

IRELANDS ASSOCIATION FOR ADVENTURE TOURISM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26th January 2022 @14:00

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

Board Attendees:

Maurice Whelan, Brendan Kenny, Derek Binchy, Carina Conyngham, Eimear Flanagan, Maria Kennedy, Rob Rankin, Shane Young and Colin Wolfe.

Recording of Meeting, Presentation and Annual Report:

- A recording of the meeting is [available HERE](#)
- The presentation slides are [available HERE](#)
- The Annual Report is available to view [HERE](#).

Welcome:

Brendan welcomed everyone and advised the meeting was being recorded.

BK thanked everyone for their support throughout the year. It's been a very challenging year for everyone and hopefully the last virtual AGM. Special thanks to:

1. Members;
2. The Board (who are voluntary) for your support and contributions throughout what has been the most challenging year ever for the sector and wider tourism & hospitality industry;
3. Many people outside the Association such as the Alliance for Insurance Reform, Failte Ireland, Tourism NI, Tourism Ireland, Government Reps, ITIC, ITOA, Sport Ireland, Sport NI and EC-OE.

Proceed with Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports and expect to finish in 1 hour.

AGM 2020 minute's:

Minutes approved: proposed by DB and seconded by MW.

Chairman's Report:

Outgoing Chair Maurice Whelan thanked the CEO for his work while noting History & Growth of the Association, Key Challenges faced and are facing including the key plans for 2022.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer thanked Maurice for his report back.

IAAT is in a good financial position even though there were no membership fees collected for the year. The ongoing support from Failte Ireland and EWSS funding help on the income side. Overall costs for 2021 went down, partially because there was only one person to person board meeting while the rest were conducted via Zoom. Key expenses were wages and board meetings.

Opening cash balance for the year 2021 was €50,187 and closing balance for the year was €36,391

New expenses forecast for the coming year the compilation of standards documents and the conference.

The re-introduction of a flat membership fee of €150 (to cover one period of 12 months) should cover most of the year's expenses.

Treasurer thanked the CEO for compiling the financial information and Board Members for a good job under the circumstances.

The Associations End of Year (2020) Accounts are available [HERE](#)

CEO's Report:

The CEO covered detail from the Association's annual report across the 10 pillars of work:

1. Membership
2. Insurance
3. Guidelines / Standards
4. Representation & Lobbying
5. Access & Infrastructure
6. The Collaborative Network
7. Training & Events
8. Sustainability
9. Partnerships
10. Initiatives

Please see presentation, video and annual report (linked above) for full detail.

Motions:

Re-introduction of membership fees:

Proposed by SY Seconded by: Cathy Wolfe. Motion carried.

Acceptance of UNWTO sustainability definition:

Proposed by MW Seconded by: Carina Cunningham. Motion carried.

Board nominations/Resignations:

Resignations of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were accepted, and all officers were thanked for their contributions and hard work over the year.

Nomination and election of new officers:

Chairman, Shane Young: proposed by DB and seconded by Jonathan O'Meara. Duly elected.

Treasurer, Colin Wolfe: proposed by DB and seconded by MW. Duly elected.

Secretary, Eimear Flanagan: proposed by DB and seconded by Carina Cunningham. Duly elected.

Three new nominations for the Board:

- ☐ DB proposed Iain Miller. Seconded by MW. Elected to the board.
- ☐ DB proposed Hugh Flood. Seconded by RR. Elected to the board.
- ☐ SY proposed Lorcan McBride. Seconded by Carina Cunningham. Elected to the board.

New board members were welcomed on-board.

Any other business:

- Constitution is currently being reviewed and updated, with legal assistance, to better reflect the objectives and operations of the Association.
- The survey's undertaken during the year provided insights and strong industry data.
- Roll out of member training and mentorship will be built on over the next 12 months.
- 2022 will offer the industry a "new normal" and a great opportunity to grow the sector.

Q & A:

- J. O'Meara: IAAT assistance was instrumental in helping their business continue and was appreciated. Had consideration been given to the setting up of a supplier directory? MW fielded the question and responded by saying a directory was considered but there was no appetite for it amongst a broad spectrum of members.
- Michael Lennon: had the association explored the option of members clients taking out personal accident insurance to cover them against risks. BK fielded the question and said it had been discussed but the concept did not gain traction and he will revert with the exact reasons soon.
- Shane – Louth Adventures: Could members add on travel insurance to product offerings. Also has the association investigated using international underwriters to offer cover. BK fielded the question: The matter was raised at the European level (EC-OE) but the issue was extremely complicated because of the number of differing jurisdictions, legislation etc. Ireland's solution has now been looked at as a possible benchmark.
- Suppliers – a list will be published in the coming weeks.
- Association strategy – is under development and will be ready for presentation towards the end of the year.
- Work on industry standards is in hand and progressing well.

Meeting ended 15:00:

BK thanked everyone for attending and looked forward to meeting up with them at the conference in Sligo in March 2022.