

**Minutes for DIMS Tenth Annual General Meeting
Monday, Jan. 13, 2020
Conservancy Room, Marcus Isbister Old School Centre**

Present

Directors: Wendy Boothroyd, Jane Lighthall, Lori McFarlane, Angela Robinson, Isabelle Fusey

Regrets: Dennis Lavalley, Frank Frketich

Cemetery Manager: Charlie Johnston

Community Members: 10

Quiz – prior to calling the AGM to order Isabelle tested all attendees with a 15 question quiz. Rather than causing mass angst it was a fun challenge and great ice-breaker.

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, Regrets, Agenda Review

Abbreviated Minutes of the ninth AGM, Jan. 14, 2019

Secretary Angela Robinson read an abbreviated version of the minutes of the last AGM, held Jan. 14, 2019. Cemetery Manager Charlie Johnston requested an addition to the *Report from Cemetery Manager* in the AGM minutes of Jan.14, 2019 as follows:

"In 2018 there were six burials: 4 at-need Rights of Interment and 2 pre-need Rights of Interment that were exercised **and 9 Pre-needs Right of Interment were purchased.**"

M/A

Chair's Report

Wendy Boothroyd presented the following report.

Jane Lighthall and I are co-chairs of DIMS.

Highlights of 2019

Since the last AGM there were 6 scatterings of cremated remains and 5 burials. For two of the burials, the families did not use a funeral home; instead they were helped by Friends and Neighbours. Friends and Neighbours is a group of local volunteers who support those close to a dying or recently dead person, making it more convenient for the deceased's body to remain on the island until the burial. One aspect of this care is that it is "green" and it dovetails beautifully with our cemetery. Friends and Neighbours is completely separate from DIMS.

DIMS receives a steady trickle of inquiries about starting a green cemetery. Usually we refer people to our website where there is a lot of this information. We communicate in more detail with some people and I want to acknowledge Louise Bell, who helps out a lot with these requests.

Board members and Louise Bell also guided five tours of the cemetery this year. Four were with people who want to start green cemeteries. The fifth guest was a British embalmer. She had a Winston Churchill Fellowship to research burial practises in other countries and she

hopes to create a system for non profit burials in England. She was very complimentary...
“(I)was in awe of what you have achieved and how you have achieved that.”

Isabelle set up a secure and private way to store and share cemetery and board documents on a cloud storage platform called Sync.com.

A situation which took a lot of our time this year concerns flowers on graves. Our bylaws limit flowers to those from local gardens that people place on the grave at the time of burial. Families know this. Most families go along with it, but there are a few people who regularly place cut flowers on their loved ones graves, and not always flowers from a local garden. Board members remove the flowers. Recognizing that our guidelines are different from some people’s cultural practices we spent several months navigating between the Principles of Green Burial and our guiding documents: the Management Plan, and the Conservation Covenant. Finally we met with the board of Denman Conservancy Association to discuss our proposal, which was to initially ignore errant floral tributes and remove them after a few days. DCA agreed with this. We will continue to be diligent in watching for invasive plants and removing them.

We are working under a revised management plan which was created in collaboration with representatives from the Denman Conservancy Association. The plan needs to be reviewed every 5 years and this was the first review. Andrew Fyson conducted the required five year biological assessment under the terms of our Management Plan with DCA. His report is pending.

In September DIMS renewed the two year contract with Manager Charlie Johnston. Charlie goes way beyond the scope of his job description in the work he cheerfully, creatively and skilfully performs for our non profit society. Thank you Charlie.

In November DIMS board members as well as Charlie and representatives from Friends and Neighbours attended Quadra Island's Death Education Fair.

Thanks Angela and Isabelle, board members who do so much extra work that helps us all.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Lori McFarlane presented the Financial Statement for 2019. This report is appended to the minutes.

MOTION to adopt DIMS 2019 Financial Statement.

M/A

Membership Report

Director McFarlane reported that DIMS membership at the end of December 2019 stood at 21 members.

