



## Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Saint Lucia National Trust

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November 16, 2019  
Financial Administrative Centre  
Castries, Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia National Trust  
PIGEON ISLAND NATIONAL LANDMARK

## 1 CALL TO ORDER

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The meeting was called to order at 1.00 p.m. by Ms. Alison King, Chairperson.

The National Anthem was sung and the opening prayer was said by member, Ms. Joanne Norville.

Members stood for a one-minute silence in recognition of deceased members.

## 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES

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The following members sent apologies for their absence:

- Sylvester Clauzel
- Simone Mondesir
- Leslie Charles
- Sarah George

## 3 PRESENT WERE

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### **Council Members**

Ms. Alison King	-	Chairperson
Sean Compton	-	Vice Chairman
Sonia Cazaubon	-	Secretary
Calixte George Jr.	-	Elected member
Kirk Elliott	-	Elected member
Vincent Clarke	-	Elected member
Dr. Christine Parris	-	Elected member

### **Guests:**

Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy	-	Patron
Hon. Allen Chastanet	-	Prime Minister

### **In Attendance:**

Ms. Mary Bruce	-	Recording Secretary
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A total of eighty-seven (87) persons were in attendance.

## 4 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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The Chairperson tabled the Agenda and enquired whether members had any proposed changes.

The Chairperson informed members of the Prime Minister's request to address them for approximately 10-15 minutes, but that he will not be entertaining any questions. While some members welcomed the Prime Minister's offer to address them, there was considerable disappointment that they would not be given the opportunity to engage the Prime Minister in any discussions.

The Chairperson further informed the members that the Prime Minister is the Minister responsible for the Trust and that he did not indicate the nature of his address.

Members agreed to add the Prime Minister's address to the Agenda immediately after the formal opening of the meeting. In addition, the election of the new Council was moved to take place before the discussion on the Strategic Plan.

The Agenda was unanimously adopted with the two changes above.

## **5 OPENING OF AGM BY HER EXCELLENCY DAME PEARLETTE LOUISY, PATRON OF THE SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST**

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In her opening remarks, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy expressed appreciation to the Council and staff for their service and dedication to the organisation, and to the members for their continued support. She noted that it felt like last year's AGM was only yesterday, reiterating that time goes by very quickly and there is a need to act without undue delay.

Through her address Her Excellency recommended the following for consideration:

- The Trust should set up of committees to engage wider stakeholders and perspectives in key areas of focus;
- Advocacy should be more focused, for example on the Queen's Chain;
- Opportunities for sharing of responsibilities and joint programming with sister organisations should be explored;
- Members should renew their membership fees to improve the Trust's income stream; and
- The need for members to defend the Trust and assist in the implementation of its plans and programmes.

Dame Pearlette Louisy then formally declared the Annual General Meeting for 2019, open.

**Appreciation:** The Chairperson thanked Dame Pearlette Louisy for her kind words and support and noted that some of her recommendations are captured in the Strategic Plan which will be presented to members for approval at this meeting.

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### **Address by Prime Minister**

The Prime Minister indicated he would be frank, and was open to discussion with the Trust in different circumstances, with a view to developing solutions to the difficulties the organisation faces and the differences between himself and the Trust.

He spoke of his first interactions with the Trust as Director of Tourism in 1991. He had good friends within the organisation, including Robert Devaux and Gabriel (Coco) Charles. He indicated that he had known Gabriel (Coco) Charles through his work in the Banana Industry and people were not cutting down trees and clearing hill sides.

The Prime Minister informed members that he was involved in early efforts to identify venues for the Jazz Festival and was saddened by a negative response to the proposal to

host the event at the Pigeon Island National Landmark (PINL) on the premise that the event will have negative impacts on the Landmark. While exploring other venues, Coco Charles engaged him to propose a location within PINL for the Jazz Festival. The Trust then reviewed their decision and allowed the festival to take place at Pigeon Island.

He mentioned a Tourist Board report which stated that government had spent \$20M putting up and breaking down the stage for the Jazz Festival over the years, an approach that is not sustainable. He suggested that even if the Trust is not going to make money, the organisation must be mindful that it costs money to undertake conservation. He posed the question: How can the Trust be self-sufficient? The Prime Minister stated that the Trust owns several properties but is doing nothing to make money from them. He also stated that the subvention previously given to the Trust was used to pay staff salaries and his government will not do this. It is for this reason that he discontinued the subvention and asked the Trust to submit project proposals instead, which he will fund. He reiterated that the Trust should invest in projects that generate funds for the organisation. In this vein he mentioned that the Trust proposed to build a conference facility at Pigeon Island and he asked them to conduct a financial feasibility study which concluded that the project was not feasible. He also said that the Trust should set up a booth during the Jazz events at PINL to raise funds

The Prime Minister stated that in his position he has to listen to the voices calling for many things including health care, education and crime prevention and he has to heed all these calls. He noted that is not possible to invest in everything. Priorities must be set within the constraints of how much money is available.

