

RPSC Board Meeting – January 23, 2022

Board	Present	Regrets	Non-Voting	Present	Regrets
Sam Chiu	X		Robin Harris		X
Stéphane Cloutier		X	Ingo Nessel	X	
John Hall	X		Garfield Portch	X	
Steve Johnson		X	George Pepall	X	
Ed Kroft	X		Lee Ann Stewart	X	
Ken Lemke	X		Charles Verge		X
David McLaughlin	X				
Robert Pinet		X	Guests		
John Sharp	X		Gregg Redner		X
Jane Sodero	X		Peter MacDonald	X	
Grégoire Tessyier		X			
Joe Trauzzi	X				
Joel Weiner	X				
Mike Walsh	X				

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm (Atlantic), quorum having been met. Jane Sodero to act as secretary.
2. Welcome to nominees for the 2022-2023 – Ed Kroft
Ed Kroft welcomed Peter MacDonald to the meeting. Peter MacDonald and Gregg Redner will be joining the board after the next AGM.
3. Presentation and Approval of Minutes of November 28, 2021 Board Meeting - Jane Sodero circulated these draft minutes.

Motion: To adopt the minutes from the November 28, 2021 board meeting. Moved by Ken Lemke; seconded by John Hall. Motion passed.

4. Update from National Office, Press Releases, Update of Committees – Lee Ann Stewart
Lee Ann Stewart reported that she is up to date on membership and the insurance payments are being processed. There have been 19 new members added since December 1, 2021. She is going to update committee lists noting where committee members no longer want to be on a committee.
5. Financial Update, Grants – John Sharp
John Sharp circulated a financial report prior to the meeting. He noted that the pre-paid expenses include insurance premiums which were paid in December 2021 instead of January 2022 this year. In addition, the amount of member dues is down about 14% but Lee Ann Stewart commented that the final reminder is going out this week whereas in previous years it went out earlier in January. She believes about 280 members have yet to pay their dues for this year.

According to Ingo Nessel, the federal grant is likely to be reduced from \$14,000 to \$9,000. It is a gradual reduction, not a complete cut-off.

Mike Walsh said that there have been significant increases in the cost of paper. The current issue is on hold due to paper supply problems. He has looked at alternatives to the paper which is normally used but can't find a cheaper, acceptable option. He is also looking at pre-purchasing paper for future issues to try to reduce costs and supply problems.

The Sparks Auction sponsorship is to be \$6000 with some funding allocated for promotion of The RPSC including at CAPEX22.

George Pepall spoke about promotional material for The RPSC to be available for distribution at CAPEX22. There was discussion about the costs of the printing and translation.

Action Item: John Sharp to circulate revised budget.

The agreement with Sparks Auctions was circulated. Ed Kroft was given latitude to negotiate the contract with Sparks Auctions.

6. Update on TCP and Website – Robin Harris

Robin Harris was unable to attend but reports that he is very low on substantive articles for future articles for TCP.

Board members were asked to encourage people to contribute articles to TCP. The question of whether articles can be republished from other sources was raised.

7. Publishing Project – Let's Talk Exhibiting – Ed Kroft

Prior to the meeting, Ed Kroft circulated a proposal for a book which is intended to promote exhibiting with collectors across Canada and abroad. This project also meets one element of The RPSC strategic plan which is to provide additional member benefits such as books on philately. Ed Kroft has been working with David Piercey to create a book about exhibiting based on columns written by David Piercey between 2013 and 2022 for The Canadian Philatelist. The proposal presented included more details about the publication plans. It is hoped that the book can be offered to collectors at a reasonable price.

Ed Kroft discussed the possible funding of this project. Sparks Auctions has agreed to commit funds. He has approached other organizations and each has asked for a budget before committing any funds. Generally speaking, he feels that everyone he has approached is enthusiastic and supportive of the merits of this project.

There was a lengthy discussion about how to secure funding and whether the book is intended to make a profit or be a break-even effort. Board members considered whether the RPSC, as publisher of the book, should commit part of its budget to the preparation, printing and distribution of the book. Mike Walsh made initial estimates of \$20,000 for 250 copies of a 250-page book but he said until layout is finished, he cannot be certain of how many pages the book will be and the production costs. With the majority of the content coming from previously published columns, much of the work has been done on the publication including some of the layout.

