to reside at the Science Center this summer was well worth the effort. In July of this year our admissions exceeded twenty thousand (20,000) which sets all records for July in our history. Our August numbers are even better. This summer is very exciting. Iain noted that Amanda Gillan has been having fun with the marketing, allowing the dinosaurs a place on our website and a presence on Facebook.

Iain then noted that we have some staff milestones to recognize. Recognized with applause by the membership were Naturalist Eric D'Aleo, 25 years of service; Finance Director Brian Eaton, 15 years of service; Administrative Assistant Mary Noyes, 15 years of service; Education Director

Audrey Eisenhauer, 5 years of service; Facilities Assistance Keith Hosking, 5 years of service; Operations Manager Sharon Warga, 5 years of service; and the unbelievable milestone reached by Senior Naturalist Dave Erler of 40 years of dedicated service to the Science Center. Iain noted for the membership that we will celebrate Dave Erler's milestone with a "Dave Duck Day" this coming Tuesday, August 13, 2019. Iain then provided the membership with a short film of Naturalist Dave Erler doing his thing accompanied by stories of others to include his wonderful and somewhat goofy demeanor, his penchant for singing to the preschoolers, his commitment, his curiosity, his enthusiasm, his influence and his wonderful way with people. The film clip was met with great appreciation and applause.

The meeting concluded with Justin making his remarks as our new Board Chairman. Justin noted our new Honorary Trustee's wonderful support of the Blue Heron Preschool. Without the efforts of Tashia Morgridge, we might not have seen the new school on our campus. Justin also remarked, with gratitude, for the help Ken Evans has provided to Justin in his role as Treasurer and now his new role as Chairman. Justin noted that Ken has set the bar high in his unbelievable dedication of the mission at the Science Center. Justin philosophized that one might live a life planting trees under whose shade one is not likely to sit. Justin observed with appreciation that the Science Center is contributing to a generation of children who will appreciate nature and science. Justin gave thanks to Dave Erler noting Dave's impact on Justin's own children who attend the Blue Heron School. To Dave Erler and all retiring Trustees, Justin noted that they have all planted trees for the good of the children. The new Trustees will have trees to plant. At that point, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

Tom Cowie, Secretary