The Prime Minister stated that when the former government granted incentives for a dolphin park in Rodney Bay and one in Canaries, the Trust said nothing. He stated that the Trust and its members insulted the investors seeking to build the dolphin park at Pigeon Island, and launched a smear campaign against the investors and his government. He indicated that although the Trust has said they wrote to him, he has not seen the letter. In 2019, 2 ½ years later he indicated that nothing has been approved, and no dolphin park has started. If there is to be a dolphin park, he indicated that the government would want to have the a 2-way discussion in relation to that. His government has, and always wants to have discussions, but they must be conducted in a respectful manner. He also accused the Trust of caring for dolphins but saying nothing when Saint Lucians catch and eat blackfish.

The Prime Minister stated that he does not like the method the Trust uses to resolve differences. He said that he is all embracing, and willing to have a conversation with members when they would like to. Situations like the dolphin park are not going away and must be discussed to reach agreement on how to move on with the project.

He noted that the National Trust has the right to take a position on conservation issues and that there are sometimes conflicting interests and goals between the Trust and his government. He stated that his government recognizes the importance of the National Trust and the importance of conservation. However, he expressed disappointment with the way in which Trust's opinions are often shared and its campaigns conducted.

The Prime Minister informed members that the National Trust is not all he has to deal with. He noted that Government has had to spend 13 ½ million dollars and increase the number of judges to deal with the backlog of court cases, as an example. He also said that

disagreements must be handled in a respectful manner and that one cannot talk about democracy and not act on it.

With regard to the prison project, the Prime Minister indicated that the Trust wants to relocate some buried prisoners and this is delaying the project and development of the country.

The Prime Minister further stated that in spite of everything that has been said and done, there is no animosity on his part. In conversation, there should be mutual respect on each part. In the same way that people have a right to go to the media or participate in marches, it is his right to have a conversation. As the Minister responsible for the Trust, he has a strong voice and is willing to have a private conversation with the Trust. However, he lamented that instead of seeking dialogue, the Trust engages in putting out information in the public domain. He reiterated that there must be evidence based and respectful dialogue in relation to contentious issues.

The Prime Minister went on to state that there will be things he can agree to, and things he cannot agree to. He believes that Pigeon Island can generate revenue and the Trust can take care of all the sites. He proposes that a permanent stage be built at Pigeon Island to be used by entertainers to perform shows which informs about Saint Lucia's history and culture. He noted that after 6.00 p.m., Castries is closed and there is nothing for cruise visitors to do and Pigeon Island can fill that void.

The Prime Minister concluded remarks by stating that he looks forward to interact with the Trust any day, and very soon.

The Prime Minister's address ended at 1:52 p.m. and he left at 1:55 p.m.

### **Reactions to the Prime Minister's Speech**

The Chairperson informed members that the Trust has sent a number of letters to the Prime Minister, none of which were acknowledged. On the dolphinarium matter, a seven-page letter was sent to the Prime Minister on July 23, 2017 outlining the Trust's position, so it is not fair for him to say that the Trust did not respond to the matter.

On the subvention, the Trust was told that it will not be reinstated and that proposals for capital projects were to be submitted to the Government for consideration. In the last two budget cycles, the Trust has done just that. At the last meeting with the Prime Minister in February, the same proposals were tabled, and he indicated that they merit consideration. He was in possession of the same proposals for the last two budget cycles but there were no allocations for any of them. The Trust is therefore not convinced that these projects will be legitimately considered in the next budget cycle, despite being told that they warrant consideration.

Mr. Tulsie advised that the letter outlining the Trust's position on the dolphinarium was copied to all Parliamentarians for their information. He went on to clarify that all communication with the Trust on the dolphinarium project came from the developer's lawyers and not from the Government. There were visits to Pigeon Island by the dolphin park developers in the company of the Prime Minister without the courtesy of informing the Trust of the visits. Consultants were coming to the Landmark to take measurements and

photographs, saying that they were there on behalf of Government. Staff were subsequently instructed to require all persons to pay to enter the Landmark, no matter their reason.