Board members asked about the storage and distribution of copies not sold at CAPEX22. Ed Kroft noted that a decision about funding will have take into account those costs. It is intended that these functions would not be the responsibility of the RPSC office but that The RPSC would pay another party for storage and distribution.

The Board did not reach a decision about committing RPSC funds to this project without a detailed budget. The proposed budget is expected to be provided to board members when publishing quotes are finalized. The expectation is that the book will be ready for CAPEX22 and that David Piercey will be available to sign copies at events. Ed Kroft will send the funding proposal to the organizations he has already approached in an effort to secure funding when the budget is ready.

Motion: To approve investigating the publication of a book by The RPSC about philatelic exhibiting by David Piercey based on the proposal presented to the Board. Moved by: Ken Lemke, seconded by: Sam Chiu. Motion passed.

8. Virtual Meetings for RPSC/Stamp Talks – Joe Trauzzi and Ed Kroft

Joe Trauzzi reported that the panels and talks have been planned for the year. There will be an article in the Canadian Stamp News and a list will be posted on the website and distributed through the e-newsletter.

9. CAPEX 22 - RPSC responsibilities – Ken Lemke

Ken Lemke reviewed the plans for CAPEX22. The RPSC talks have been booked. Darin Cherniwchan is taking care of promotional materials. Ken Lemke noted that they don't want to duplicate the efforts of CAPEX22.

Ken Lemke mentioned that he is concerned about getting volunteers. Lee Ann Stewart said that she has a few more names to share. At this time, volunteers do not get free admission on the days they are volunteering.

10. Member Benefits – George Pepall

Nothing further beyond the items mentioned under Item #5.

11. Update on CAPEX 22 and FIP matters – David McLaughlin

David McLaughlin reported on Canada's participation in several international exhibitions.

He noted that Jesse Robitaille did an excellent job as virtual commissioner for the Bangabandhu 2021 Virtual International Exhibition. He was very pleased to have a younger philatelist take on this role and hopes more will in the future.

At Rio Grande 2021, the FIAF assembly ratified the recommendation that their next meeting will be held at CAPEX22.

Emirates 2022 just closed and Canada had a very strong showing with Charles Verge as Commissioner. Charles Verge was also on the jury.

London 2022 still going ahead in February They have had to make many changes since the original show was cancelled in 2020 but they are forging ahead.

Hunfilex 2022 will take place in Budapest in early April with 34 frames from Canada.

David McLaughlin will be the commissioner for Cape Town 2022 (November) with entries closing at the end of May.

For CAPEX22, everything is on-track. Canada Post will hold a stamp launch at the show for the travel posters issue. They have already issued one overprint promoting CAPEX22 on the Bluenose and another is expected.

Sponsors and dealers are promoting the show as well as ads and articles in Gibbons Stamp Monthly, The Philatelic Exhibitor, Topical Times, and The American Philatelist. Over 25 societies are booked to participate.

From an exhibiting standpoint, there were 450 applications to exhibit and 400 exhibits were accepted plus 11 youth exhibits. David McLaughlin noted that they had hope to have 130 literature exhibits but, in the end, there are 110.

12. Request for Provision of Funds from RPSC to CAPEX22 – David McLaughlin

David McLaughlin spoke to the board in his capacity as a Board member of CAPE-ACEP, the legal entity responsible for putting on CAPEX22. McLaughlin requested The RPSC donate the Grand Prix for the Americas. Also, he is asking for The RPSC to pay for a luncheon for the FIAF members (approximately 30 people). Ed Kroft noted that the Board had reviewed further financial commitments of The RPSC for CAPEX22 had been discussed at previous Board meetings. David McLaughlin suggested that the cost for the Grand Prix award and the FIAF luncheon would be about \$4000 for both items.

There was a lengthy discussion among the board members about the commitment of funds. Jane Sodero said that these costs and expectations are part of hosting an international show of this caliber. She noted that Canada often has Commissioners and Judges hosted at international shows and CAPEX22 is our opportunity to host those who have hosted us in the past. Ingo Nessel pointed out the marketing possibilities for The RPSC of participating as a sponsor.

