

**MINUTES**  
**ELDON HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Meeting held, May 20, 2021, commencing at 4:55 p.m. via remote electronic format.

**Present:** M. Donachie (Chair), R. Griesmayer, L. Henderson, M. Spencer Golovchenko, J. O'Neil, T. Regnier, R. Koudys, M. Majumdar, T. Wittmann, B. Keim, N. Michienzi, B. Ardiel, R. Armistead

**Guests:** K. Gonyou, Heritage Planner, City of London; A. Wannamaker (guest speaker) Whitehern Historic House & Garden National Historic Site (Hamilton)

**COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION**

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

**SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND HENDERSON**

That an amended agenda **BE APPROVED** with addition of new item #7 Executive Slate for 2021/22 by M. Spencer Golovchenko.

**CARRIED**

2. M. Donachie - **Remarks from the Chair**

The Chair conveyed his appreciation to unstoppable Curator Director Tara Wittmann, as she kept Eldon House aligned with ever-changing pandemic protocols and led her staff team in innovative opportunities to expand use of virtual environments. This past year was well spent by staff and volunteers in their efforts to support programming and to maintain the house and property. The Chair expressed his thanks to all the full and part-time staff, volunteers, partners, and especially the City of London. M. Donachie also recognized the commitment of the board members in this challenging time.

3. T. Wittmann – **Remarks from the Curator Director**

The Curator Director reflected on the unusual pandemic year at Eldon House and presented a very substantial 2020 annual report. Eldon House was able to successfully adapt the way its staff presented programming, ran tours with Covid protocols and embraced online and social media to provide audiences with a new way of experiencing the museum.

Gratitude was expressed to the staff, N. Michienzi, B. Ardiel and volunteers, City of London Municipal Facilities Division, Corporate Security, Heritage Planners and Culture Office, and other departments and contractors for their contributions to the operation and maintenance of Eldon House. T. Wittmann also thanked the Eldon House board for its leadership and commitment to the organization. A special thank you was expressed to M. Donachie in his active role as Board Chair of Eldon House since taking on the position at 2020 AGM.

**GRIESMAYER AND O'NEIL**

That the 2020 annual report and remarks given by the Curator Director **BE RECEIVED**.

It is noted that additional congratulations were expressed by L. Henderson and M. Spencer Golovchenko to N. Michienzi for drafting the comprehensive annual report. Also, on behalf of the board, L. Henderson thanked all the staff for their continued efforts.

**CARRIED**

**FORMAL APPROVALS – CONSENT ITEMS**

4. B. Keim – **Financial Report**

M. Spencer Golovchenko inquired as to how Covid has impacted the museum's financial status. B. Keim reported finances are stable, due in large part to established monies still flowing from the City of London and the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG). T. Wittmann reported that some grant opportunities were not available in 2020 due to Covid, but they will be revisited in the coming year.

M. Spencer Golovchenko also asked for clarification regarding a bequest by former Eldon House volunteer Maureen Ryan, which was presented in the report. The Board acknowledged the late Ms. Ryan's generosity in remembering Eldon House in her estate and recalled her dedicated service as a key volunteer with the Canada Day Dinner Fundraising Committee for several years.

**O'NEIL AND KOUDYS**

That the 2020 draft audited Financial Statements **BE APPROVED**.

**CARRIED**

5. **2020 Annual General Meeting minutes**

**SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND GRIESMAYER**

That the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting **BE APPROVED**.

**CARRIED**

6. **Formal approval of KPMG as the auditors**

**O'NEIL AND SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO**

That KPMG **BE APPROVED** as auditors for 2021.

It being noted that the Eldon House by-law stipulates a requirement for an annual audit in article 6.3.

**CARRIED**

7. M. Spencer Golovchenko – **Executive Slate for 2021/22**

**SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND O'NEIL**

That the current executive members **BE APPROVED** to continue in their respective roles for 2021/22: M. Donachie (Chair), R. Griesmayer (Vice Chair), J. O'Neil (Treasurer), T. Regnier (Secretary) and M. Spencer Golovchenko (Past/Former Chair).

**CARRIED**

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

8. **Guest Speaker – A. Wannamaker**, Whitehern Historic House & Garden National Historic Site (Hamilton)

The guest speaker provided a brief history of Whitehern, including being built in 1848, its sale to the McQuesten Family in 1852, the recognition as a National Historic Site in 1962 and its formal donation to the City of Hamilton in 1968, then opened as a museum in 1971. Whitehern is similar to Eldon House as the home is located in the downtown and was bequeathed by three surviving family members. The interior is maintained to reflect the home as it appeared in the 1930s Thomas Baker McQuesten, as Minister of Highways, was a political supporter for the building of the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). Highlights of the virtual tour of Whitehern were shown. All of Hamilton's museums are owned and operated by the City of Hamilton. A. Wannamaker noted most Hamilton museums have been closed during the pandemic, other than Dundurn Castle. This has allowed Whitehern and other museums to get repair and major property maintenance completed as there are no people on site.

M. Donachie expressed gratitude to A. Wannamaker for his presentation on Whitehern. It was interesting to hear about the parallels to Eldon House and the different management model in Hamilton.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MAJUMDAR**

That the AGM **BE ADJOURNED** at 6:33 PM.

**CARRIED**