

Green Party of Nova Scotia
Annual General Meeting
April 25, 2021
10:00 am via Zoom
Minutes

1. Welcome from Presidents
 - a) Ashley M called the meeting to order at 10:07 am, welcomed members and shares a land acknowledgement.
 - b) It was noted that quorum, with 55 attendees, was reached for the purposes of this meeting and that Krista Grear, Provincial Administrator would be the minute taker.
2. Approve Order of Business

Motion 2 A
It was regularly moved and seconded to accept seconds the acceptance of the agenda as revised, to include 15. thank yous and celebration. **Motion carried**
3. Approve Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting

Motion 3 A
It was regularly moved and seconded to accept the 2020 AGM minutes as revised; under Regional Breakout Rooms, remove Stephanie Knoll as convenor for Dartmouth since she was not the convenor for Dartmouth, rather was for Bedford Basin. **Motion carried**
4. Introductions of candidates for Executive Positions
 - a) Candidates speak to the membership. Members were then informed that they can now access and cast their electronic ballot. Results will be shared later in the meeting
5. Presentation of Report from Leadership & Leadership Review Q & A
 - a) Leader Thomas Trappenberg and Deputy Leader Jessica Alexander each spoke to the membership, and then responded to questions from the (virtual) floor. Following that, members were informed that they can now access and cast their electronic ballot.
6. Consideration of By-Law Amendments

A. Payment / Contract between Leader(s) and Party

Motion 6 A – discussion held, noting further review required, each part of the motion to be separated out and voted on individually

Motion 6 A.1

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT By-Law H is amended by removing clause 8.4.

Motion tabled due the need for further discussion

Motion 6 A.2

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT By-Law N is removed. **Motion tabled** due the need for further discussion

ACTION: Governance Director to determine next steps in addressing this matter

B. Officer and Leadership Election Voting

Motion 6 B.1

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT clause F 2.1.1.1 is amended by removing the words “; mail-in ballots must be received at least one business day before in-person voting” in

AND THAT clause F 4 is amended by removing all text after “preferential ballot”.

AND THAT By-law F is amended by the addition of a new clause to read:

F 5 Voting in elections for which the choices are known in advance (such as officer elections) shall normally be done in a fashion that allows all eligible voters to vote, not only those present at a meeting. **Motion carried**

Motion 6 B.2

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT clause L 1.1.1.1 is amended by removing the words “; mail-in ballots must be received at least one business day before in-person voting”.

AND THAT clause L 3 is amended by removing all text after “preferential ballot”.

AND THAT By-law L is amended by the addition of a new clause after F 3 to read:

F 3½ Voting in a Leadership Election shall normally be done in a fashion that allows all eligible voters to vote, not only those present at a meeting. **Motion carried**

C. Leadership Review Timing

Motion 6 C.1

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT By-law K is amended by deleting clause K 5 which states that Leadership reviews will take place annually at the AGM. **Motion unsuccessful**

Motion 6 C.2

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT clause K 11 is amended by removing the text “Leadership Reviews take place at every Annual General Meeting, and can also be initiated by other circumstances, as described in the By-Laws.”

AND THAT clause K 11 is amended by adding a new sub-clause before K 11.1 to read:

K 11.0 Leadership Reviews shall take place:

K 11.0.1 When a majority government holds power, and the Leadership were elected before the most recent general election: at every Annual General Meeting held within the first 30 months after that general election.

K 11.0.2 When a minority government holds power, and the Leadership were elected before the most recent general election: at the first General Meeting held after that general election.

K 11.0.3 When the Leadership were elected after the most recent general election, Leadership Reviews shall be held at the same times as described in K 11.0.1 and K 11.0.2, except that Leadership Reviews shall not be held at a General Meeting held within the first 12 months after the Leadership’s election.

K 11.0.4 Notwithstanding any of the previous parts of this clause, a Leadership Review will always be held if a Special General Meeting is called for that purpose. **Motion tabled**

D. Policy – Simplify/Remove Formatting requirements

Motion 6 D

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT By-Law P is amended by removing clause P 3.

