



## DRAFT

### 32<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE POTTON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

HELD ON APRIL 7, 2023, AT SAINT-CAJETAN CHURCH IN MANSONVILLE

1. Opening of the meeting

The President of the Association calls the meeting to order and welcomes everyone. Pierre Léonard is introduced as the facilitator appointed to lead the meeting.

*Secretary's note: 31 members who have paid their annual dues for 2023 are present and in good standing and therefore constitute a quorum for this meeting.*

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is presented; **on a motion by Denis Lamontagne, seconded by Taïssa Hrycay, it is adopted unanimously.**

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 29th Annual Meeting – 2019

The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting were not sent with the convocation to this meeting; therefore, they cannot be approved. They will be presented at the next general meeting of members.

4. Directors' Report

The president gives a briefing on the activities of the PHA for the period from May 1, 2023, to now (April 7, 2024):

- Last year's introduction of the Potton Discovery Podcast, during springtime
- The constitution of a private Facebook™ group for the Association, now nearly 200 members strong
- The panoramic of "Potton mountains viewed in all seasons" exhibition, held during two weekends at Owl's Head and henceforth at the municipal Library
- Without forgetting the activities of the "Tours of the Village (Mansonville)", the Saturday hiking in the summer and snowshoeing in the winter
- Plus, various matters that are ongoing:
  - Phase II of the Potton Discovery Podcast, this time concerning tourism, together with the search for funding of this extension (\$10,000 already received from the Townshippers Foundation)
  - The affair and our position concerning the Frontier Bridge (which is a covered bridge)

- This without forgetting the usual business such as participating to the Annual Potton Spirit festival, organising and participating in meetings with other community and regional organisations (Potton Spring Health, History societies of the Eastern Township).
- Finally, the board decided to move the archives, documents, and equipment in a new location when a lease was signed for \$1,380 per year (10\$ per month plus taxes). This was deemed necessary due to the volume of belongings of the Association and the necessity to ensure a safe upkeep of these.

5. 2023 Annual Financial Statements

The Treasurer presented the annual financial statements for 2023. The surplus accumulated since 2019 has again been used to finance the ongoing projects. For 2023, no grant request was made to the municipality, because of the wealthy financial position of the Association. For 2024, we made a grant submittal to the municipality, but we never even got a formal answer – only a perusal of municipal council minutes showed that the Association was not to receive any moneys in 2024.

**On a motion by Denis Lamontagne and seconded by Bernard Sansoucy, the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, were unanimously adopted.** See Appendix 2.

6. 2024 Budget Estimates

The Treasurer presented the budget forecast for 2024. The forecast anticipates that funds will be used for all current projects, resulting in another deficit for 2023 – albeit less than for 2023. The main projects noted for allocation of funds is the expense for phase II (Tourism) of the Potton Discovery Podcast project. See Appendix 3.

7. Report from the ad hoc committee on the financial governance

The members of this committee, appointed by the Board, are Claude Bouffard, Serge Normand, and François Hébert. Serge Normand delivered the committee's report on the financial statements as presented in item 5 above. It was confirmed that the members of the committee had questioned and obtained all the information and answers required concerning the accounting records and the financial statements for 2023 and were satisfied with them.

8. Increase of the amount of the member annual dues

Thierry Roger explains that after many years of dues fixed at \$20 per member, this amount must now be reviewed for an increase. Thus, it is proposed to increase annual members' dues from \$20 to \$30:

**On a motion from Hans Walser seconded by Bernard Sansoucy, it is decided that annual dues will be fixed at \$30 per member starting with the year 2025. Motion unanimously adopted.**

9. Perspective 2023

The President, Lorraine Rouillard, took the floor again.

While 2024 is already in progress, various matters at hand are worth mentioning:

- The continuing affair of the Frontier Bridge will preoccupy the Association
- Completing Phase II (Tourism) of the Potton Discovery Podcast
- Converting members of the Facebook private group into full Association members
  
- Establishing links with the regional History associations

- The recruitment of new members and in particular new board members, all of which is essential more than ever for the perpetuation of the Association
- And of course, the continuity of our excursions, hiking or otherwise, visits of the Village, and the day of corn on the hob at the end of summer.

The president ends up on a further note for help wanted at the Association.

**10. The floor to the members**

Several members express various opinions on the topics of the meeting.

Christine Baudinet, a member in good standing of the Association and also a local councillor, brings a message from the municipality concerning the future of the Round Barn. It would appear from her report that the Grange will soon (2025-2026) be ready for tourists and other interested visitors.

**11. Election of the members of the Board of Directors 2024**

The names of those board members that wish to be re-elected and those that do not are given: Pierre Giroux, while absent today, is said by the president that he does not wish to renew his mandate. Virgil Tremblay presents his candidacy to the board. Thierry Roger wishes to pursue his mandate but mentions that for particular reasons, he might have to quit prematurely during his tenure if re-elected.

**It was therefore proposed Claude Bouffard**

**And seconded by Michel Payette**

**That** Lorraine Rouillard, Taïssa Hrycay, Pierre L'Heureux, Virgil Tremblay and Thierry Roger be elected as directors of the Potton Heritage Association until the next annual meeting of members.

**Carried unanimously.**

**12. Adjournment of the meeting**

Lorraine Rouillard thanked Pierre Léonard for his role as facilitator and the members for their participation; she closed the meeting.

*Thierry Roger  
Board Secretary  
Treasurer for the Association  
April 11, 2024*

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED DURING THE NEXT MEETING OF MEMBERS