

# AGM Minutes

**Minutes for Denman Island Memorial Society (DIMS) Fourteenth Annual General Meeting**  
**Monday, January 22, 2024**  
**via ZOOM**

## Present

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

**Cemetery Manager:** Charlie Johnston

**Regrets:** Frank Frketich

## Community Members:

**Guests:** Susan Weseen, Sharon Mackin and Bob Koontz

**Call to Order at 7:04 pm, Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review**

## BOARD REPORTS FOR 2023

### Minutes of the Thirteenth AGM Jan. 23, 2023

The DRAFT AGM minutes were emailed to all members, giving everyone a chance to read the minutes prior to this meeting. No corrections were suggested. The 2023 AGM Minutes were adopted as presented.

<b>Motion to adopt DIMS 2023 AGM Minutes</b>	<b>Moved/Seconded/Carried</b>
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### Chair's Report by Wendy Boothroyd

This past year we had a few glitches, each of which was dealt with in a matter of fact and discreet manner by our manager Charlie Johnston. As a result, looking back, it seems that things went smoothly in 2023. The board met monthly, still using Zoom because it's so convenient. Most of the business we conducted was routine. I will mention a few things that stand out.

BC's Societies Act was updated. It is a long document. We needed to read through to find the parts that pertained to us. There are a few minor changes we needed to make, mostly relating to the directors.

Since ours was Canada's first stand alone natural burial cemetery of the digital age, we get a steady stream of inquiries from other groups wanting to start a natural burial cemetery. Our web site contains a lot of information, including a detailed log that Louise Bell kept. The manager and board members also talk with people, and follow their progress. This year we communicated with people from close by (Hornby and Gabriola Islands, Surrey/Chilliwack) and far away (Manitoba). One group we have shared knowledge with opened their own cemetery in New Denver this September.

Community members asked for it, Denman Conservancy Association approved of the idea, and Frank Frketich did the work. The Denman Natural Burial Cemetery now has a "wind phone". Some people will find comfort in "talking" to their deceased loved one using a retro green dial phone that is installed in a cedar box on the back wall of the wooden storage shed. The speaker can sit on a sturdy stump and look out at the understory of a Douglas fir forest.

## **Treasurer's Report by Lori McFarlane (see page 4 and 5 for the Financial Statement)**

### **Motion to adopt DIMS 2023 Financial Statement      M/S/C**

Lori mentioned Achinback Foundry has increased the plaque fee resulting in DIMS increasing the plaque fee from \$300 to \$350.

### **Membership Report by Lori McFarlane**

DIMS currently has 35 members. Members must be eligible to be buried at Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery. The application form to become a member of DIMS can be found on the first page of DIMS website – DINBC.ca

### **Report from Cemetery Manager Charlie Johnston**

There were 6 burials in 2023.

Eleven pre-need Rights of Interment were purchased in 2023, 2 of which were exercised during the year.

Seven Authorizations to Scatter Cremated Remains were purchased 4 of which, like 6 others previously purchased, have not yet resulted in a scattering.

Since the opening of the Cemetery in 2015 there have now been 47 burials and 30 scatterings at the Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery.

There are 69 pre-need Rights of Interment that have been purchased and not yet exercised.

### **Work on the Land 2023 by Jane Lighthall**

The volunteer work that repeats each year consists of mowing and weed whacking of the Allee, and the bit of grass within the Gathering Space, weeding of the gravel path that sits inside the Memorial Walls, and some attention to the graves. Specifically, in winter we transplant tree seedlings found within the Cemetery boundary onto the graves. We also watch for invasive species, including some that families may have inadvertently introduced.

We maintain the chip trails in the Scattering Area and trim the edges. Once each summer the main field in the 35 year section is mowed by Beech and Cedar. This year that mowing was done on July 5. There was a very narrow window of opportunity last summer between waiting till the field of daisies had bloomed, and the lengthy fire closure.