The Prime Minister persisted in saying that the Trust was lying about the excavation that would be required to develop the dolphin park, but maps from the developer's presentation show 58,000 sq feet of level space near the cemetery, where there is a steep hill that would obviously have to be excavated to create the level space. The Trust is also guided by the Pigeon Island By-laws which state that no one shall remove any soil or any samples of biodiversity from Pigeon Island.

In response to the Prime Minister's comments about evidence-based discussion, and with particular reference to the Pigeon Island redevelopment project, Mr. Tulsie noted that the organization decided to undertake a financial feasibility assessment of the proposed investments before the Prime Minister assumed office. Out of three options submitted and evaluated, only one was deemed feasible and that was the option being pursued. It was also considered feasible and approved by the Board of the National Insurance Corporation, who had agreed to provide loan financing for the project. As such, the Prime Minister's statement that the Trust was pursuing a project that was not financially viable was not a proper reflection of the study's findings and recommendations.

On the matter of the subvention, Mr. Tulsie noted that the policy regarding financing of recurrent costs is unique to the Trust. Every other organization uses their subvention to meet recurrent cost, but the Trust does not. The Prime Minister was presented with the cost of maintaining sites and properties vested in the Trust for the public good and these exceed the value of the subvention. In effect, even with the subvention, the Trust was subsidizing the cost of maintaining public spaces in its care. It is also not correct to say that the Trust does not set up booths during Jazz at Pigeon Island or that it does not promote its sites.

Mr. Tulsie noted inconsistencies in the approach of government in its application of the law, and the imbalance between conservation and growth, citing the permission granted to Cabot to start land movement works without an EIA. He noted too, the lack of evidence-based arguments on the government side countering the arguments of the Trust. He concluded by noting that it will be a difficult to have open and balanced conversations with the Prime Minister, but hopes that the new Council will find a way to formalize engagements with the Government, as the Prime Minister seems to have opened a window to achieve this.

In the subsequent discussions one member thought it strange that in addressing the National Trust the Prime Minister mentioned nothing of biodiversity protection, protection of water resources or marine ecosystems or things that matter where conservation is concerned. It appeared to this member that the Prime Minister's focus is about money and economics and conservation plays no part in his planning. The member also stated that he is aware of the Trust's efforts to engage in dialogue and felt that the Prime Minister was not fair to the organization by accusing them of not doing so. With regards to the Trust's position on eating blackfish, the member stated that he could vouch that during his tenure as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, the most vociferous voice on that issue was the Trust. They always had an issue with government's position on sustainable use of cetacean resources. To say that the Trust is silent on these issues but conveniently loud on other matters is not correct.

Dr. Williams, who spoke in his capacity as a former Chairman of the Trust, was of the view that the Prime Minister does not have any respect for anyone in the room, or for the Trust. He recalled having to stop the Mr. Chastanet, who was then the Minister of Tourism, from cutting down trees at Pigeon Island to accommodate the Jazz Festival. He also referred to the time Mr Chastanet wanted to sell the Queen's Chain at Jalousie. The Trust wrote to the Attorney General twice to try and stop the sale, but got no response. The Trust then approached the Commissioner of Crown Lands who indicated that he will not approve the sale. He was subsequently removed from office. The Trust subsequently met with the Governor General at the time to appraise her of our concerns and recommendations. The matter was eventually referred to the High Court at which time government withdrew its offer to sell the Queens Chain. This shows the extent to which the Trust goes to engage in dialogue to resolve issues, and the obstacles it must navigate.

Another member noted that the Prime Minister does not seem to be aware of all the evidence available, especially relating to Pointe De Caille. This member said she was present in the late 1980's when archaeologists from the University of Vienna excavated the area, revealing the interesting history of our early settlers who lived, and are buried there. That makes her angry. With reference to the Prime Minister's presentation, all she heard about was his politics in which she has no interest. He did not address the issues. She noted that this was not respectful to members.

Another member noted that the Prime Minister came to lecture to members as though they were his children. She agreed that he has no respect for members in the way he deals with the Trust and noted that discussions involve a two-way conversation and not a lecture.

Mr. Tulsie enquired whether the Trust should convey members' concerns to the Prime Minister.

By a show of hands, there was unanimous agreement that the concerns should be conveyed to the Prime Minister.

Another Member requested an update on the legal action regarding the withdrawal of the subvention. Mr. Tulsie responded that he had scheduled a meeting with the legal representative during the third week of November, 2019 to discuss that matter. It is taking longer than expected, but is a work in progress. He noted that the former Chairperson has reservations about being involved in the process because of health issues and since most of the conversations were between her and the Prime Minister, trying to work around that is proving to be very challenging.

