

**Minutes of the Canadian Chapter of the Society for the
Preservation Of Old Mills (SPOOM)
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday, June 9, 2018, Simcoe County Museum**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Robert Miller at 11:15 am.

Although the AGM attendance was small in number, the majority of the Executive was present and members had travelled from Kitchener, Stanbridge Quebec, Owen Sound, Ingersoll, Kingston, Moonstone and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

2. Welcome

Vice President Robert Miller welcomed members and thanked them for travelling a considerable distance to the "*Wheels & Tracks In Motion*" event hosted by the Historical Construction Equipment Association of Canada (HCEA). Don Morton is owed a special thank you for arranging our 2018 AGM during this special event at the Simcoe County Museum.

Mr. Miller spoke about the trip with our Secretary to see Dwayne Dawe's restoration of his family's sawmill in Deep Bite Newfoundland. Similar special trips are possible for the Chapter.

There was a discussion regarding the debut of the first Virtual Chapter of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada and how the Canadian Chapter of SPOOM might utilize the same approach. He indicated that only one (1) U.S. Chapter of SPOOM maintains an interactive presence on the web; but that the Canadian Chapter had 200 members on Facebook, the biggest social media mill group in the world. He also spoke to the difficulty of attracting members using the old membership system and that there should be a lot more Canadian Chapter content in the *Old Mill News* magazine by SPOOM National.

3. Approval of May 13, 2017 Minutes, Spencerville Ontario

The Vice President read the 2017 minutes.

Doug Huntley – Don Morton that the minutes of the May 13, 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Chapter of SPOOM be approved. **CARRIED.**

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Director Morton, read his report and indicated that there is approximately \$3,100.00 in the bank to date. He noted that the Chapter still had to pay for web hosting and annual non-profit corporation fees as an affiliate of the Ontario Historical Society. There was no discussion.

Don Morton – Mary Ann Szuck that the Treasurer's Report be received. **CARRIED.**

5. The Year's Developments & Where do We Go From Here

There was considerable discussion regarding where the organization wanted to go in the future, given the resignation of President Ian Thompson. Director Morton indicated that the organization's overhead was negligible and could continue on indefinitely without having to raise funds.

Vice President Miller reiterated the idea of a virtual mill organization based on the United Empire Loyalist approach to creating a virtual bi-national branch.

Director Morton explained that it was difficult to get young volunteers involved because they were busy with family and work. Maybe there should only be a Millers' Day once a year or even once every two years or maybe the Chapter should visit a mill only when there is an event.

Vice President Miller suggested that the Chapter should consider a Millers' Day once every two years like The International Molinology Society (TIMS) and that the group should meet farther afield eg. Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland. A tour could be organized with a pre-arranged chartered bus and accommodation for these events. Certain clusters of US mills in nearby upstate NY, Pennsylvania or Vermont could also be visited in this manner.

There was a discussion regarding the number of current members most of whom are from Ontario. A member also suggested that a student be hired to produce our *Millstone News* and there was a general discussion regarding elimination of the paper version. Members noted that most newsletters now go out to members in full colour PDF format via email.

6. Delayed Election of New Executive

The members decided to forgo a full election of new Executive at this time in favour of an Interim Management Board to deal with the Chapter's future, given the membership crisis and resignation of Ian Thompson. An Interim Board was therefore created consisting of volunteers who stepped forward at the AGM - Robert Miller, Don Morton, Antje and Roland Tetrault, Leah Wallace and Maryanne Szuck as a special adviser. For her past service commitments, Maryanne is only honorary life member of the Chapter.

7. Moving Forward in 2018

The members in attendance unanimously agreed to the following actions for 2018:

- Have a membership call with a \$10.00 membership fee for individuals and \$15.00 for families.
- Resurrect *The Millstone News* and have **at least** one issue a year to be sent out via email. Contents to include no more than two articles (perhaps resurrect at least one earlier article) plus information about mill related and other events of interest. Don Kiell also suggested loading it on the website to be opened only by members codes – to encourage memberships and renewals. This approach has been used successfully by other groups including HCEA Canada.
- First new issue of *The Millstone News* to be sent out with a call for membership.
- Look into hiring someone to publish the newsletter. Our former book keeper Amy Klassen was mentioned.
- Look into organizing trips farther afield, renting a bus and arranging accommodation to lessen the travel burden for senior members.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Robert Miller – Don Morton that the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Chapter of SPOOM for June 9, 2018 be adjourned at 12:45 pm. **CARRIED.**

Minutes prepared by Leah Wallace