

**PETERBOROUGH NEW HORIZONS BANDS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, APRIL 28, 2021**

**Present:** John Topic, Sherri Luff, Alan Brunger, Angela Con, Mary Chesher, Lorna Devan, Lorna Verhulst

**Conductor Representative:** Gord Thompson

**Regrets:** Joanne McLaren, David Lloyd

**1. Conflict of Interest – none declared**

**2. Approval of Minutes of the March 17th Meeting**

**Lorna Devan moved to approve the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.**

**Seconded by Mary Chesher**

**All in Favor**

**Carried**

**3. Chair's Remarks**

There is no urgent business, but John thinks that it is good to continue to meet to share information and ideas. The meeting should be relatively short.

On a sad note, Phil Brown, who used to play in New Horizons before John joined the band, passed away recently. His wife Ruth survives him; she also played with us. They were both Baptist Ministers. Harlene passed this information on to John.

Rhona Ogilvie recently had surgery and Wendy Robinson had a stroke. Both are recovering. Sherri has sent a card to both of them.

**4. Conductors' Report**

Gord reported that he emailed the other conductors and asked them if they had any concerns. None of them did. He reports that they all miss the bands. Two things the conductors were unanimous on are: Continuing Green Band should be a priority to keep the continuity going about recruiting new members; continue with sectionals. Gord has contacted all the coaches and they are eager to return as well. The conductors are concerned about where and when we begin.

It was asked if the conductors were concerned about being spread over a few days to operate bands. They will do their best to adapt to the changes if they were necessary. It was also wondered if there was any thought about joining with Lakefield's NHB. Gord could not comment on this, so as of right now, no.

Discussion was held about doing a virtual band. Angela shared her experience with the Guelph band which is remote band using Jamulus. She recently played live with the band via this program. Brent Rowan is the contact and teaches at Laurier. Gord will put it out

to the others and see what their thoughts are.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

**5.1 Update from Treasurer** - David Lloyd was unable to attend the meeting but there hasn't been much financial activity.

**5.2 Insurance Update** – Joanne was unable to attend this meeting. She had looked into a new insurance company but their rates were higher so we are renewing with our present company. They are giving us 150 dollars off the price due to the circumstances.

**Alan Brunger moved that PNH B pay the insurance premium required which is \$1771.20.**

**Angela Con seconded the motion.**

**All in Favor**

**Carried**

## **6. Business arising from the March 17th meeting.**

### **6.1 Search for a New Venue**

#### **6.1.1 New Horizons Search**

##### **6.1.1.1 Living Hope Contract Negotiations.**

Lorna Verhulst and John Topic were to negotiate with Living Hope. As announced at our last meeting, we were told that we could continue using the facility for 2 more years, but only on Mondays and that we would have to move to a different storage room. They wanted us to complete negotiations by May 5<sup>th</sup>, so that their Council could consider the agreement in mid-May. John followed up with Mark Mertrik and he said that we will not be able to move the storeroom because the timpani will not fit through the door of the alternative space they have earmarked. We had paid to enlarge the door of the current storeroom so that the timpani could fit in. John took the opportunity, then, to ask them to measure the width of the door for us. It was 34 7/8 inches. This may be about the width of most of the doors in the Naval Association Buildings. It seems now that the deadline for renegotiation is less of an issue for them. He also said that they are working on a draft that they will pass on to us.

John will send him another email to see where we are at. We would like something in writing.

##### **6.1.1.2 Naval Association**

Lorna V and John put together a letter to Keith Riel, as Chair of the Arts, Culture and Heritage committee of Council. We copied it to Kemi Akapo, who is also on the committee, and to Karen Rennie and Rob McAulay. The last two are staff members for the Arts, Culture, and Heritage committees and the Recreation, Sport and Wellness committees – Naval Association is under the latter's purview.

We had nice responses back from both Keith and Kemi. Keith would meet with us but suggested we should work through Rob the person who is preparing the report for the Recreation, Sport and Wellness committee first. The report will be presented in May. The committee then debates it and then it moves to Council.

