

BY-LAWS FOR A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY

Definitions

1. In these by-laws:
 - (a) "Society" means Halifax Regional Trails Association
(Society name)
 - (b) "Registrar" means the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies appointed under the Nova Scotia Companies Act.
 - (c) "Special Resolution" means a resolution passed by not less than three-fourths of such members entitled to vote as are present in person or by proxy, where proxies are allowed, at a general meeting of which notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution has been duly given.
 - (d) "Member" means a community group
 - (e) "Director" means a representative of a member

Membership Rights and Responsibilities

2. The Society is ultimately accountable to the members of the Society. Any group wishing to become a member must comply with the 'objects of the Society' of HRTA. Acceptance of an application for membership requires a yes vote of at least 75% of all members with proxy votes allowed as the directors may think fit
3. Every member is entitled to attend any members' meeting of the Society.
4. Every member may vote at any members' meeting of the Society after they have attended at least one previous members' meeting. One vote per member.
5. Membership in the Society shall consist of:
 - (a) the minimum of 5 subscribers to the Memorandum of Association,
 - (b) those who support the objects of the Society, and
 - (c) those whose name and address is written in the Register of Members by the secretary.
6. Membership in the Society is not transferable.
7. Membership in the Society shall cease:
 - (a) When the member resigns by written notice to the Society,
 - (b) When the member ceases to qualify for membership in accordance with these by-laws, or;
 - (c) If by a vote of the majority of the members of the society or a majority vote of the Directors of the Society at a meeting duly called and for which notice of the proposed action has been given, the Member's membership in the Society has been terminated.
8. The members may repeal, amend or add to these by-laws by a special resolution. No by-law or

amendment to by-laws shall take effect until the Registrar approves of it.

Members' Meetings

9. Every member, subject to by-law 4, shall have one vote and no more and proxy voting may be allowed as the directors may think fit.
10. A general or special meeting of the members may be held at any time and shall be called:
 - (a) if requested by the chair, or
 - (b) if requested by a majority of the directors, or
 - (c) if requested in writing by 60% of the members.
11. Notice to members is required for general or special meetings. The notice must:
 - (a) specify the date, place and time of the meeting,
 - (b) be given to the members seven (7) days prior to the meeting,
 - (c) be given to the members by newsletters, newspapers, television, radio, e-mail, telephone, fax and/or other electronic means,
 - (d) specify the nature of business, such as the intention to propose a special resolution, and
 - (e) the non-receipt of notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.
12. An annual general meeting shall be held within three months after every fiscal year end and notice is required which must:
 - (a) specify the date, place and time of the meeting,
 - (b) be given to the members thirty (30) days prior to the meeting,
 - (c) be given to the members by newsletters, newspapers, television, radio, e-mail, telephone, fax and/or other electronic means,
 - (d) specify the intention to propose a special resolution, and
 - (e) the non-receipt of notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.
13. At the annual general meeting of the Society the following items of business shall be dealt with and shall be deemed ordinary business and all other business transacted shall be deemed special business:
 - (a) minutes of the previous annual general meeting,
 - (b) consideration of the annual report of the directors,
 - (c) consideration of the annual financial report of the Society,
 - (d) the appointment of auditors for the ensuing year, and
 - (e) election of directors,
14. Quorum shall consist of 60% of members. No business shall be conducted at any meeting unless a quorum is present to open the meeting and, upon request, before any vote.
15.
 - (a) If a meeting is convened as per by-law 12(a) or 12(b) and quorum is not present within one-half hour from the time appointed for the meeting, it shall be adjourned to such time and place as a majority of the members present shall decide. Notice of the new meeting shall be given and at the adjourned meeting the members present shall constitute quorum only for the purpose of winding up the Society.
 - (b) If a meeting is convened at the request of the members as per by-law 12(c) and quorum is not present within one-half hour from the time appointed for the meeting, it shall be dissolved.
16. In the absence of a Chair, co-Chair, or past Chair any member appointed from among those present,

shall preside as Chair at members' meetings.

17. Where there is an equality of votes the motion shall be defeated.
18. The Chair may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn any meeting. No business shall be transacted at the subsequent meeting other than the business left unfinished at the adjourned meeting unless notice of such new business is given to the members.
19. At any meeting a declaration by the Chair that a resolution has been carried is sufficient unless a poll is demanded by at least three members. If a poll is demanded it shall be held by show of hands or by secret ballot as the Chair may decide.

