

# Ottawa Bonsai Society

## Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held June 19, 2023

**Note: in the absence of a secretary, the following minutes are summaries of notes taken by members of the Executive of the Society.**

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

- Draft agenda:
  1. Approval of the Agenda
  2. President's Report
  3. Financial Report
  4. Election of Officers
  5. Question Period
- It was requested that an item for the presentation of motions be added to the agenda after the Election of Officers.
- Approved agenda:
  1. Approval of the Agenda
  2. President's Report
  3. Financial Report
  4. Election of Officers
  5. Presentation of Motions
  6. Question Period

### 2. President's Report

Here are some of the highlights of the year presented by Vianney Leduc (President).

- We now have a record 103 members.
- We held four regular in-person meetings, and one regular online presentation during the winter months.
- We had two online presentations by professional artists (Michael Hagedorn and Bjorn Bjorholm) via Zoom.
- We offered two theoretical introductory bonsai courses in fall 2022.
- We offered one intermediate level course/workshop, one free form workshop and one beginner's workshop in spring 2023. We added a second free form workshop in July 2023
- We offered one larch collecting trip in April
- We offered one Nursery Tour Event in June
- We added 3 French and 3 English bonsai books to our library

### 3. Financial Report

Yvon Bernier (Treasurer) presented the details of the 2022/2023 financial report.

- The society's finances are in good shape.
- The financial report will be loaded on our website.

#### 4. Election of Officers

- Vianney Leduc explained the process followed in recent years for choosing the officers of the Society and spoke about the challenge of finding volunteers to serve on the Executive.
- Vianney Leduc agreed to continue serving as President of the Society for another year.
- Owen Marsh was elected Vice-President of the Society for a one-year term (see motion 2 below).
- All 2022/2023 executive members (Yvon Bernier (treasurer), Charles Lacombe (librarian), Ibrahim Eryuzlu (public relations), Elroy Cober (director), Judy McDonald (director) agreed to another one-year term.

#### 5. Presentation of Motions

**Motion 1** by Myron Mech, duly seconded: **That a membership survey be held annually.**

- Vianney Leduc explained that the idea of holding other surveys in the future was already planned.
- The motion was amended to read **"It is motioned that a membership survey will be held regularly"** to allow for some flexibility for the steering committee.
- The motion was voted on and adopted by a majority of the members present.

**Motion 2** by Myron Mech, duly seconded: **That a vice-president be elected in order to ensure continuity within the Society.**

- Vianney Leduc explained that the position had remained vacant simply because there had been no volunteer to fill it.
- The motion was voted on and adopted by a majority of the members present. Owen Marsh then volunteered to become the vice-president and was elected by the members present.

**Motion 3** by Myron Mech, duly seconded: **That a question period be held at all regular members meetings to discuss matters and concerns by members regarding the society.**

The motion was voted on and failed to pass by the majority of the members present.

#### 6. Questions period / Période de questions

A number of suggestions were made and discussed, such as:

- Additional social elements should be added to meetings;
- Time periods should be made available for beginners to discuss general bonsai questions that otherwise wouldn't be discussed in the meetings. This has been tried in the past in the form of thirty-minute sessions prior to the meetings. However,

attendance was generally limited and those sessions were discontinued. The president stated that he will consider trying this again starting in the fall.

- At each meeting, time should be dedicated for members bringing trees to talk about their trees and initiate an open discussion for the benefit of all.

## 7. Adjournment