



C.P. 262
Mansonville (Québec) J0E 1X0

Association du patrimoine de Potton

www.patrimoinepotton.org
info@patrimoinepotton.org

Potton Heritage Association

www.pottonheritage.org
info@pottonheritage.org

**22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF
POTTON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

HELD APRIL 1ST, 2012 IN THE TOWNHALL OF POTTON

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

1— Opening of the Meeting

Having determined the presence of a quorum of at least 10 members present in person (Article 4.3 of the General Bylaw), President Hans Walser declared the meeting open at 10am. A total of 43 members were in attendance

2— Nomination of a Secretary of the Meeting

Because the Secretary of the Association was absent, having been delayed in his return from a trip, President Hans Walser proposed Jacques Huppertz as Secretary of the Meeting, as foreseen in Article 4.4.1 of the General Bylaw. Sandra Jewett seconded the motion. Unanimously resolved.

3— Agenda

Bernard Sansoucy moved, seconded by Ralph Milot, that the agenda be adopted as proposed. Unanimously resolved.

4— Adoption of AGA minutes, March 20, 2011

Michelyne Fortin moved that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of members held on March 20, 2011 be adopted, seconded by Christian Smeesters. Unanimously resolved. Annex 1.

5— Rescinding of former general bylaws and adoption of new General Bylaw

The general bylaws of the Association were adopted some 20 years ago, according to the accepted principles of the time.

Since their adoption, bylaws generally have come to include more explicit dispositions that concern the missions of the organisation, its management norms, definition of conflicts of interest and ethical guidelines for the directors. The new General By-law, drawn up by Jean-François Boulais and Jean-Louis Bertrand, Secretary of the Association respects these new norms.

The proposed General Bylaw summarizes the fundamental traits of our Association, its legal status, its history and mission, all the while conserving the former regulations, the powers and obligations of the Assembly of members and the Board of Directors. Insofar as concerns the Directors, the new Bylaw clearly establishes their obligation to lead the Association with transparency and to avoid conflicts of interest. The regulation to act as an unpaid volunteer is

clearly re-affirmed. The Board of Directors chose to rescind the old By-laws and to adopt newer ones in order to facilitate global understanding of the texts.

Claude Fortin, seconded by Michael Darney, proposed that the former general by-law of the Association be rescinded and that the new General By-law, as proposed by the Board of Directors, be adopted. Motion passed unanimously.

Annex 2 : The General Bylaw so adopted

6— President's Report – Hans Walser

2011 – A year of continuity and of transition:

Renewal of our publications, expansion of our website, continuation of excursions and lectures, determining the routes of Incomparable Potton, in the preparation stages. Jacques Huppertz presented the proposed route.

Deposit on October 21, 2011 before the Municipal Council of a Policy on the Built and Natural Heritage of the Township of Potton, which may be summarized as follows: to create a heritage sector surrounding the perimeter of Place Manson; to recognize the heritage value of the Aubergine in Knowlton's Landing, Jewett's Store in Vale Perkins, and the former Wayside inn in Dunkin. Insofar as natural heritage is concerned, it foresees the establishment of a working group tasked with the examination of possible actions « on site », as well as to consider pilot projects.

Mayor Jacques Marcoux, present, noted that this year the Municipal Council intends to join La Charte des paysages estriens (the Charter of Townships landscapes) and would also be studying the draft Policy advanced by the Association.

The files concerning the Round Barn and the covered bridge have been handed over to the Groupe bénévole municipal de Potton (GBMP). The President summarized the most important points in the evolution of both these projects. He invited Jacques Huppertz, president of the GBMP, to explain the role and objectives of that group : The preliminary phase for the Round Barn has ended at a cost of \$190 000 comprised of the acquisition of the land, the demolition of the Labbé house, the cleanup of the property, stabilization of the Barn, repairs to the floor, a finalized business plan, the completion of a promotional video, and the deposit with the MCCCCF of funding requests. To come: the landscaping and presentation of site.

Insofar as concerns the foundations of pont de la Frontière, these will be reinforced in 2012 at a cost of \$50 000 The existing rudimentary pathway toward the Mud Brook will be brought to standards and a viewing platform will be added.

Perspectives for 2012.

The assertion that the protection and enhancement of our heritage is one of the elements for the socio-economic development of this Township cannot be over-emphasized. It must be stated and restated. It is incumbent upon us to make this message better understood by choosing simpler language – being more concrete and specific in our propositions and in targeting our intended audience more effectively.

The Round Barn reaches 100 years of age this year – celebration plans underway for summer.

New initiative of the MRC : bringing up to-date the inventory of natural landscapes, drawing up of a communication and awareness plan, production of a folder, \$90 000 over three years! Objective taking into account the cultural dimension of our landscapes in the development of a regional identity and in the development plan for the region.

