



Southwest Arm Historical Society
AGM Minutes Thursday, November 27, 2024

The AGM was held at the Lion's Club, Hodge's Cove, NL starting at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting was chaired by Elaine Spurrell.

Present: Elaine Spurrell, John Spurrell, Lester Green, Flo Peddle, Max Peddle, Della Gagnon, Maria Drover, Harvey Drover, Natalie Whalen.

1. **Minutes** from annual meeting of November 22nd, 2023 were read by Elaine Spurrell. No errors or omissions noted. John Spurrell proposed minutes to be adopted as is, Della Gagnon 2nd, motion carried.

2. Overview of 2024 Activities

- July 1st – Memorial Day service held inside Lion's Club due to weather. We went outside for the wreath laying and continued service inside.
- July 15th - Headstone cleaning on the Point in Little Heart's Ease at Bethel United Cemetery was completed on July 15th. There was a large turnout and as requested much of the overgrowth was cleared to allow cleaning. It was noted on that day that cleaning should occur in Spring or Fall when it isn't as hot and not as many mosquitoes.
- August 18th - Claypitts Storyboard completed and unveiled August 18th. Special thanks to Chris Vardy and Raymond Benson for installing the storyboard, cleaning the cemetery and the trail. Chris and Mary hosted lunch following the service.
- October 21st – the gate posts were finally completed with engravings.
- November 8th – Max and Lester attended the Remembrance Day service at SWA Academy on behalf of SWAHS. A short presentation was made and well received. We have been asked to return next year.
- November 11th – Remembrance Day service held. More noted below. The storyboard will be installed on the fence once the weather cooperates.
- An application for funding of sod was submitted to Veteran's Affairs. It was declined but understood as we have been fortunate to receive funding to date. Della looked into cost of turf for the memorial site but at >\$10K, it would not be a feasible option.
- It was noted that we need a new Union Jack flag following the most recent heavy winds we had in November.

3. Treasurer's Report – Maria presented for Georgi

- 2024 YTD net loss -\$6,558.88. Loss due to carryover of gate posts expense from 2023.
- Bank balance as of November 27th, 2024 \$13,729.37.
- Income received in 2024 - \$8,048.
 - i. \$2,900 grant received for the Remembrance Day ceremony.
 - ii. \$2,215 in donations received – includes \$1,800 received from Don and Willie Party donated by Andrea and Bev Drodge.

- iii. \$1,470 held for donations towards Butter Cove Storyboard to be completed in 2025.
- iv. \$183 donations received during the Claypitts Storyboard event.
- v. \$1,280 received at point of report for membership dues.
- Expenses for 2024 - \$14,606.88.
 - i. \$10,120 for payment of gateposts finally completed in October.
 - ii. Miscellaneous - \$20 for Registrar, \$120 for D2 solution.
 - iii. Remembrance Day expenses - \$1,421 lunch, Air Force Storyboard \$245, Flyers \$161. Miscellaneous photos, backboards, etc. \$173.
- Motion to accept report by Elaine, 2nd by Harvey.

4. **Website Report** – Elaine presented for Wanda

- Our website continues to slowly grow. When we started the website 10 years ago, there was a lot of information to add. Now, we don't receive a lot of new items, but we do appreciate any items that we do receive – everything from updates to family trees, photos, newspaper clippings and obituaries.
- We are always on the hunt for new items. If you have anything you would like to see added, just get in touch with Wanda. You might have some photos of people, communities, older homes that still or no longer exist, occupations such as fishing and logging, former post offices, former stores, schooners and other vessels, former teachers – and just about anything you can think of. We would love to receive these items.
- We also love to post stories about our communities, ancestors, and any aspect of life in the Southwest Arm. Maybe you would like to do a profile about one of your ancestors – tell us their special story.

5. **Overview of Remembrance Day** – Della

- There were approximately 200 people in attendance at service with various performers.
- Following wreath laying, the service moved inside. Lester gave a presentation, and the new storyboard was dedicated.
- Cold plates were served, and everything went well.
- One suggestion for next year is to try to serve quicker as there were some with dietary requirements to eat at a specific time. If we have more people to help serve, this could be accomplished.

6. **Military Projects** – Lester

- The RAF Project has been completed. The final report has been submitted to Veteran's Affairs. The storyboard unveiled on November 11th will be installed when the weather is better.
- The video of the Remembrance service is being completed and will be uploaded onto the website.
- Future projects include WWII Royal Navy (approx. 40 individuals) and Royal Artillery (approx. 20). Lester has the names, but the research must be completed.
- Lester was asked to participate in a podcast, and he contributed readings of 3 of his stories. Following this, he has been asked to participate in show on Rogers TV.
- Upcoming he will be visiting with Grade 9 students at SWA Academy to show them how to research historical military documents online.

7. **Membership and Donations Update** – Maria

- An effort was made this year to reach out directly to those members that had or would expire by end 2024. 86 members were contacted through email or Facebook messenger.
- We have also included posts on Facebook page with clear instructions on renewal.

- Membership dues increased from \$896 in 2023 to \$1,725 at time of meeting.
- Currently have 281 members with 48 expired in 2023 or prior and 46 expired in 2024.
- Many members have paid in advance with 102 members currently paid up past 2025.
- One note for further discussion is application of “Lifetime Membership” for misc. donation values.

8. Election of Officers – Max chaired Election following Robert’s Rules of Order.

- Chair – Elaine nominated by Maria, 2nd by Della. No further nominations made. Elaine accepted.
- Vice Chair – Wanda Garrett advised she is willing to remain in position prior to meeting. Elaine nominated Wanda, Maria 2nd. No further nominations made. Wanda voted to remain.
- Treasurer – Georgi advised she is willing to remain in position prior to meeting. Maria nominated Georgi, Elaine 2nd. No further nominations made. Georgi will remain as Treasurer.
- Secretary – Peggy agreed prior to meeting to stay in position. Elaine nominated Peggy, Maria 2nd. No further nominations. Peggy will remain as Secretary.
- Others:
 - i. Website Coordinator – Wanda Garrett
 - ii. Military Coordinator – Lester Green
 - iii. Assistant Military Coordinator – Della Gagnon
 - iv. Membership – Maria Dровер
 - v. Members At Large – Max Peddle, Flo Peddle, John Spurrell, Natalie Whalen (new).

9. New Business

- Lester suggested that we host a scanning event. Dale Jarvis of MUN has been to other areas and can bring equipment to assist in scanning and providing a digital archive of documents / photos. It would also then be part of the archives at MUN.
- Headstone cleaning to be completed at St. Joseph’s RC Cemetery in Gooseberry Cove in 2025.
- Island Cove Storyboard and Trail. Storyboard is being donated by Wanda Garrett and Family. Dedication and flower service at cemetery in Island Cove to coordinate with completion of trail.
- Interest in a storyboard to be completed in St. Jones Within. Ann Robbins has been the main contact. Plan is to have it ready for their summer event.
- Butter Cove storyboard has progressed well and is planned for unveiling at Butter Cove days. Flag masts will also be installed and memorial to Richard Spurrell will be relocated from current site to storyboard area.
- There has been some interest in a storyboard in Hatchet Cove. We can meet with the group and help them plan the content.

Meeting moved to adjourn by John. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.