Motion carried

It was noted that the formatting requirements be moved to policy committee for further discussion.

E. Formalize Human Resources Committee

Motion 6 E.1

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT By-Law H is amended by adding a new sub-clause between H 8.3 and H 8.4, to read:

H 8.3½ Appoint a Human Resources Committee. The Human Resources Committee shall:

H 8.3½.1 Be appointed by a resolution of the Executive passed at the first meeting of the Executive after each Annual General Meeting, and as necessary thereafter to fill vacancies.

H 8.3½.2 Have responsibility for considering questions directly related to the establishment, definition, restructuring and removal of employed staff positions, working conditions and primary communication with employed staff.

H 8.3½.3 Not have authority to spend money, or agree to spend money, without the prior approval of the Finance Committee or the Executive.

H 8.3½.4 Maintain strong privacy and confidentiality practices.

H 8.3½.5 Meet at whatever time, and in whatever format, desired by the Members of the Committee, so long as, regardless of the mode of communication and/or decision making, clear records are kept of all decisions that affect any employee. **Motion carried**

Motion 6 E.2

It was regularly moved and seconded to amend the motion by removing 'unless one or both of those positions is vacant. **Motion Carried**

It was regularly moved and seconded to amend the motion by changing 'three to five members' to 'four to six members.' **Motion Carried**

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT By-Law H is amended by adding a new sub-clause H 8.3½.6, to read:

H 8.3½.6 Consist of between four and six members, appointed by, and from, the voting members of the Executive.

H 8.3½.6.1 These members shall normally include the two Presidents. **Motion carried**

Motion 6 E.3

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT By-Law H is amended by adding a new sub-clause H 8.3½.7, to read: H 8.3½.6.2 No member of the Leadership shall be a member of the Committee.

Motion unsuccessful

F. Policy Sunset Clause

Motion 6 F

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT clause P 7 is replaced, in its entirety, by:

P 7: The Policy Committee shall endeavour to review every existing policy on an annual basis, and present a resolution to the Annual General Meeting to either affirm or modify each reviewed policy.

AND THAT a new clause P 8 is added to read:

P 8: All policies that have not been affirmed or modified by a positive vote at a General Meeting within the previous three calendar years shall be considered "lapsed", and shall not be considered official policies of the Party until affirmed or modified at a General Meeting. **Motion carried**

G. Restore Forgotten Riding

Motion 6 G

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT sub-clause Q 3.8.1 is amended by adding the word "Basin" after the word "Bedford"

AND THAT sub-clause Q 3.8 is amended by adding a new sub-clause between sub-clauses Q 3.8.1 and Q 3.8.2 to read: "Q 3.8.1½ Bedford South". **Motion carried**

H. Delete mostly-repeated section

Motion 6 H

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT clause B 5 is deleted in its entirety.

AND THAT clause B 4 is replaced by the following:

B 4. At least 60 days before an Annual General Meeting, the Executive or its working group must invite the membership to submit general statements of concern, or specific formal amendments, pertaining to the *Constitution and By-laws*, which the Executive or its working group is to address as appropriate through proposals for presentation to the membership at a General Meeting.

B 4.1. The notice must include

B 4.1.1. the electronic or mailing address for statements of concern

B 4.1.2. the closing date by which submissions must be received

B 4.1.3. the requirements for a statement of concern (as determined by the Executive or its working group)

B 4.1.4. detailed requirements for formal amendments, including the number of signatures by members required for the amendments to be presented directly to the Membership at the General Meeting. This number shall be determined by the Executive or its working group, but shall not be greater than 10% of the Membership. **Motion carried**

I. Official Agent voting rights.

Motion 6 I

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT sub-clause H 2.7.1 be deleted. **Motion carried**

J. Clarity on roles of Regional Divisions

Motion 6 J

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT sub-clauses Q 5.2 and Q 5.3 are deleted, to be replaced by:

Q 5.2 Send representatives to other Organizational Units of the party to speak on behalf of the Region's members, and to participate in the work of these Units. **Motion carried**

K. Remove Uniform Application Deadline:

Motion 6 K

Discussion held to consider amending current bylaw vs removing section T 3. Proposed amendment would be to add 'in each region' at the end of the first sentence in T 3; which would then read "In anticipation of a general election, the provincial executive shall issue a province-wide call for nominations, which must include a uniform application deadline for all districts within each region".