In conclusion, the President thanked the Municipal Council for their support, and in particular, the excellent relationship that the Association has enjoyed with Mayors Claude Laplume and Jacques Marcoux

7— Secretary's report - M. Jean-Louis Bertrand

In the absence of the Secretary, Serge Normand presented the report :

Board of Directors in 2011 : Michel Bastien, Jean-Louis Bertrand, Secretary; Carol Bishop; Jacques Huppertz; Sandra Jewett; Denis Lamontagne, Yolande Lamontagne, Treasurer; Serge Normand; Édith Smeesters, Vice President; Hans Walser, President. Number of meetings of the Board of Directors: 12

Potton Heritage has 228 members in good standing December 31, 2011. Of these, 130 are French speaking, or 57% and 98 or 43% are English speaking. On average each year, 10% of our membership leave and 10% arrive to join our ranks.

Eight committees were struck and dealt with 23 files, involving the 10 Board members, 27 Association members and 5 non-members. The number of volunteer hours is estimated at 9 500. Calculated at the minimum wage, according to the MRC, this represents a value of some \$91, 675.

Publications 2011 : Brochure updated by Bernard Sansoucy, « Une promenade au village -Mansonville - a walking tour ». Folders by the team of Jean-Louis Bertrand, Sandra Jewett and Jacqueline Robitaille : Dunkin, Highwater, Vale Perkins and the religious heritage of Potton, as well as two booklets written by Sandra Jewett in support of the Reilly House exhibits on farming in Potton : « *Des framboises et de la crème fraîche... Une matinée avec Claire* » – “*Of raspberries and cream... a morning with Clara*”

8— Webmaster's report - Serge Normand

The website, French and English versions, are in constant progress with the insertion of texts, photographs and various information of note. This year we were able to digitize the complete text and collection of old photographs of *Potton d'Antan Yesterdays of Potton* published in 1997 by the Association and long out of print.

Our websites receive on average more than 500 visits monthly, including search engines, including several foreign ones : Japan, Russia, England, United States, Germany and China !

9— Vice President's report - Edith Smeesters ; and Activities Director, Carol Bishop.

Four lectures were presented : Sandra Jewett, Vale Perkins ; Jean Le François, Les ponts couverts; David Leslie, Rénovation et restauration écologique; Hans Walser, The History of Landscape Architecture.

Training sessions : «*La démarche de développement durable*» a session devoted to the sustainable development of Potton was held on April 12, 2011 with Édith Smeesters, Jean-Louis Bertrand and Sandra Jewett, in attendance. Denis Lamontagne, attended workshop sessions in Built Heritage : *Patrimoine et territoire : une nouvelle approche*, (Heritage and territory : a new approach) held in Sherbrooke, November 18, 2011

Potton Heritage Booth at Townshippier's day – September 17th in Stanstead, was manned by Peter Downman and Brian Timperley.

Ten winter excursions for exercise, conviviality and to discover our historic and natural heritage. Seven summer excursions to sites of interest took place : Sugar Loaf Pond, the Green Mountains, Singer Mountain, Missisquoi River,

Vignoble St-Agnès, as well as a model farm and mushroom collecting. All of these illustrated our natural and historic heritage.

Activities with the Katimavik group, under the direction of Frank Ruiz : preparation of winter excursion trails, covered bridge access trail, clean-up of the Round barn site as well as some cursory translation of the Répertoire Toponymique de Potton.

Booth and float in the Multicultural Festival of Potton, on the theme of old agricultural practices.

Photo contest in the Multicultural festival on the theme of « My Best Photo of Potton » illustrating our natural, built or archaeological heritage.

Autumnfest and Heritage Days presentation and discussion of the Heritage Policy for Potton and the declaration of the Association, guided visit of the Village by Gérard Leduc, including the Round Barn, guided visit to the Indian rock, and natural lodge chamber atop Owl's Head, a community supper on Place Manson, a booth at Owl's Head with exhibition of heritage photographs and a BBQ.

Exhibition of photographs taken by our members on our natural, built and archaeological heritage shown in the Municipal Library during the month of October 2011.

10—Treasurer's Report - Yolande Lamontagne

Serge Normand, in the name of the Treasurer, deposited the auditor's report for 2011 prepared by Services Financiers Ralf Bushenbaum. This included the Statement of Revenues and Expenses to December 31, 2011. Mr. Normand explained the different budgetary posts and concluded that these were acceptable. The Association concluded the year with a surplus on all operations of \$2,152. The accumulated surplus is \$6,749 at year's end. He then proceeded with the comparison of actual expense versus budgeted.

Bernard Sansoucy, seconded by Christine Ruiz, proposed the adoption of the Treasurer's report and that of the auditor. Adopted unanimously.

11— Nomination of Auditor for 2012

In the name of the Treasurer, Serge Normand, requested that the Assembly designate the firm of Ralf Bushenbaum, services financiers, of the Township of Potton as financial auditor for 2012.

Angèle Hébert, seconded by Jean-François Boulais proposed the appointment of the accounting firm of Ralf Bushenbaum, services financiers, of the Township of Potton, as auditor for the year 2012. Unanimously adopted.