Another member opined that the manner in which the Prime Minister's addressed members is reflective of the way he addresses the public and we should not be surprised, but that the speech should be made public. This member, who is also a school teacher, suggested that the Trust should engage Social Science teachers in the Secondary Schools to ensure they are better informed of the issues, so that they are better able to instruct their students.

Mr. Tulsie responded that heritage management organizations have recently met to discuss how they may collaborate and a number of recommendations were put forward, including one to take steps to have Saint Lucian History integrated into the school's curriculum. Two meetings were held with the Ministry of Education thus far in an effort to advance this. He

further stated that heritage management organizations will meet again to discuss what is to be achieved through the introduction of History in the Social Studies curriculum.

Another member who is a Geography teacher thought it important not to separate conservation and development, because they go hand-in-hand and that the Prime Minister incorrectly suggested that the Trust wants to conserve the environment at the expense of development.

Mr. Tulsie concluded that there is a place where development and conservation can co-exist and this appears to have defied the understanding of those who make important development decisions for us.

The Chairperson and the Director expressed appreciation to members for their contributions.

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## **6. MINUTES OF 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM HELD ON NOVEMBER 24, 2018**

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Chairperson, Ms. Alison King tabled the Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting which were previously circulated and, on the assumption that they had been read, she asked whether there were any errors or omissions.

Mrs. Deirdre Williams sought clarification on the Discussion under Matters Arising on Page 4, which reads, "One of the criticisms of the DSH Project." This should have read, "one of the criticisms by the DSH Project" or "one of the criticisms from the DSH Project."

After the amendment Mrs. Deirdre Williams moved a motion for the adoption of the Minutes. This was seconded by Mrs. Denise Holden Pierre and approved by members present.

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## **7. MATTERS ARISING**

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The Director provided updates on the following matters which were raised as questions in the Minutes of the last AGM:

- a) Documentation Centre: The digitalisation of all material except books, which require special purpose scanners is complete and back-up copies are saved.
- b) The Dolphinarium project: While we are unable to ascertain the status of the project because enquiries are not being acknowledged, it appears that the project is still under consideration. The Trust has shared its concerns about the project with all Parliamentarians and Senators.
- c) Annual Subvention: We are resigned to the reality that the Prime Minister will not reinstate the subvention and without the direct involvement of the past Chairperson, with whom the matter was addressed directly, the legal challenge is not likely to succeed.
- e) Jazz Festival: Setting up and dismantling infrastructure for the Jazz Festival do have negative impacts on the Landmark, but we have developed processes, including constant monitoring to minimise the impacts.

There followed a wide-ranging exchange on matters arising from the Minutes, including the following:

- (a) One member spoke about the effectiveness of the Massy Stores policy on plastic bags, noting that while reusable shopping bags are being promoted, many of the goods are wrapped in plastic anyway. It was acknowledged, however, that the use of reusable shopping bags is a good start to reducing the amount of plastic in our waste stream.
- (b) Councillor Elliott read a letter from a member who was unable to attend the AGM. The central theme of the letter is that the protracted odium between the Government of St. Lucia and the SLNT continues to deprive the country and its people of crucial partnership in preserving, conserving and actuating the unquantifiable value of our history and heritage. The writer urged a coming-together of all parties to protect our invaluable heritage.
- (c) One member enquired about the status of the River Doree protected landscape and the Ma Kote Mangrove. The Director informed the meeting that the River Doree protected landscape was acquired to be vested in the Trust, but the transfer appears to be on hold. With regards to the Ma Kote Mangrove, the land is owned by Invest Saint Lucia who expressed agreement to lease it to the Trust. This matter should be pursued by the next Council.
- (d) Another member recommended that the Trust make greater use of social media and digital marketing to advance its work and improve income.
- (e) One member spoke about the rate at which special places are being lost to development, citing the Cabot project as the latest example, and urged action to protect these spaces for public use. She mentioned an online petition on the matter which has already attracted more than 1400 signatures.
- (f) A member said that she understands that the DCA approved the land movement and golf course construction phases of the Cabot project and urged for action to ensure the cultural assets and traditional uses of the area are preserved. She also spoke about the diversity of the membership which should be used as an asset to advance the Trust's agenda. Another member added that the Trust should organise an event at the Cabot property to highlight our concerns and share the images widely.
- (g) Another member read the petition which was referenced previously and urged members to sign it and to share it among their networks for signature.
- (h) Dr. James Fletcher urged that while the Trust must pursue income generation, it must also focus its energies on its core mandate in a way that embraces the concerns and aspirations of the public so that the organisation may garner wider support. He took the opportunity to invite members to a discussion on "What is climate change, and how it is important to us", from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 2019 at the Administrative Centre.

