

**PETERBOROUGH NEW HORIZONS BANDS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

Present: Lorna Devan, Angela Con, Joanne McLaren, Gord Thompson, John Topic, Mary Cheshier, Sherri Luff, Alan Brunger, Lorna Verhulst

Regrets: David Lloyd

1. Conflict Of Interest – none declared

2. Approval of Minutes of the December 9th Meeting

Angela Con moved to accept the minutes of the December 9th, 2020 meeting

Lorna Devan seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Carried

3. Chair's Remarks

We will bring each other up-to-date on what has been happening and think about some optimistic communication with the members.

Conductors Report

Gord Thompson is our new conductor liaison with the Board

4. Treasurer's Report

David Lloyd was unable to attend but everything is up to date

5. Business Arising From the December 9th Meeting.

5.1 Search for a New Venue

There is a consortium of several groups collaborating on finding a shared practice space. We are in more urgent need at this point.

5.1.1 New Horizons Search

We have an urgent deadline facing us. We have some possibilities.

Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board - Angela had a very positive conversation with the representative for KPRDSB who looks after renting space. She says there are locations that may be a good option. John will send Angela the draft of what our needs are and the consortium's plan

Angela Con says that Northcrest Plaza has some space to lease. There is also space available on Water Street that used to be a restaurant.

The two large practice rooms should be at least 2000 square feet each. In addition break our rooms are needed.

Mary Cheshier has been working with Remax – John Synicory – looking for answers about the RONA building, a restaurant, some factories in the south end and Northcrest Selwyn Outreach does not want to take us on at this point.

Naval Association – John Topic has been in touch with the city. He has put together a schedule for just PNHBB and we could fill the facility most days.

St. James and Calvary are saying they might be able to accommodate us but they are not going to do anything right now

Members of the Living Hope congregation, who are also band members, are sending a letter to Living Hope to see if they might change their minds for a couple of years. Gord Thompson reported that he has been in contact with Trentwinds. The owner is interested in possibly renovating it for use by the consortium. He is going to have an architect look at it to see what the costs would be. He would like to be contacted again in April.

John Topic is concerned that something like Trentwinds might be more down the road. Our needs might be more pressing with space being needed by September.

Alan Brunger expressed concern about the seasonality of our band and having to pay year round for a space we are not using. The consortium may be the way to go.

Gord Thompson has heard that if churches rent their property it may change their property taxes. This is something that needs to be determined. There may be different rates for charitable organizations. We are a charitable organization.

The Mount is still a possibility as we could go there fairly quickly but parking and acoustics are an issue.

5.1.2 Consortium Activities

The group with needs closest to us is Kawartha Youth Orchestra. They can stay at All Saints, though, for a few years. Peterborough Symphony Orchestra has not been very active in this process.

John Topic put together a schedule for all the groups and we could share a facility. Our combined rentals (that we are paying now) are between \$50,000 and \$70,000.

Right now, the consortium is looking for possible spaces. They like the Naval Association property too. A collaboration with the city would be very helpful.

5.2 Grants

5.2.1 City Grant Report

We need to send in a brief report on how we plan to spend the last installment. We have used past installments to help cover rental costs, buy extra music for the bands, subsidize needy members so that they can play with us, and do the trial private coaching sessions. As we try to start up again, private lessons might be useful for members as many have not likely been playing a lot.

Mary Chesher pointed out that our biggest changes we have faced are the Pandemic, looking for a new space and looking at a numbers change in our membership.

Publicity may also be needed to recruit members.

Angela Con suggested that with a new venue first and last months are usually due so this money could be spent in this way.

Currently we had allocated \$3500 for rent subsidy, \$2500 for fee subsidies, \$1000 for coaching.

5.2.2 Golden Ticket Grant

This grant is \$670. The idea is to use it to help needy/marginalized people in the community to attend concerts. The idea is that we could buy 27 tickets for performances (at \$25 a ticket) for marginalized people. John suggested that we might want to pay the conductor's fee for ensembles playing at the less privileged retirement homes. They would be happy with that.

5.2.3 Other Grant Updates

- A) Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough
- B) New Horizons for Seniors Program
- C) Coaching Subsidy
- D) Major Sponsor contact.

Alan Brunger reported that the applications have not been approved yet for A and B—possibly by March

We have not used all the money allocated for the Coaching subsidy

He has been in touch with Andrew Pyle and gave them 2 poinsettias and a Christmas card to thank them

5.3 Possible Restart

Whenever we plan to restart, we are going to have to go through the whole survey process and preparation of rosters.

At this point, we don't see things opening up until the vaccines start rolling out in larger quantities. Also the variants are of concern.

Summer Band may be a possibility and sectional groups

5.4 Communication with Members

We had a very nice social in December and then a couple of smaller ones hosted by the Devan's for Dynamics.

It is time to send out an optimistic letter to the membership.

Gord Thompson recommends a phone committee asking members How are you? How are you getting by? How are you feeling about being involved in PNHB in the future?

Lorna Devan commented that when there is a return to band there will be a transition in and the conductors will accommodate this by choosing music at a lower level – reassure our members

5.5 Portfolios

Sherril Luff will be doing the scheduling. This will be added to the website.

6. Other Business

A member has requested a subsidy for Flutissimo fees.

Lorna Devan moved to subsidize the member for Flutissimo fees.

Angela Con seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Carried

8. Date of Next Meeting

We will decide our next meeting based on the decisions regarding the lockdown and state of emergency.

9. Adjournment

Lorna Devan moved to adjourn the meeting