12—Election of Board of Directors :

In the name of the Secretary of the Association, Jacques Huppertz, presented the nominations to the Board : Jean-Louis Bertrand, Carole Bishop, Jacques Huppertz, Sandra Jewett, Yolande Lamontagne, Denis Lamontagne, Serge Normand, Édith Smeesters, Hans Walser. He indicated that no other nominations had been received by the March 22, 2012 – last date for receiving nominations.

Jacqueline Robitaille, seconded by Ralph Milot, proposed the election of the proposed nominees. The resolution passed unanimously

13— Increase in Membership Fees

In the name of the Board of Directors, President Hans Walser proposed to the assembly that an increase of \$5.00 per year be voted in the membership fees for families and that the fees for a single membership be maintained at \$25.00. This increase will apply from July 1, 2012. It is expected that the anticipated increase in revenues will counter balance, in part, the reduction in subsidies from the MRC and will defray as well, the providing of a welcome package to new residents of Potton, a renewed initiative to recruit new members.

André Gagné proposed, seconded by Jacqueline Robitaille, that the Assembly increases from 30 \$ to 35 \$ the membership fee for families, and this, from July 1st, 2012. The motion passed unanimously.

14— Resolution of support to the Municipal Council concerning the Pipeline.

President Hans Walser, in the name of the Board of Directors, proposed that the Assembly vote a resolution of support to the Municipal Council, concerning their resolution of February 6 2012 entitled « Environmental and public security in the matter of the (Highwater) pumping station of the Montreal – Portland Pipelines » and reading as follows :

« It is moved by Councillor Michael Head and resolved

***THAT** the Municipal Council requests the National Energy Board to assure that a retention basin of adequate capacity be constructed at the Highwater pumping station in order to insure that no oil will spill onto the surrounding area or find its way into the waterway leading to the Missisquoi river;*

***THAT** retention basins also be put into place around the electrical transformers;*

***THAT** measures to waterproof the ground, by membrane or otherwise, be undertaken to avoid contamination of the water table;*

***THAT** noise levels emanating from the pumping station, at the property limits respect the municipal norms of 40 db at night and 45 db during the day, at all times;*

and

***THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ministers of the Environment for Canada and for Quebec. »*

Claude Fortin, seconded by Frank Ruiz, proposed that the Assembly support this resolution. The motion was adopted on a unanimous vote.

15—Question Period

Claude Bouffard mentioned that all members of the Association should receive communications from the Potton Heritage and not only the person of reference in the case of a family membership. She also mentioned that Potton Heritage need not speak for the GBMP in those matters which concern that organisation. Jacques Huppertz responded that Potton Heritage remains a crucial partner in the Round Barn file. While the GBMP administers the asset, the contents and programmes are largely the responsibility of Potton Heritage

Bernard Sansoucy mentions the need for higher participation of the general membership in the organization of activities, committees and files of the Association.

Hans Walser responds that efforts will be made to encourage new arrivals to Potton through the distribution of a welcome package from the Association.

Frank Ruiz mentions his intention to organize volunteer work crews to clean the Missisquoi North trails and invites the Assembly to call him if they're interested in doing so.

16— Hommage to Hans Walser, our outgoing president :

Sandra Jewett, in the name of the Board of Directors, thanked Hans Walser for his seven years as President of Potton Heritage. Under his guidance, Potton Heritage has not only enjoyed an excellent financial position, but also considerable success in the protection of heritage, most notably the citation and protection of the Round Barn and the Pont de la Frontière.

« For seven years not only you have been our leader and public face, keenly devoted to the preservation of the heritage of this Township; but also equally devoted to the general well-being and progress here. History will continue to unveil your legacy and show the influence of your leadership in Potton and to its people – of that I am certain. You have given much of yourself to us. For years, you have not only listened but heard – researched, observed, participated in – led by example, or have been a productive uncomplaining member of committee after interminable committee – at each, generously providing thoughtful, concise yet considered judgement on questions that would frustrate most. To each, you have given full attention, preparedness and the benefit of your experience. And you have expected the same in return. In my opinion, few problems have presented themselves to you as being insurmountable. Your attitude has always been one of “O.K. well, how do we do it?” and how often, have we heard those very words. I sometimes wonder if you’ve not become a victim of your own success – that, perhaps we’ve worn you down!

The Assembly rose in spontaneous ovation, while Sandra Jewett, in the name of all the members of L'Association du Patrimoine de Potton Heritage Association present the gift of a sculpture by Almut Ellinghaus, an artist from the Ruitter Valley in Potton. Hans Walser thanked all present.

17— Adjournment.

Jacques Huppertz, seconded by Jean-François Boulais, proposed adjournment of the meeting. Motion adopted unanimously.

Drawn up April 11, 2012 by Jean-Louis Bertrand for the Secretary of the Meeting, Jacques Huppertz, and translated to English by Sandra Jewett on April 25, 2012.

Annex 1 : Minutes of the Annual General meeting of members held March 22, 2011.

Annex 2 : General By-laws

Annex 3 : Presentation documents

Annex 4 : Audited financial statements for 2011