Directors

21. Each member may nominate one representative as a director. Each member shall have one vote. Members may nominate alternate representatives as directors.
20. The number of members shall be 5 or more (not less than 5). The subscribers to the *Memorandum of Association of the Society* shall be the first directors of the Society.
21. The members may, by special resolution, remove any director representing a member and appoint another person to represent that member.
22. The management of the Society is the responsibility of the members. The members may engage a General Manager, secretary, executive assistant, administrative assistant and determine the scope of his/her duties, responsibilities and remuneration.
23. The directors may appoint an executive committee and other committees as they see fit.
24. Directors and members who have, or could reasonably be seen to have a conflict of interest, have a duty to declare this interest. The declaration should be made to the members
 - (a) upon nomination, and applying for membership
 - (b) if serving as a director, or representative of a member, when the possibility of a conflict is realized.
25. A conflict of interest does not prevent a representative of a member from serving as a director provided that he/she withdraws from the decision making on matters pertaining to that interest. The withdrawal should be recorded in the minutes.

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Directors' Meetings

26. The board of directors shall meet no less than six (6) times each year, or at such other number of times as

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passed by resolution at a regular or general meeting.

27. A meeting of directors may be held at the close of every annual general meeting without notice for the purpose of electing officers. For all other board meetings, notice is required and must:
 - (a) specify the date, place and time of the meeting,
 - (b) be given to the directors seven (7) days prior to the meeting,
 - (c) be given to the directors by newsletters, radio, public bulletin boards, e-mail, telephone, fax and/or other electronic means,
 - (d) the non-receipt of notice by any director shall not invalidate the proceedings.
 - (e) Notice can be waived for board meetings with the unanimous approval of the Board.
28. Quorum shall consist of 60% of the members. No business shall be conducted at any meeting of the board of directors unless a quorum is present to open the meeting and, upon request, before any vote.
29. In the absence of a chair, co chair, or past chair, any director appointed from among the directors shall preside as Chair of the Board.
30. At directors' meetings, where there is an equality of votes the motion shall be lost.

Officers

31. The officers shall be elected by the directors and shall be a Chair, Co Chair, Vice Chair, past Chair, Treasurer and a Secretary. The offices of Treasurer and Secretary may be combined.
32. One of the officers shall be the Chair. The Chair shall be responsible for the effectiveness of the board and shall perform other duties as assigned by the members or the directors.
33. One of the officers shall be the Vice-Chair. The Vice -Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair during the absence, illness or incapacity of the Chair, or when the Chair may request him/her to do so.
34. HRTA may appoint or hire a Secretary. The Secretary shall:
 - (a) have responsibility for the preparation and custody of all books and records including:
 1. the minutes of members' meetings,
 2. the minutes of directors' meetings,
 3. the register of members, and
 4. filing the annual requirements with the office of the Registrar, and
 - (b) have custody of the Seal, if any, which may be affixed to any document upon resolution of the board of directors, and
 - (c) file with the Registrar:
 1. within fourteen (14) days of their election or appointment, a list of directors with their addresses, occupations, and dates of appointment or election
 2. a copy of every special resolution within fourteen (14) days after the resolution is passed, and
 - (d) have other duties as assigned by the board.
35. The directors may also appoint a Recording Secretary
 - (a) who is responsible for taking minutes of all board and members' meetings, and

(b) who need not be a director.

36. One of the officers shall be the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have responsibility for the custody of all financial books and records of the Society, and carry out all other duties as assigned by the board.

37. Contracts, and other instruments and documents may be executed on behalf of the Society by the executive, or otherwise as prescribed by resolution of the Board of Directors.

Finance

38. The fiscal year end of the Society shall be the last day of March
(month)

39. The directors shall annually present to the members a written report on the financial position of the Society. The report shall be in the form of:
 - (a) a balance sheet showing its assets, liabilities and equity, and
 - (b) a statement of its income and expenditure in the preceding fiscal year.
40. A copy of the financial report shall be signed by the auditor or by two directors.
41. A signed copy of the financial report shall be filed with the Registrar within fourteen (14) days after each annual meeting.
42. An auditor of the Society may be appointed by the members at the annual general meeting.
43. The members may inspect the annual financial statements and minutes of members and executive meetings at the registered office of the Society with one week's notice. All other books and records of the Society may be inspected by any member at any reasonable time within two days prior to the annual general meeting at the registered office of the Society.
44. Directors and officers shall serve without remuneration and shall not receive any profit from their positions. However, a director or officer may be paid reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of his/her duties.
45. The Society shall not make loans, guarantee loans or advance funds to any director.