- (i) An enquiry was raised by a member as to whether the Trust is represented on the Board of the Development Control Authority (DCA). He also advised that the Trust take steps to protect its intellectual property. The Director acknowledged the recommendation and informed the meeting that the Trust was removed from the Board of the DCA.
- (j) In response to a question from a member about the Trust’s work within the PMA, the Director stated that our involvement is in the context of our membership on the Pitons Management Area Advisory Committee.
- (k) One member suggested that the Trust should offer a free 5-years membership to every child born in Saint Lucia.
- (l) It was recommended that the Trust should establish a Chapter in every major district and engage community members in heritage management initiatives at the community level.
- (m) Another member urged that the Trust to create a photographic history of Saint Lucia, focusing on special areas by collecting before and after photographs that show how the area was transformed over time.
- (n) A member lamented the lack of appreciation for our World Heritage site among the local population and suggested that a survey be conducted to find out how this status is influencing visitors to choose Saint Lucia for their vacation.

## 8. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

The Chairperson indicated that she was pleased to report on the work of the Council for the year, 2018-2019 and expressed thanks to the Councillors who worked with her during the past year. “Their commitment and dedication to the organisation is commendable and often went beyond expectations. Our monthly and emergency meetings are long affairs, requiring focus and sacrifice to ensure we stay focused on the governance of the Organisation. It is a good team you elected and I trust that when you are called upon to elect a new Council later at this meeting, you will give careful thought to the skills you will select to manage the organisation’s affairs over the next year”, she stated.

During the year under review, 2019, Council convened 13 meetings and the attendance was as follows:

Councillor	Position	Meetings attended
Alison King	Elected Member & Chairperson	11
Sean Compton	Elected Member & Vice Chair	10
Nadia Cazaubon	Elected Member & Secretary	12
Kirk Elliott	Elected Member	11
Dr. Christine Parris	Elected Member	11
Calixte George Jr.	Elected Member	10
Vincent Clarke	Elected Member	9
Laurent Jn. Pierre	Representative: Saint Lucia Archaeological and Historical Society	7
Dr. Francis Pappin	Representative: Saint Lucia	None

(Up to June 2019)	Archaeological and Historical Society	
Dr. Nicholas Frederick (Replacement for Dr. Pappin)	Representative: Saint Lucia Archaeological and Historical Society	4
Nancy Charles	Government Representative	3
Henry Amedee	Government Representative	4

The Trust received notification on January 10, 2019 confirming the names of the two new Government of Saint Lucia representatives to serve on Council, replacing Mr. Crispin d' Auvergne and Mr. Peter Redman.

The Chair expressed her thanks to both Mrs. Charles and Mr. Amedee for their insightful contributions to Council's deliberations and support for the work of the Trust. Dr. Francis Pappin, the representative from the Saint Lucia Archaeological and Historical Society, was unable attend Council meetings because of health issues and was replaced by Dr. Nicholas Frederick in July 2019. She took the opportunity to welcome him to the Trust once again.

The Chairperson's Report was previously circulated, and taken as read, and she invited the the Director present the report on the work programme for the year under review.

Given that the Departmental work-programme reports were shared with members ahead of the meeting, the Director presented only the key achievements and challenges. Some of the salient points from his presentation are below.

## **CONSERVATION**

The Director noted that the Conservation Department continues to maintain and monitor the Trust's sited based on a rotation schedule. Tree risk assessments and management exercises were conducted at Pigeon Island and Morne Pavillon to improve overall forest health and visitor safety. Tools and equipment were procured and maintained regularly to improve on productivity.

A new trail was created at the Pigeon Island National Landmark (PINL) from the Signal Peak to the Two Gun Battery. This was project was fully funded by LUCELEC.

**Built Heritage:** The Register of historic buildings produced in 2014 was updated as part of a summer internship programme with seven (7) students form Sir Arthur Lewis Community College. Other collaborators were the Department of Surveys and the Land Registry in the Department of Physical Development.

**Married Women's Quarters:** The office of the Prime Minister requested support from a friendly government to provide funding to undertake an engineering assessment of the Married Women's Quarters, to make recommendations for remedial measures, to address the structural damage to the buildings, and to develop architectural and engineering plans for its restoration. This will be the next step in fulfilment of our mandate to convert the property into a national museum.

**Walcott Place:** Regular tours have resumed at Walcott House following the January 2019 Nobel Laureate Festival activities. The Castries Constituency Council continues to support efforts to maintain the building and keep it open, but with the apparent

disappearance of the funds to support this project, which was under government's management, our continued investments in this initiative may have to be re-visited.