The Garry Oak garden are tended as needed. The fences remain to protect plants and trees from deer.

Volunteer maintenance work:

Mar 10 transplanting onto graves and holly removal	2 hrs
April 16 mowing/weed whacking Allee/G.S.	2 hrs
May 2 Work bee with Charlie, the board members, and 4 volunteers, Gathering Space gravel weeded, Fresh wood chips spread on Scattering path Mowing the Allee	9 hrs
May 26. Work bee Wind phone installed. (Frank) Weed Whacking. (Charlie) Weeding of G.S. gravel	6 hrs
June 12 and 25 mowing/ weed whacking of Allee and G.S.	2 hrs
July 5 assisting contractor with mowing fields	2 hrs
General tidy up/ raking before burials	3 hrs

Wind Phone – Frank attended a DCA board meeting to request permission to install a wind phone at and acceptable site on the cemetery. Frank designed, built a receptacle for the phone, provided an old dial phone, installed it on the back of the Cemetery shed and provided to stumps to sit on.

10 hours

Total 36 hrs

## **2024 Election of the Board of Directors**

Director Lori McFarlane explained the election process for 2024

Wendy Boothroyd and Jane Lighthall 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.

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 First Credit Union for the year leading up to the Society's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in early 2025. **Motion/S/C**

Signatures of two signing officers are required on cheques, eTransfers, transferral of funds between accounts and withdrawals.

**Chair: Questions from members. Sharon Mackin asked if a tree of her choice could be planted on her eventual grave. Jane and Charlie explained that DIMS Conservation Covenant specifies only seedlings from the cemetery can be planted on graves. The best time to plant is in the rainy season.**

## **Adjournment**

Wendy Boothroyd called a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm

Motion/S/C

See **DIMS 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Final** – on pages 4 And 5.

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**DIMS 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Final**  
**GENERAL ACC'T/PRE-NEED ACC'T/CARE FUND ACC'T**

<b>1. GENERAL ACCOUNT:</b>	Sub-Totals	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Carried Forward from 2022</b>		<b>17,804.64</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>		
<b>Cemetery Operations:</b>		
Open/Close Grave	2230	
Interments	4960	
Scatterings	1600	
Plaques	3450	
Admin fee for pre-need Right of Interment (ROI)	1080	
Pre-need ROI	3000	
	16,320	
Sub-Total		
<b>Other:</b>		
Memberships	0	
DIRA Bottle Depot	143	
Donations	5856	
Care Fund Interest	87	
Other	80	
	Sub-Total	6,166
	<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>(+)22,486</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
<b>Cemetery Operations:</b>		
Insurance	1572	
Promotion/Admin/Supplies	110	
Open/Close Grave	1700	
Plaques	4580	
BC Society Annual Report	40	
Transfer to Care Fund from General Acc't	570	
Transfer to PN Acc't	3000	
Manager's Fees (stipend + fee-for-service)	8035	
Maintenance	118	
Land Transparency Registration	447	
	Sub-Total	20,172
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>(-) 20,172</b>
	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>20,118</b>

<b>Bank Balance at December 31, 2023 (actual)</b>		<b>20,118.58</b>
<b>BANK RECONCILIATION GENERAL ACC'T:</b>		
General acc't balance Dec 31, 2023 (actual)		<b>20,118.58</b>
+/- outstanding deposits (\$0)/withdrawals (\$0)		0
Balance		<b>20,118.58</b>
Shares		100.00
<b>2. PRENEED TRUST ACCOUNT:</b>		<b>72,787.23</b>
Shares		100.0
		0
<b>3. CARE FUND TRUST ACCOUNT:</b>		<b>12,583.46</b>
Interest (to be deposited to Gen Acc't)		4.66
Shares		100.00

Prepared by:

Lori McFarlane, Treasurer

Approved:

Wendy Boothroyd, Co-Chair

Jane Lighthall, Co-Chair