



PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 26, 2024: Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO BOARD MEMBERS – DAVE NICHOLSON, BOARD CHAIR

Dave Nicholson introduced himself as the Board Chair of PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society, commonly known as Autism Nova Scotia.

Dave called the meeting to order and announced that in accordance with the Society's By-laws, he will act as meeting chairperson and a pre-identified Autism Nova Scotia staff member shall act as secretary of this meeting and record the minutes.

He acknowledged that this event was broadcasted in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. Dave also acknowledged that people of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years and honoured and offered gratitude to those ancestors of African descent.

Dave asked Autism Nova Scotia Board Members to join him on screen, and welcomed virtually present Board members: Ian Sutherland, Dr. Robert Strang, Allison Garber and Tracey Avery.

Also recognized:

Catherine Rahey: Long – time Board Member transitioning into Chair.

Dave acknowledged and thanked long-time Board Member Catherine Rahey who will be succeeding him as Board Chair.

Additionally, Dave welcomed Cynthia Carroll and acknowledged her contribution to Autism Nova Scotia. Dave Congratulated Cynthia on her new job as Associate Deputy Minister of the Department of Community Services and wished her well for her future endeavors.

Dave also acknowledged Joan Craig – Honorary Board Member and Founder, as well as Trustees of the Craig Foundation; Cynthia Carroll – Executive Director of Autism Nova and the staff of Autism Nova Scotia; all members of Autism Nova Scotia and the greater autism community.



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2. OVERVIEW OF EVENT

Dave provided a procedure overview for the Annual General Meeting.

3. REGISTRATION

All members were invited to register for the virtual meeting via Zoom webinar. All attendees were recorded during registration.

A link to the agenda, 2023 Minutes, Financial Statements, and Autism Nova Scotia's 2024 Annual Report were emailed to all registered attendees.

Dave welcomed newcomers to view these items on the website, autismnovascotia.ca under 'events'.

4. VOTING

Dave announced that for motions; all attendees will have the opportunity to vote on a motion using the provided poll, which will remain open and on screen for 10 seconds. He stated that attendees are encouraged to vote, but it is not a requirement, and that a record of the votes will be kept.

5. QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Dave welcomed attendees to send in Questions or Comments to Autism Nova Scotia using the Q&A icon located at the bottom of the screen.

6. PROXIES

Dave requested all proxies be sent to him.

7. NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of meeting was duly given on Tuesday, May 20th, 2024.

MOTION: Robert Strang moved to forego the reading of the Notice of Meeting, seconded by Ian Sutherland.

MOVED: Motion carried by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Zoom Poll.



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8. REGRETS

Dave delivered regrets from the following Board Members:

- Janean Marshall
- Greg Smith
- Dr. Abraham Rudnick
- Sarah Boyne
- William Lahey

9. QUORUM

Dave stated that quorum at a general meeting of members shall consist of those members virtually present or by proxy.

10. CHAIRPERSON'S DECLARATION

Dave stated that a quorum is present, the meeting is to be duly called and properly constituted for the transaction of business.

11. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Catherine Rahey motioned to approve the 2024 Agenda, seconded by Allison Garber.

MOVED: Agenda approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Zoom poll.

12. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 29th, 2023

MOTION: Robert Strang motioned to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 29th, 2023, seconded by Tracey Avery

MOVED: Minutes approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by Zoom Poll.

13. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Discussion of the Financial Statements ending March 31, 2024, were presented by Autism Nova Scotia Chair, Dave Nicholson in Treasurer Greg Smith's absence.

MOTION: Ian Sutherland moved to approve the Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2024, seconded by Allison Garber.



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MOVED: The Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2024, were approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by a Zoom Poll

14. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

MOTION: Robert Strang moves to appoint AC Belliveau Veinotte Inc. as Auditors for 2024-2025, seconded by Ian Sutherland.

MOVED: AC Belliveau Veinotte Inc. were approved as Auditors for 2023-2024 by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by a Zoom poll.

15. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Dave shared that the nominations committee of the Board of Directors, recommended that those Directors identified in the 2024 Annual Report, be re-elected for a one- year term with the following exceptions:

Dave stated that he would be stepping down and Board Chair, succeeded by Catherine Rahey.

Bill Lahey was nominated as Vice Chair, succeeding Catherine Rahey.

Dave mentioned that Tracey Avery will be stepping down as a Board Member and thanked her for her contributions and commitment to Autism Nova Scotia.

MOTION: Alissa Lysack moved to approve the election of the board of Directors identified in the Annual Report with the above-mentioned exceptions, seconded by Michaela Watkins.

MOVED: The Board of Directors identified in the Annual Report with the above noted addition were approved by a majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by a Zoom poll.

Dave invited Cynthia Carroll, Executive Director of Autism Nova Scotia, to present her report.



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16. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Cynthia thanked everyone for joining the Autism Nova Scotia's 2024 Annual General Meeting from across the province.

Cynthia recognized the significance of this being her last AGM as Executive Director of Autism NS.

She also highlighted the announcement of the Provincial Autism Action Plan. She also encouraged all attendees to read the 2024 Annual Report for a full review.

Cynthia briefly spoke about her history with Autism NS and founder Joan Craig.

Cynthia ended by recognizing the hard work of the staff, volunteers and larger autism community for the work that has been and continues to get done.

Cynthia thanked attendees and invited them to watch the first presentation of the evening.

The first presentation of the evening featured a conversation between Joan and Cynthia where they reflected on their journey at Autism Nova Scotia.

17. TERMINATION

Dave thanked Cynthia and invited all Board Members to join him on the screen.

MOTION: Catherine Rahey moved that the 2024 Annual General Meeting now be adjourned, seconded by Ian Sutherland.

MOVED: The adjournment of the 2024 Annual General Meeting was approved by the majority of the attendees of the Annual General Meeting by a Zoom poll.

18. MEETING CLOSED

Dave thanked Board Members for joining him on screen and introduced the presentation portion of the Annual General Meeting.

Dave announced the creation of an award that recognizes the legacy of Cynthia Carroll, the Cynthia Carroll Inclusion Scholarship.

Dave invited Catherine Rahey, incoming Board Chair of Autism Nova Scotia, to present the second presentation of the evening.

19. 'THANK YOU' VIDEO PRESENTATION

Catherine recognized Cynthia's contribution to Autism NS and thanked her for the work she has done and for the legacy she has left behind.



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Catherine introduced the final presentation of the evening, a 'Thank You' video from Autism NS staff and Board members.

Catherine thanked attendees, staff members and volunteers for the work they've done and for their continued support.

20. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The 2024 Autism NS AGM concluded.