

DRAFT

Minutes for Denman Island Memorial Society (DIMS) Thirteenth Annual General Meeting Monday, January 23, 2023 via ZOOM

Present

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

Cemetery Manager: Charlie Johnston

Regrets: Frank Frketich

Community Members: Sandra Martindale, Patrick Lewis, Danni Crenna, Peter Spurr

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

BOARD REPORTS FOR 2022

Minutes of the Twelfth AGM, Jan. 17, 2022

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 2022 AGM Minutes were adopted as presented.

Motion to adopt DIMS 2022 AGM Minutes

Moved/Seconded/Carried

Chair's Report by Wendy Boothroyd

Jane Lighthall and I are co-chairs of DIMS. Angela Robinson is Secretary, Lori McFarlane treasurer. Isabelle Fusey is our director of communications. Frank Frketich is the director in charge of archives. Charlie Johnston is the cemetery manager.

In 2022 all our monthly board meetings were virtual.

Although the COVID pandemic continued, restrictions on outdoor events were lifted and we no longer took precautions at burials.

Honouring Louise Bell's legacy: Louise's role in establishing the cemetery was key and the board - as well as some Denman residents - believed this should be acknowledged publically. We decided to install a plaque thanking Louise on the front face of the west side bench in the Lych Gate. To Louise's consternation, that bench was not installed with the original Lych gate. Privately, persistently and relentlessly she urged the builder to make the 'missing' bench. One day, to Louise's surprise and delight, the bench was there.

Since Louise did not want to be singled out for credit in establishing DINBC, we chose the bench as a discrete location for this plaque. The plaque was dedicated in a small ceremony on June 21.

Since we are an incorporated society, DIMS was required to file a report for the new BC Land Owner Transparency Registry (LOTR). This registry aims to end hidden ownership and money laundering in B.C.'s real estate market. We engaged a law office in Campbell River to file on our behalf.

We conducted 2 tours of the cemetery in 2022. One was for 2 Yellow Point residents who are interested in starting a green cemetery. The other was for a UVic Environmental Studies student researching the rise of Green Burial and its role in natural restoration in Canada.

Parking . Neighbours living on North Central Road were concerned about cars parking on their road during burials. They worried that parked cars could block the passage of regular traffic and possibly emergency vehicles. To address this problem, we painted a large sign: NO PARKING BEYOND THIS POINT, to place on North Central just past the cemetery. We have orange pylons for the other side of the road. Now cars will only park on one side close to Denman Rd.

We were able to test this strategy at a burial this fall at which there were many mourners. In addition to the road signage, one of the burial organizers posted on Facebook the DIMS notice asking people to park at the old school. A board member came to the burial to direct traffic. Happily, at that burial there were no problems with cars on N Central Rd and most of the mourners did park near the school.

2022 was a pretty quiet year.

Treasurer's Report by Lori

Treasurer Lori McFarlane presented the Financial Statements for 2022.
This report is appended to these minutes.

Motion to adopt DIMS 2022 Financial Statement

M/S/C

Membership Report by Isabelle Fusey

14 Members.

Report from Cemetery Manager Charlie Johnston

There were 3 burials in 2022.

Five pre-need *Rights of Interment* were purchased in 2022, 1 of which was exercised during the year. Two *Authorizations to Scatter Cremated Remains* were purchased one of which, like 7 others previously purchased, has not yet resulted in a scattering.

Since the opening of the Cemetery in 2015 there have now been 41 burials and 26 scatterings at the Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery.

There are 61 pre-need *Rights of Interment* that have been purchased and not yet exercised.

Work on the Land 2022 submitted by Jane Lighthall

Covenant Monitoring

On May 9 three of us met with Andy Blackburn, new DCA land manager for the annual monitoring of the 1 hectare DI Natural Burial Cemetery. This is a requirement of the Conservation Covenant held by DCA. After a discussion and a walk around we left Andy to finish his work.

His report confirmed that the DI Natural Cemetery is complying with the covenant. We leave things undisturbed except for digging a grave when needed and keeping the paths open and lightly weeded. Andy reported finding only a couple of holly plants, ongoing thistle presence, and Reed Canary Grass patches. Because he mentioned that some of the survey marker pegs are a bit rotted we have new ones to replace them with and will do that this year. His report included photos of native plant species and, recommendations that we continue controlling invasive species. As well, he supported the idea of introducing native plants and seeds to the gravesites when families bury their loved ones.

The Graves.

A dozen or small firs continue growing where they were planted amongst the graves. The

grasses dominate although several native plant species are establishing.

We continue to find objects that families leave on the graves and we remove them after a few days. Sometimes they are flowers, both indigenous, and non, and sometimes glass, wood, and containers.

One small bunch of non native bulbs was planted and we will likely ask that they be dug up.

The Field

For three years we have not mowed the main field but decided it had become too overgrown and untidy. The profusion of Wild Trailing blackberry was a tripping hazard. The tall grass required Charlie having to clear an area before a burial so that mourners could have access and a place to stand.

