



**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE ST. CHRISTOPHER NATIONAL TRUST
Thursday 5th September 2019**

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the St. Christopher National Trust held on Thursday 5th September 2019 at the Old Treasury Building, Bay Road, Basseterre.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Warner at 5.28 pm. Present were:

Schneidman Warner, President
Alfonso O'Garro, Vice President
Deniece Alleyne, Hon. Secretary
Livingston Huggins, Nominated Member
Ryllis Percival, Executive Director

Twelve Members

President Warner welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that there was a quorum present.

In his opening remarks he indicated that the last AGM was August 2017 and pointed out that the Trust has had a rather eventful two years.

The reason for not having an AGM sooner was because the Trust was awaiting the Audited Financial Statements. He stated that the 2016 and 2017 financial statements will be presented at this meeting along with a report on our stewardship up to August 2019.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warner proposed an amendment to the Agenda. Item 5 to be amended to say Annual Report. He clarified that it is the report of the Board to the members rather than the President's report to the members.

Motion to accept the Agenda as amended was moved by Alfonso O'Garro seconded by Livingston Huggins

3. TABLING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The Minutes of the 2017 AGM were circulated with the Notice. President Warner asked for amendments or corrections to the Minutes:

- a. Page 7 (iii) invoice should be invoiced
- b. Page 5 second paragraph Gill should be Mr. Cameron Gill
- c. Spell out 'GEF - Global Environment Fund'



A motion to approved the Minutes as amended was moved by Sue Wharton and seconded by Percival Hanley

4. ANNUAL REPORT

The following points were highlighted by the President from the report:

- a. Annual History and Heritage hike continued
- b. Story telling series now in its 3rd year, ended last Saturday
- c. Scenic Railway Tour continues to be very popular and profitable. The cost that the Trust incurs is for food/snacks. We have had 7 successful years and look forward to another successful one this year.
- d. Heritage gala was to be an annual event but decided to discontinue this event due to the lack of expected support.
- e. Visits from the Royal highnesses on the anniversary date of the building was a major highlight for the Trust
- f. Continued to have a number of outreach activities such as our Special exhibits. There were 4 in 2017 and 4 in 2018: The Slave Register Exhibit, the Local Art exhibit, the ECCB sponsored Banking and Commerce and the Cleghorne Journals diaries of the special magistrate. These special exhibits in addition to our permanent exhibits are used to encourage persons to visit the museum.
- g. There have been significant changes in our giftshop. It has evolved over the past 3 years and it has contributed to the growth in the income.
- h. Projects
 - i. OAS project has been held up because of the delay in having the ACT amended. Amendments have been sent to the AG's office and are awaiting feedback. An OAS Representative is expected to visit this month.
 - ii. Spooner's Restoration – at the last AGM we were awaiting approval from the US Embassy. We received approval in the amount of US \$68,250. The Federal Government has agreed to put in the remaining funds. It was hoped that the building would have been completed by the first quarter of 2018. President commended the contractor for his patience stating that payment of claims from the Government sometimes took a long time which contributed to the delay in the project. There is a further \$170,000 value of work to be done to complete the structure. The next step is the museum itself. A committee will be established to assist with this step. If all things go as scheduled, we should have an unveiling of the ginnery in early 2020.



- iii. In response to a question about the government allocating funds for the building the President clarified that the funds are allocated for the Old Treasury Building only therefore it can't be used for Spooners.
- i. Vested sites
 - i. Charles Fort – being maintained by Parks and Beaches and the management is being done by Brimstone Hill. A question was asked as to how the Trust can begin to tell the story?
 - ii. Mansion Estate is also being maintained by the parks and beaches team.
- j. Financial Situation
 - i. President Warner indicated that this continues to be one of grave concern. Though there have been improvements in revenues from the gift shop and museum, the funding of the Trust continues to be a challenge. The Trust has been living on the endowment left by the Heritage Society.
 - ii. President pointed out that in order for the Trust to attract the quality of staff needed to effectively carry out its programs, as well as to attract the funding needed, it needs to secure adequate funds.
 - iii. President spoke briefly about the challenges with the CariFoun Agency to access the funds.
- k. There was a correction made on page 16 of the report “Embassador’s fund” should be “Ambassador’s Fund”.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

- a. President Warner read the Treasurer’s report in its entirety.
- b. The 2018 financial statement is not completed because of the delay in producing the 2017 accounts. This should commence shortly.
- c. Government Subvention for many years was \$130,000. It was increase in 2017 to \$150,000 and in 2019 it was again increased to \$170,000.
- d. Questions/Comments from members:
 - i. The losses are huge... are you saying the restricted funds have been depleted? The restricted funds is \$104K? .