John has had a couple of detailed talks with Rob since then. He sent him our current lease agreement with Living Hope so that he is aware of what we can pay, He also sent the door measurement. Rob has assured John, as much as he possibly can, that we should be able to play there in September. He mentioned that some of the renovations might not be complete; so, for example, we might have to use some rooms temporarily for storage until the final storage areas are ready.

It is not clear that we will be able to drive a large truck right up to the buildings, but even crossing the bridge would be only about 90 feet to move equipment.

We did mention that we have helped Living Hope in the past to repair roofs and enlarge the door and we might be able to do something like that again if necessary. Rob didn't think that it would come to that. John feels very positive about this location.

Alan asked what the timeline for the contract would be. John believes it will be pay for use only from September to the first of June but this is to be negotiated. Rates will have to be negotiated as well.

### **6.1.1.3 Other Locations**

Angela has no news about Ridpath due to the lockdown

The Mount is still a possibility but there are issues with space there.

St James is a possibility but there are stairs and a space issue on the stage and no storage space. There are a few spaces for sectionals. Parking would be an issue there.

Calvary is saying that any further negotiations will have to go through their real estate agent, which may imply commercial rates.

### **6.1.2 Consortium Activities**

They are now calling the organization the Peterborough Musical Arts Centre (PMAC). They have given up trying to find a suitable building in the near future but they are putting together Vision and Mission statements and trying to identify potential partners – donors, sponsors, influential people, angels, etc.

The hope is to work toward having a dedicated facility in about 5 years.

## **6.2 Grants**

### **6.2.1 New Horizons for Seniors Program**

Alan reports PNHB received this grant of \$5000 for professional fees and general costs. Health and safety and conductor expenses were outlined in the proposal.

It was suggested that we use part of it for cleaning and sanitizing services for the rented rehearsal space and supplies required and to retain conductors and their expenses.

Discussion was held about this. The conductors could be paid for their prep work before beginning in September. The idea of going virtual may be able to be

negotiated into the grant as a larger computer monitor will be needed. Negotiated changes can be done as we determine what choices we need this fund for. The cleaning expenses may not be as great a concern in September. Lorna suggested having covers made for the instruments. The other possibility may be moving expenses as we move from one location to the other. Shelving may be needed.

We should be able to afford two locations to start to get us over the COVID hump.

### **6.3 Update on Vaccinations and Restarting**

Many of us have received a first dose now. The time frame given for the second vaccination is 4 months.

We don't know when restrictions will be eased: masks, numbers in indoor gatherings and such. Health and Safety practises will likely continue for the next year until the vaccines have rolled out and we see what protection we will receive from the vaccines.

Discussion about whether a person can return without a vaccination is an issue and will definitely be something we will have to monitor with regards to what other organizations and public health are suggesting we do.

Tim Kerr (Dr. with PRHC and Chair of PSO Board) says that the vaccines seem to be dealing fairly well with variants so far.

### **6.4 Communication with Members**

John sent out a general message to members after our last meeting.

It may be useful to survey members about how their vaccinations are going but it may too early at this point. Might be better to survey in the summer.

We need to continue to communicate with members that we are getting closer to having a venue, we are hopeful with the vaccinations rolling out we will be able to see each other soon and announce the grant

### **6.5 Recruitment**

Before restarting, we will want to do some recruiting. We will use some of the money from the city grant toward radio spots and other media sources. We could possibly have a ZOOM invitation meeting for people to encourage them to join.

James Burrett has the Facebook Account, Norma White does the website with Lorna Devan's help. For recruitment we may need to bump up our social media presence. (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) We need a public page on Facebook. Angela has offered to maintain the page to up our profile. Any new posts go through the moderator to control what gets posted. Angela and James Burrett will discuss this possibility. This page can be linked with other NHB bands.

## **7. Other Business**

### **7.1 Nominating Committee**

Members are: Alan, David, and Lorna V.

**8. Date of Next Meeting - May 26th, 2021 – 2:30 pm**

**9. Adjournment – Angela Con moved to adjourn the meeting**