Report from Cemetery Manager

Charlie Johnston presented the following report.

In 2019 there were five burials: 2 at-need Rights of Interment and 3 pre-need Rights of Interment that were exercised.

There were 6 Scattering of Cremated Remains carried out in 2019.

There were 6 pre-need Rights of Interment purchased in 2019 that have not been exercised.

We now have 40 pre-needs that have been purchased and not exercised.

Since opening we have had a total of 22 burials and 25 scatterings.

Communications

Director Isabelle Fusey presented the following report.

We continued to make available an information booklet and a leaflet. The booklets are distributed to clients by the cemetery manager and the leaflets can be picked up at the information kiosk at the cemetery. Both documents can be downloaded from the website. Our website continues to attract people who are thinking of starting a green cemetery. We gave at least four cemetery tours to such groups (Slocan valley, Cortes Island, Quadra Island, Whitehorse). We even hosted a visitor from England who is hoping to create a non-profit funeral option for Britain. In addition, we answered a number of inquiries by phone or email, with assistance from Louise Bell. Two of these inquiries were from journalists and resulted in our cemetery being mentioned in articles in the Calgary Star and the Toronto Star.

Finally a group of us attended the Death Education Fair on Quadra Island and shared our experience with the participants.

On a technical note, we moved our website to a different hosting company to cut down on costs.

Work on the Land 2019

Co-Chair Jane Lighthall presented the following report.

2019 a Year at Denman Island Green Burial Cemetery

The Lych Gate marks the entrance to the Cemetery. It serves too as a Ceremonial spot where families can gather during a burial when the weather is inclement. Words are spoken or sung. Charlie, our Manager reports that on more occasions than one now, a toast was made to the deceased and a glass of something shared in their honour.

The board wanted Michael Dennis' work to be acknowledged. The Ancestors, his tall weathered cedar sculptures sit near the road at the front of the cemetery. He agreed to this and a bronze plaque with Michael's name is now mounted at the base of the three figures.

When you walk down the Allee you see that the field on the West side, the 35 year area, and the area in which the burials have begun near the main Entrance Gate is looking quite wild....green in the spring time, a cheerful daisy field in mid summer, and tall brown unmowed grass through the fall. Half a dozen old stumps are interspersed in the field and support their own group of native plants. This field will eventually hold about 300 graves.

We have transplanted and encouraged new young trees from the land to colonize the area around the filled graves with the goal of regenerating the forest.

The Allee is kept trim and free from debris but otherwise its gravel substrate will eventually be taken over by green. Volunteers, mainly board members, and Charlie weed whack the edges, keeping back the Reed Canary Grass and the Wild Blackberry.

The Scattering Paths were weeded and weed whacked. Two work bees, spring and fall accomplished this task.

The board recognized that in order to maintain the crisp circular gravel path within the Gathering Space it would have to be weeded. We consulted Peter Marshall, retired landscaper, who advised us on method. Twelve people including board members, volunteers, and two paid workers met with Peter on May 2 to learn how to weed using Dutch hoes. He demonstrated the quick pulling and releasing of the hoe for slicing the roots while not disturbing the gravel. After several hours, the weeding was done. The grassy area inside this path is kept mowed and the edge weed whacked.

Invasive species removal is an ongoing task and is always included in the work bees. Holly, RCG, and thistles are on our radar.

The Garry Oak Gardens will remain fenced for a few more years. The gardens are lightly weeded and only the trees get water. Since Graham Lake water is no longer available for delivery, our cistern was filled this year thanks to DIVFD volunteers, Charlie Johnston, Frank Frketich, and Rick Paisley, ostensibly on a training exercise. More volunteers spent one hour once a week through the dry months watering the trees.

New signage was added thanks to Wendy and Charlie. One, a No Parking sign, is permanently fixed to the service gate and two identical ones which say "Ceremony in Progress" are placed at the two entrances when there is a burial in order to give privacy to families during the burial.