**Staff Matters:** During the year under review, the Programme Assistant for Membership, Ms. Melissa Mc Lauren, resigned and the post is expected to be filled shortly. Council also approved the recruitment of a Programme Assistant for Communications and Advocacy. It is our expectation that with the recruitment of additional staff, our communications and advocacy work programme will evolve and expand.

**Staff Welfare:** Improvements at the Southern office are complete and the works undertaken have contributed to improving the working conditions at the office.

**Security:** CCTV surveillance cameras were installed at PINL and plans are afoot to improve nighttime security at the Maria Islands Interpretation Centre through the installation of CCTV equipment. Overall, night security at PINL has improved with the commissioning of the new security company, STISS Inc.

**Training:** Staff within the Conservation Department received training in the following areas:

- \* Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for improved conservation and mapping of trends;
- \* National Environmental Information Systems;
- \* Scenario Planning for Environmental Management;
- \* BIOPAMA Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Training; and
- \* Grant Proposal Writing

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY:**

Activities were arranged to observe and/or participate in the following:

- Advocacy Support - Raising awareness about Ocean Conservation;
- World Heritage Day;
- "We are INTO" video, for distribution to National Trusts world-wide;
- World Biological Diversity Day'
- World Environment Day;
- International Earth Day 2019; and
- World Oceans Day.

Observances were designed with an emphasis on Education and on getting students involved.

The Trust organized its 2019 edition of the Youth Environment Forum in Soufriere on August 19 – 23 under the theme: *From Land to sea – Good Land Practices for a Healthy Coast*. We extend thanks to the Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions Programme, the Water Resources Management Agency, the Soufriere Marine Management Authority, the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority, the Department of Sustainable Development and the many volunteers and staff who helped to organise and conduct the programme.

**SLNT'S Anniversary Activities:** Two main activities were undertaken for this observance:

- a) Maria Island tour; and
- b) An Open Day at the Pigeon Island National Landmark on September 26, 2019, for students from the Bouton Combined School, Des Barras Combined School, Anse Ger Secondary School and the Anse La Raye Care Center. The children were immersed into the rich history of the Landmark through guided tours.

**Trust Pioneers Lecture Sept. 24, 2019:** The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Trust Pioneers Lecture was held on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 under the theme “**Rural Landscapes: Benefits to our Communities**”.

**Escazu Agreement:** The Trust continued to be engaged in advocating for Saint Lucia’s ratification of this regional treaty on the public’s right to access information on the environment, access to environmental justice and participation in environmental decision-making.

**Social Media Presence:** Our social media presence continued to grow during the period under review. Facebook is used to share information on our numerous projects and programmes. Many of the posts continue to reach thousands of people locally, regionally and internationally. As at October 17, 2019 the Facebook page had 4,640 likes and 4,823 followers.

**Documentation Centre:** During the period under review, the Documentation Centre received twelve requests for information from students, overseas based researchers and curious Saint Lucians who wished to know more about the island. We now have our information on the Cloud and back-ups saved at a secure location.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Two (2) membership meetings were held during the period under review. The first meeting was held in Laborie on March 16, 2019 and the other on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Rodney Bay Commercial Centre. Both meetings featured a presentation on the draft Strategic Plan by consultant, Mr. Yves Renard.

The Director invited questions or clarifications on the presentation, but there were none.

**9. CHAPTER’S REPORT**

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The Western Chapter’s report was delivered by Ms. Nadia Cazaubon on behalf of Ms. Simone Mondesir, coordinator of the Chapter. She reported that unfortunately, their members could not attend the meeting this afternoon.

The group was not able to undertake many activities because the coordinator was ill and other senior members were dealing with some other issues. However, the following were achieved:

- a) **Sòlèy Kouché** – Presentations were made by Mr. Bobb of the SMMA Inc. and herself;
- b) A token of appreciation was presented to Ms. Simone Mondesir for her contributions to the Chapter;
- c) **Annual coastal clean-up:** Some of the members participated in the annual coastal clean-up;

- d) Ms. Marie Calixte was planning a walking tour of some areas in Soufriere. The history behind that tour was to re-name some streets after the Pilots and Saint Lucians who perished in World War 2.

The Chairperson expressed appreciation to Ms. Cazaubon for her report.

**Appointment of the new Director:** The Chairperson read a letter from the Prime Minister in which he indicated that he will not agree to the appointment of Mrs. Jeannine Compton-Antoine as the new Director of the Trust. Members expressed their disappointment and asked that the new Council make a second attempt to have Mrs. Compton-Antoine appointed to the post. It was further recommended that the Trust write to the Prime Minister requesting the reason for his decision and stating in the letter that the membership strongly believes that she should be appointed to the position of Director.