Ed Kroft mentioned that The RPSC has not been in the best financial position in recent years and it has to be cognizant of where its money is spent. Further, The RPSC must take into account the opinions and needs of the general membership. He noted that a few members were concerned about the changes to the TCP.

After much discussion, the motion carried with express affirmation by David McLaughlin, speaking for CAPE-ACEP, that the RPSC, as the host society, was showing its support for CAPEX22.

Motion: That The RPSC provide no more than \$4000 to CAPEX22 for the Grand Prix for the Americas and a luncheon for the FIAF members. Moved by: Joe Trauzzi; seconded by: Ken Lemke. Motion Passed. Abstentions: Sam Chiu and David McLaughlin.

13. Update on Francophilately Committee – Grégoire Tessier

Nothing to report.

14. Report from the Social Media Committee – Jane Sodero

No report. Sam Chiu mentioned that a post about CAPEX22 is trending.

15. Newsletter update – Mike Walsh

January 29th is the deadline for the next issue.

16. Judging – Joel Weiner

Joel Weiner reported that Orapex is scheduled for April with a full complement of judges plus an apprentice. There will also need to be juries for a combined show with BNAPex and Novapex. He said that several people have contacted him about becoming apprentices but there have been no shows available for apprentices. Sam Chiu asked if there could be two apprentices at a show as has been done in the past. Joel Weiner said that since there is more work now for the jury chair, he would like to avoid that if possible.

17. CSDA relationship and other dealer issues – Mike Walsh

Nothing to report

18. Update from the Greene Foundation – Garfield Portch

The VGG is open to visitors by appointment with a POV. The expertising committee is meeting but have a backlog of items to review. Garfield Portch said that VGG storage lockers have to be cleared out which includes about 20 bankers boxes of material belonging to The RPSC. Ed Kroft suggested that perhaps Charles Verge, as historian of The RPSC, could have a look to see if there is anything that should be saved but otherwise items could be disposed of subject to 6-year limitation.

19. Volunteers Programme – Ed Kroft

Ed Kroft reminded the Board that he is looking for nominations from the clubs across Canada and that the deadline for nominations is fast approaching given that the AGM of the RPSC is on June 12, 2022.

20. Directors for 2022/2023 and Succession – Ed Kroft; Sam Chiu

Ed Kroft and Stéphane Cloutier will step down from the Board after June AGM. As Vice-President, Sam Chiu is in line to become president and Ken Lemke has agreed to step into the role of Vice-President. By acclamation, Gregg Redner and Peter MacDonald will join the Board.

21. RPSC Convention Chair and Royal 2023 – Ed Kroft, Sam Chiu

Rod Paige has been the convention chair for many years but is stepping back from a number of roles. Therefore, there will need to be a replacement. Ed Kroft wondered whether Fredericton and Peterborough would be interested in hosting a Royal show since they missed their opportunity due to the pandemic.

The Board wishes to thank Rod Paige for his service to The RPSC as convention chair as well as for his time on the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation.

22. RPSC Philatelic Research Foundation update – Ed Kroft

See item #21.

23. Geldert Medal Update and Other Awards – Ed Kroft

This year's Geldert Medal has been awarded to Sam Chiu for his article "Adding New Knowledge: Canada's C-Force in Hong Kong" in November/December issue of The Canadian Philatelist. Sam Chiu thanked the Board for the recognition and noted that the same article received a gold medal from the 2022 Sarasota National Stamp Exposition

24. Other Business

Mike Walsh pointed out to the Board that the RPSC by-laws allow for three 2-year terms for Directors. He feels this can cause a problem for succession planning since Board members just get up to speed and then have to leave the Board. For some other organizations he has been involved with the election of a Director to an executive role allows for an additional term. He suggested that a committee be struck to review this issue with a view to serving the Board and RPSC better. Garfield Portch gave his support to this proposal and noted that the term limit is relatively new.

Motion: The Board appoint a committee to review the current election terms for directors and officers, and the committee report back any recommendations at the next available Board meeting. Moved by: Mike Walsh; seconded by Jane Sodero. Motion passed.

Spearheaded by Mike Walsh, Ken Lemke, George Pepall and Jane Sodero volunteered to be on the committee.

John Sharp asked the committee to review the two signatories on the checking account

Next meeting: TBD