It was regularly moved and seconded to accept the proposed amendment to the motion. **Motion carried**

It was regularly moved and seconded THAT By-Law T is amended by removing Clause T 3, including all of its subsections. **Motion unsuccessful**

7. Consideration of Resolutions regarding Leadership Structure

Motion 7 A

It was regularly moved and seconded to accept the resolution as follows: BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Green Party of Nova Scotia supports the current Leadership generally presenting themselves as 'Co-Leaders' of equal standing and responsibility until the conclusion of the next Provincial General Election. The Party will generally use the language of "Co-Leaders" in its external communications. This resolution does not change any of the specific roles and responsibilities that the Leader and Deputy Leader have under the Constitution and By-Laws.

Motion unsuccessful

Motion 7 B

It was regularly moved and seconded to accept the resolution as follows: BE IT RESOLVED that the Green Party of Nova Scotia supports the Executive, at an Executive meeting within the first two months following the next Provincial General Election, to form a Leadership Structure Revision Group, required to consult the Membership, conduct research, and present proposed changes to the Executive in sufficient time to have potential changes to the Party's Leadership structure considered by the Membership at or before the next Annual General Meeting, with any future Leadership Convention scheduled so as to allow the Group to complete its work.

Motion successful

8. Presentation of financial reports

- a) Keith Towse presented the financial report for the year 2020

9. Receive Financial Reports

Motion 9 A

It was regularly moved and seconded to accept the financial report as presented and to submit this to Elections Nova Scotia. **Motion carried**

10. Appointment of Auditor

Motion 10 A

It was regularly moved and seconded to appoint the firm of AC Hunter Tellier Belgrave Adamson as Auditor for 2021. **Motion carried**

11. Report from Presidents

- a) Due to the length of the meeting, reports have been deferred. The Chair thanks everyone for the patience and endurance to this point in the meeting.

12. Candidate Search & Nomination Information

- a) Report on the status of nominations: there are six nominated to date and a number awaiting movement through the process. It was noted that nominations have come to a stall, a number of districts still do not have any nominations. The Chair asks attendees to consider self-nomination and/or reaching out to potential candidates.

For those who opt to self-nominate, there is the option to put yourself forward as a candidate of conscience.

- b) Nomination process for regional representatives explained. Regional representatives include: Fundy Shore, Debbie Sultz-Giffin, Bedford Basin, Laura Eamon, Halifax, Jo-Ann Roberts, Minas Basin, Ivan Drouin. South Shore, Dartmouth, Shore to Shore, Cape Breton that have not held a vote to appoint a representative to the executive in the past year.

13. Regional Breakout Rooms // Reports from Regional Directors

- a) South Shore, Dartmouth, Shore to Shore, Cape Breton are requested to consider electing a representative in their breakout rooms.

14. Results from Voting & Presentation of 2021-2022 Executive Committee

- a) Leadership was not affirmed
- b) Philip Hawkins elected Co-President, Emanuel Janasch elected Governance Director, Keith Towse re-elected as Finance Director, Bill Mattheson elected as Membership Director. Jo-Ann Roberts, Debbie Stultz-Giffin, Hannah Main, Laura Eamon and Ivan Drouin elected as Regional Representatives. Michael Uhlarik appointed as Communication Chair. Jessica Alexander appointed Interim Party Leader

15. Thank yous / Celebration

- a) Due to length of meeting only a brief congratulatory message was shared

16. Adjournment

- a) It was regularly moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 pm