President indicated that the Trust continue to borrow from the funds to support the operational costs. They have not been totally depleted but we have depended on them heavily.



One of the issues were staffing. In the past it was an ED with helpers. The Trust has moved to professionalized the staff/operations as we needed to attract qualified persons and pay the requisite salaries. We continue to use interns and volunteers.

- e. A question on the rent on the electricity was raised.

President Warner clarified that we are using space for which we are not paying. The Government pays the electricity for the building. Routine maintenance should be paid for by the Trust.

- f. Percival Hanley made a correction to Restricted Funds – Note 9 on page 9 of 2017 should state Restricted Funds.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was moved by Percival Hanley 2nd by Jackie Armony.

6. AUDITOR'S REPORT

- a. No Auditor was in attendance to present the Auditor's Report. Via an email she advised that she is presently off island. President indicated that the fact that they are signed indicates that the Auditor approves the accounts.
- b. Last paragraph of the auditor's report was brought to the attention of the members. "Key Audit Matters" which relates to property at Vambelle. We have received the valuation report for this property and this will be reflected in subsequent financial statements.
- c. He read the valuation report: Valuation indicates the lot size is 10,000 sq Ft at 7.50 per s/f total \$75,000 EC. Mr. Armony challenged the location of the property stating it should be St. Thomas' and not St. Anne.

7. RESOLUTIONS

- a. President Warner indicated that the Trust needs to improve its financial situation. It is difficult to place a dollar value on the membership. He highlighted the benefits of membership which includes unlimited access to museum, discounts to in shop and for events.
- b. The current membership is \$50 for individuals, \$250 for corporate, and \$20 for students/youth. It is being prosed to increase membership dues as follows:
 - \$25 for students
 - \$100 for individuals
 - \$500 for corporate

Even at \$100 it is just a little over 25 cents per day.



- c. The Trust is asking the membership to approve the increase of membership dues. Lifetime membership will be honoured for their lifetime. But this category is no longer being offered.
- d. In response to question on how we get more corporate members the President advised that the ED and her team reach out to corporations to become member. He pointed out one of the ways we can encourage corporate membership was reaching out the Chamber to capture some of their members. Other suggestions included reaching out to churches. It was also suggested having the Chamber invite the Trust to one of its meetings to present the case of the Organisation.
- e. Don't believe the fees are a deterrent but it is important to get persons to buy in and see the value of their membership.
- f. Ms. Armony raise a concern about the organisation's advocacy. She thinks that the Trust has lost its sense of advocacy. Believe the Trust is too silent on many of the issues that are affecting the country's heritage/history.
- g. The President refuted that claim indicating that we do make representation but maybe not as noisy or as publicly as members may wish.

A Resolution to increase the membership dues for Student member \$25, Ordinary Member \$100 and Corporate Member \$500 were tabled by the President and moved by Percival Hanley and seconded by Sue Wharton. All president voted in favor of the Resolution

8. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

This process was led by the Executive Director

It was pointed out that the Board is comprised of a President who shall serve for a term of 3 years and can serve for 2 consecutive terms. President Warner is on his last year of his second term in office.

Positions that a vacant and up for elections are

Vice President

Hon. Secretary

Hon. Treasurer

Nominated Member

ED declared the seats vacant and invited nominations from the floor.

Alfonso O'Garro indicated his availability to continue in the post. This was support by a motion moved by Ms. Armony and seconded by Mr. Hanley, Mr. Alfonso O'Garro was returned as Vice President



Deniece Alleyne indicated her availability to continue as Honourary Secretary. On a motion moved by Ms. Armony and Seconded by Troy Mills, Ms. Deniece Alleyne was returned as Hon. Secretary

Mr. Albert Edwards was nominated as Treasurer by Schneidman Warner. On a motion moved by Rodina Griffin and seconded by Livingston Huggins, Albert Edwards as elected as the Honourary Treasurer

Nominated Member. On a motion moved by O'Garro and seconded by Troy Mills Mr. Livingston Huggins was returned as the nominated member.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

President Warner thanked members for attending and participating and for their continued support. He closed by saying that we have a huge task ahead of us and it is hoped that we can be more visible in our work.

Meeting ended at 7.13 pm



Schneidman Warner
President



Deniece Alleyne
Hon. Secretary

September 5th 2019