Sincerest appreciation to Erika Bland, DCA Land Manager who, on May 28, once again completed her annual monitoring required under the Conservation Covenant, and who is ever ready to help and advise on Covenant matters.

We are grateful to Andrew Fyson who, on June 2, completed a Biological Survey required under the terms of the Management Plan. Andrew made the initial Baseline Survey five years earlier when he was the Land Manager for DCA.

Erika Blank, Denman Conservancy Association's Land Manager, confirmed at the AGM that this Biological Assessment by Andrew Fyson, Professional Biologist, for the first five years of DIMS holding the land completes the requirements in the Management Plan, section 4.9.3 Monitoring Program "...to compare the vegetation present at that time with the information presented in the Baseline Report ..." (Appendix B of the Conservation Covenant).

Election of the Board of Directors

Director Lori McFarlane explained the election process for 2020.

Wendy Boothroyd, Jane Lighthall and Dennis Lavallo are at the end of their two year terms and, as of this meeting Lori McFarlane, Angela Robinson, Isabelle Fusey, and Frank Frketich are halfway through their two year terms.

Dennis Lavallo has stepped down as a board member.

Director McFarlane presented the following list of islanders who, to date, had expressed their wish to stand for election as DIMS directors for a two year term:

Wendy Boothroyd and Jane Lighthall.

Lori then called three times for nominations from the floor. As there were none, the preceding two people were declared elected by acclamation.

New Business

Director McFarlane explained that DIMS board is required to appoint signing officers annually at this time.

MOTION to appoint Lori McFarlane, Charlie Johnston and Angela Robinson as signing officers for the Denman Island Memorial Society with the Union Bay Credit Union for the year leading up to the Society's 2021 Annual General Meeting.

M/S/C

Adjournment

Wendy Boothroyd adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

M/S/C

A display of some 'tools of the trade', including the two coffin rests, straps, a Dutch hoe, and a shroud with shroud board, were available for all to see and led to much discussion.

Refreshments were served.

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See next page for;

DIMS 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
GENERAL ACC'T/PRE-NEED ACC'T/CARE FUND ACC'T

DIMS 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
GENERAL ACC'T/PRE-NEED ACC'T/CARE FUND ACC'T

1. GENERAL ACCOUNT:	Sub-Totals	Totals
Carried Forward from 2018		13,985
INCOME:		
Cemetery Operations:		
Open/Close Grave	1096	
Interments	3240	
Scatterings	1200	
Plaques	2400	
Admin fee for pre-need ROI	500	
Sub-Total	8436	
Other:		
Memberships	105	
DIRA Bottle Depot	347	
Donations	750	
Care Fund Interest	53	
Sub-Total	1255	
TOTAL INCOME:		(+) 9,691
EXPENSES:		
Cemetery Operations:		
Insurance	2029	
Promotion/Admin/Supplies	317	
Open/Close Grave	1043	
Plaques	1333	
BC Society Annual Report	40	
Transfer to Care Fund from General Acc't	50	
Manager's Fees (stipend + fee-for-service)	5285	
Grounds work	90	
Sub-Total	10187	
TOTAL EXPENSES:		(-) 10,187
BALANCE		13,489
Bank Balance at December 31, 2019 (actual)		14,125.70
BANK RECONCILIATION GENERAL ACC'T:		See over

General acc't balance Dec 31, 2019 (actual)	14,125.70
+/- outstanding deposits (\$600)/withdrawls (\$665 + \$146.63 + \$425)	-636.63
Balance	13,489.07
Shares	35.27
2. PRENEED TRUST ACCOUNT:	41,380.75
Shares	27.02
3. CARE FUND TRUST ACCOUNT:	5,455.00
Shares	27.02

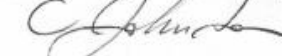
Prepared by:

Lori McFarlane, Treasurer



Approved:

Charlie Johnston, Manager



Jane Lighthall, Co-Chair