Mowing and weed whacking of the field was contracted to Kane of Beech and Cedar who did the work as soon as the fire hazard rating allowed. He did an excellent job and we will ask him to mow again in the spring. Once the field was mowed we appreciated how important it is to have a large area where people can easily gather and move around.

Garry Oak Gardens

We all remember the cold wet spring that lasted through June. Summer came followed by a long hot fall with no rain until November. On the advice of a garden expert we stopped watering the Garry Oaks. The native shrubs in the largest fenced garden are all alive and growing as are the trees.

The Allee

The assortment of trees originally planted along the Allee are now really taking shape and growing well. The firs and alder are approaching 30 ft and the cedar, maples, and dogwoods are almost as tall.

Volunteer work done by board members and the Cemetery Manager

Transplanting seedlings onto graves 4 x 1/2 hour. Late winter?

Feb 11 removal of black plastic mulch near entrance just off Allee. 5 people x 1hr

May 21. 4 people x 1 1/2 hrs weeded gravel in Gathering Space

June 5 4 people x 1 hr weeded Garry Oak gardens removing vetch

June 18. 4 people x 1 1/2 tidy up before the dedication of the plaque for Louise Bell

Late Sept 2 people x 1 1/2 hr to locate metal pegs and markers prior to mowing by contractor

Oct 19 Scattering path weeding 3 people x 1 hour

Mowing / weed whacking of Allee and Gathering Space four times over the summer. The dates were June 7, 21, July 16, Aug 13. Total 4 hours

Thistle pulling. 2 1/2 hours in July and August

General tidy up before burials 1 hr

Total hours 36 1/2 hours

2023 Election of the Board of Directors

Director Lori McFarlane explained the election process for 2023.

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

Lori then called three times for nominations from the floor. As there were none, the preceding four 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 13th Annual General Meeting in early 2023. **Motion/S/C**

Lori noted that DIMS is now able to eTransfer payments. This is a quicker, more efficient way to pay bills.

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

Questions from two society members attending the ZOOM meeting:

- Peter Spurr had some questions about why DIMS is not making more interest and investing some of DIMS monies held at First Credit Union in something like a GIC. Lori explained BC's laws and regulations which govern DIMS prevent us from doing so.
- Danni Crenna brought forward the idea of a Death Faire on Denman Island similar to the one held on Quadra Island a few years ago. Danni said she would be willing to organize a Faire. The board and DIMS members liked the idea.

Suggestions for presentations/display tables: Better At Home/Home Support offered to residents by VIHA/HDCHCS; Medical Assistance In Death (MAID); Community Paramedics; Denman Island's Friends and Neighbours-End-of-Life Support; Green Burial; Denman Memorial Society – Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery; examples of shrouds, wooden and woven caskets made by folks on Denman Island; information on the Nav-Care Program (Margaret Verschuur from Quadra Island emailed this to Denman folks who had participated in the Quadra Death Faire, Nov 2019,).

Adjournment

Wendy Boothroyd called a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43.

Motion/S/C

see **DIMS 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Final** – on pages 5 and 6.

DIMS 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Final
GENERAL ACC'T/PRE-NEED ACC'T/CARE FUND ACC'T

1. GENERAL ACCOUNT:	Sub-Totals	Totals
Carried Forward from 2021		18,935.87
INCOME:		
Cemetery Operations:		
Open/Close Grave	1,094	
Interments	3220	
Scatterings	200	
Plaques	900	
Admin fee for pre-need ROI	480	
Sub-Total	5,894	
Other:		
Memberships	0	
DIRA Bottle Depot	245	
Donations	2,841	
Care Fund Interest	112	
Other	13	
Sub-Total	3,211	
TOTAL INCOME:		(+)9,105
EXPENSES:		
Cemetery Operations:		
Insurance	1610	
Promotion/Admin/Supplies	741	
Open/Close Grave	1083	
Plaques	1336	
BC Society Annual Report	40	
Transfer to Care Fund from General Acc't	270	
Manager's Fees (stipend + fee-for-service)	4845	
Maintenance	160	
Equity Shares (re: First/UB Credit Union merger)	150	
Sub-Total	10,235	
TOTAL EXPENSES:		(-) 10,235
BALANCE		17,805
Bank Balance at December 31, 2022 (actual)		17,804.64
		See over
BANK RECONCILIATION GENERAL ACC'T:		

General acc't balance Dec 31, 2022 (actual)		17,804.64
+/- outstanding deposits (\$0)/withdrawals (\$0)		0
Balance		17,804.64
Shares		100.00
2. PRENEED TRUST ACCOUNT:		65,748.74
Shares		100.00
3. CARE FUND TRUST ACCOUNT:		10,968.80
Interest (to be deposited to Gen Acc't Jan '23)		87.57
Shares		100.00

Prepared by:

Lori McFarlane, Treasurer

Approved:

Wendy Boothroyd, Co-Chair

Jane Lighthall, Co-Chair