## 10.. COMMENTS ON CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

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Prior to inviting comments on her presentation and that of the Director, the Chairperson provided the following update on actions members asked to be pursued at the last AGM:

Activity	Action/Status
Complete renovations to the Southern Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed</li> </ul>
Engage the youth to get them more involved in the work of the Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 schools were engaged during the year.</li> <li>SLNT's Youth Environment Forum (YEF) was successfully held.</li> <li>School visits to the Pigeon Island National Landmark were accommodated.</li> </ul>
The Trust should petition the Courts to have the subvention re-instated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Trust is working with the Legal Counsels, and a draft affidavit will be reviewed for filing. There are challenges related to the unavailability of the main person with whom the Prime Minister was communication on the matter.</li> </ul>
Management of the Married Women's Quarters should be improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ownership of the property was transferred to the Trust in April, 2019.</li> <li>The Trust is involved in a legal process to have an occupant vacate the property.</li> <li>A project proposal has been submitted to the French Mission to support the proposed development of the site.</li> </ul>
Re-establishment of the Kids Summer Safari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Youth Environment Forum is achieving the objectives of this programme.</li> </ul>
Continued advocacy against proposed dolphinarium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We understand that the project is "on hold", but not abandoned.</li> <li>We have written requesting feedback and have received no response.</li> <li>At the last meeting with the Prime Minister a couple weeks ago, he indicated that the project is "still on the table" as Cabinet has not taken a position on the matter.</li> <li>Our advocacy against the project continues.</li> </ul>
Trust should develop a policy to stop the harvesting of sea turtles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A discussion was held with the Chief Fisheries Officer and it was felt that there is no appetite to take on this matter.</li> </ul>
Continue efforts to establish a national museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is being pursued as part of efforts to develop the Married Women's Quarters site.</li> </ul>

Take action to prevent the demolition of the Castries Prison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Trust received written commitment from the Attorney General that the building will not be demolished and government will continue to engage with the Trust on the project.</li> </ul>
Re-appointment of Grant Thornton as Auditor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant Thornton was retained.</li> </ul>

**Other Matters:** One member asked if there are plans to acquire a book scanner, to which the Director responded by saying that the cheapest one we can locate costs \$18,000.00, which was outside of our budget at this time.

There were no further comments on the Chairperson’s report.

## 10. AUDITOR’S REPORT

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The auditor’s report was presented by Ms. Jessica Peterkin on behalf of the firm, Grant Thornton. Ms. Peterkin reported that the audit was led by Mrs. Sharon Raoul, one of the partners in the firm. The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and covers the year ended March 31, 2019.

Ms. Peterkin noted that the Trust’s assets decreased by \$27, 193.00 which was insignificant and caused by rearrangements in the Trust’s investment activities. Income grew by \$92,825.00 and direct expenses by \$34,200, contributing to a net excess of expenditures over income by \$34,087.00. At the end of the year the Trust’s accumulated fund was \$2,613,5873.00. There was an increase in the cash position of \$99,873.00.

Overall the Trust received a clean audit because there were no material issues to report.

There were no comments on the Audit report. Mr. Tulsie therefore asked the members to adopt the audited statements, which they did unanimously.

## 11. ELECTION OF A NEW COUNCIL

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### Outgoing Members

The Director conducted the election of the new Council. He informed members that Councillors Alison King, Calixte George Jr., Sean Compton and Kirk Elliott have indicated their willingness to be considered for re-election to the new Council. He also informed members that Councillors Nadia Cazaubon and Christine Parris indicated that they will be unable to continue serving on Council for personal reasons and thanked members for the opportunity to be of service to the organisation.

Sean Compton enquired whether it was appropriate for him to seek election to Council as his sister was recommended to serve as Director. Members discussed the matter and concluded that they had no objections to his nomination or membership to Council if he is elected.

Mr. Tulsie thanked the Councillors for their services over the past year. He reminded members that there are to be seven members of Council, elected from among the general membership, and invited members to nominate persons to serve on Council.

The following nominations were made:

	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominated By</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
1	Alison King	Dr. J. Fletcher	Dr. C. Parris
2	Sean Compton	Dr. J. Fletcher	Peter Foster
3	Vincent Clarke	Dr. C. Parris	Tedbert Theobalds
4	Calixte George Jr.	Nadia Cazaubon	Vincent Clarke
5	Kirk Elliott	Euphemia Edmund	Anselm Gittens
6	Dr. Alison Gajadhar	Anselm Gittens	Tedbert Theobalds
7	Mandy St. Rose	Nadia Cazaubon	Vincent Clarke

A motion to close nominations was moved by Ms. Nadia Cazaubon and seconded by Ms. Deirdre Williams. The motion was put to the vote and by a unanimous show of hands, members agreed that nominations be closed.

