

## **DRAFT 2025 AGM Minutes**

**Minutes for Denman Island Memorial Society (DIMS) Fifteenth Annual General Meeting**

**Monday, January 20, 2025**

**3:30pm, the Gathering Space, United Church, 4575 Denman Road**

### **Present**

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

**Cemetery Manager:** Charlie Johnston

**Community Members:** 7

**Guests:** Sandra Martindale, Susan Weseen, Debbie Frketich, Danni Crenna, Luise Hermanutz and Dave Innes, Jane Edwards.

**Call to Order at 3:35 pm, Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review**

### **BOARD REPORTS FOR 2024**

#### **Minutes of the Fourteenth AGM Jan. 22, 2024**

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 2024 AGM Minutes were adopted as presented.

**Motion to adopt DIMS 2024 AGM Minutes**

**Moved/Seconded/Carried**

#### **Co-Chair's Report by Wendy Boothroyd**

Our 10th year of operation has been a quiet year. That is likely because our capable manager Charlie Johnston dealt with any issues before they became problems. I will mention a few points. After all the reports we will answer any questions you may have about the reports or about the cemetery in general.

Every year we revisit the Acts and Regulations that govern the operation of the cemetery. We also review the amended Societies Act. We are in compliance with them all.

We continue with outreach. Charlie routinely fields questions. We showed 3 parties around the cemetery this year. One was a Royal Rhodes University student helping Cumberland with the feasibility of using a forest for natural burial. One was a Comox land owner who wants to turn her forest into a natural burial site. The third consisted of Thetis Islanders who want to start a natural burial cemetery there.

Community members have been generous. Juan Barker taught us how to amplify speakers' sound level at burials using "staging" techniques. Heather McLean and Bethany Ireland have offered to provide choral music at burials.

Finally, Frank Frketich is resigning from the board. He has been on the board since 2019. Frank has been a wise board member with deep knowledge of how the community works, and a strong sense of humanity. One legacy he leaves is the wind phone he installed last year. Thank you Frank for your service. We will miss your calm presence.

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

**Motion to adopt DIMS 2024 Financial Statement**

**M/S/C**

**Membership Report by Lori McFarlane**

DIMS currently has 37 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 4 burials in 2024.

Sixteen pre-need Rights of Interment were purchased in 2024, one of which was exercised during the year.

Three Authorizations to Scatter Cremated Remains were purchased and the scatterings occurred along with 4 others that were previously purchased.

Since the opening of the Cemetery in 2015 there have now been 51 burials and 37 scatterings at the Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery.

There are 82 pre-need Rights of Interment that have been purchased and not yet exercised.

**Work on the Land 2024 by Jane Lighthall**

Denman Conservancy holds a Covenant on the hectare of land that comprises DINBC as this was once land belonging to DCA. As with all of the lands that DCA holds Covenants on, it is monitored once a year, this year being the exception. As well, at the beginning of the agreement with DCA an extensive Management Plan was written for the Cemetery and this is to be reviewed every five years. It was last done in 2018 and was a very lengthy process. DIMS and DCA this year agreed that a review is only necessary if one of the parties requests it, and, that a review by the DCA Lands Committee of the previous five years of Covenant monitoring will suffice. Because nothing of significance changes at the Cemetery this makes good sense.

We held two work bees, the first to do the regular maintenance of weeding, mowing, trail tidying, and invasive species **renewal removal**. The second was to help Charlie locate and mark several rows of new graves.

Volunteers mowed three times.

Board members regularly walk through the cemetery and occasionally remove things from graves that contravene the principles of Natural Burial and of the Covenant.

Beech and Cedar was hired to mow the Allee and Gathering space once in late May and the main field, a four hour job with ride on mower, on July 26.

Work done by volunteers (Board members and friends/family)

Mowing/weed whacking Allee and Gathering Space grass 3 hrs

April June July

June 19 Work Bee included:

Mowing the Allee and around Gathering Space  
 Weeding of the gravel circle within Memorial Walls  
 Thistle removal in main field 8 1/2 hrs

Aug 8 and 29  
 Laying out and marking of next graves 15 hrs  
 in both Family plots and standard grave area

November  
 Fallen tree removal after storm 1 hr

Total volunteer hrs. 27 hrs

### **2025 Election of the Board of Directors**

Director Lori McFarlane explained the election process for 2025

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

Lori McFarlane, Angela Robinson, and Isabelle Fusey.

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

### **New Business**

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

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

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 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in early 2026. **Motion/S/C**

### **Chair: Questions from members.**

• Luise Hermanutz asked why DIMS has so much money in our Preneed account. Lori explained DIMS required money for ongoing maintenance and developing the 65 year cemetery section which requires logging, 'some 'gentle levelling' and removal of waste.

### **Adjournment**

Wendy Boothroyd called a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:05pm

Motion/S/C

See **DIMS 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Final** – see pages 4-5

**DIMS 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Final**  
**GENERAL ACC'T/PRE-NEED ACC'T/CARE FUND ACC'T**

<b>1. GENERAL ACCOUNT:</b>	<b>Sub-Totals</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Carried Forward from 2023</b>		<b>20,118.58</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>		
<b>Cemetery Operations:</b>		
Open/Close Grave	1096	
Interments	2980	
Scatterings	600	
Plaques	1400	
Admin fee for pre-need Right of Interment (ROI)	1200	
Pre-need ROI	3000	
	10276	
Sub-Total		
<b>Other:</b>		
Memberships	0	
DIRA Bottle Depot	387	
Donations	296	
Care Fund Interest	5	
Other	290	
Sub-Total	978	
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>11,254</b>	<b>+11,254</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
<b>Cemetery Operations:</b>		
Insurance	1766	
Promotion/Admin/Supplies	799	
Open/Close Grave	925	
Plaques	1960	
BC Society Annual Report	40	
Transfer to Care Fund from General Acc't	20	
Transfer to PN Acc't	3000	
Manager's Fees (stipend + fee-for-service)	7735	
Maintenance	331	
Other	326	
Sub-Total	16,902	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>16,902</b>	<b>-16,902</b>

<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>14,471</b>
<b>Bank Balance at December 31, 2024 (actual)</b>		<b>15,120.85</b>
<b>BANK RECONCILIATION GENERAL ACC'T:</b>		
General acc't balance Dec 31, 2024 (actual)		<b>15,120.85</b>
+/- outstanding deposits (\$0)/withdrawals (\$0)		-650.00
Balance		<b>14,470.85</b>
Shares		100.00
<b>2. PRENEED TRUST ACCOUNT:</b>		<b>79,804.82</b>
Shares		100.00
<b>3. CARE FUND TRUST ACCOUNT:</b>		<b>13,645.42</b>
Interest (to be deposited to Gen Acc't)		5.52
Shares		100.00

Prepared by:

Lori McFarlane, Treasurer

Approved:

Wendy Boothroyd, Co-Chair

Jane Lighthall, Co-Chair