Given that there were seven nominations for the seven vacant positions on Council, the closure of the nomination implied that all persons nominated were elected to serve on the next Council.

The Director reminded members that the government representatives, Mr. Amedee and Mrs. Nancy Charles, have another year to serve on Council and that the two representatives of the St. Lucia Archaeological and Historical Society will continue to represent their organisation on Council.

The first meeting of Council is scheduled for December 4, 2019 at which the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary will be elected.

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## **12.0. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS – GRANT THORNTON**

Mr. Tulsie explained that the Auditors are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> of their 5-year term and proposed that Grant Thornton be reappointed as the Trust has no complaints about their work. After a brief discussion, members expressed no objections to the reappointment of Grant Thornton as the Trust's auditor for the 2019/20 financial year.

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## **13.0. STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mr. Tulsie presented the Strategic Plan for 2020 – 2030, which was previously circulated. He provided an explanation of the Plan, and indicated that at the last Council meeting in November 2019, Council approved the Plan for presentation, discussion and possible approval by members.

### **Purpose of the Strategic Plan**

Mr. Tulsie noted the purpose of the Strategic Plan is to guide the work of the Trust for the period 2020 – 2030.

The Strategic Plan is structured in three parts:

**Part 1** – articulates the overall strategic framework, with a statement of the vision and mission, and a description of guiding principles, values and strategies;

**Part 2** – presents the programming framework to achieve strategic outcomes to be pursued over the period; and

**Part 3** – describes the institutional and operational arrangements that will support and facilitate the implementation of this framework.

During the period of implementation of this Strategic Plan, and beginning with the 2020/2021 fiscal year, the Trust will formulate and adopt tri-annual implementation plans that are based on the programming framework. These plans will identify for each of the strategic outcomes:

- i) specific objectives for the three-year period;
- ii) outputs and activities to produce the outcomes;
- iii) indicators to monitor delivery of outputs, and sources of verification;
- iv) human, financial and technical resource requirements; and
- v) partnerships and implementation arrangements.

**Decision:** Following a short discussion, members expressed satisfaction with the Plan and the arrangements for its implementation and approved it without objections. In so doing, members requested that Council develop a revised organisational structure to support implementation of the Plan and present it for their approval at the next Quarterly Meeting of members.

#### **14.0. RESOLUTION – A NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO BE CONSIDERED BY MEMBERS**

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A Resolution dated November 16, 2019 and signed by the Chairperson, on the nomination of candidates for election to serve on Council was circulated for members' consideration.

The key elements of the Resolution are:

- (a) The Council shall constitute a Nominating Committee to be confirmed at the first Quarterly Membership meeting to carry out the functions below:
- (b) The Nominating Committee will comprise three (3) persons including at least:
  - One council member,
  - One staff member, and
  - One individual member.

The functions of the Nominating Committee will be to:

- (1) Consult with Council, members and partners to determine the skills required on Council to best serve the Organisation;
- (2) Issue an invitation to members to indicate their willingness and availability to be nominated for election to Council;
- (3) Assess the suitability of persons who indicate their willingness and availability for election to Council, and submit their assessment and recommendations to Council for consideration;

(4) Submit through Council, their recommendations for members' consideration during the election of Council;

The recommendations of the Nomination Committee do not preclude any member from being nominated at any time for election to Council.

The Nominating Committee shall:

- i. elect one of its members to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee
- ii. set its rules, work programme and timelines for submission and approval by Council;
- iii. conduct its work in a transparent manner; and
- iv. report on progress with its work to Council and to members, through Council.

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed to serve for three (3) years;

Any vacancies on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by Council, for confirmation by members as soon as is practicable; and

The Secretariat shall provide the support needed to facilitate the work of the Committee.

A long discussion on the Resolution ensued, following which members concluded that the present system to elect Councillors has worked well for the Trust and should be retained. Members also agreed that Council may co-opt persons with specific skills to serve in an advisory capacity to Council if it so decides and that consideration be given to electing a youth member to serve on Council.

#### **15.0. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other matters were raised by members.

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#### **16.0. VOTE OF THANKS**

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The Vote of Thanks was delivered by SLNT's Communications and Advocacy Officer, Mrs. Karetta Crooks Charles. She thanked our Patron for her commitment to the Trust, for attending the meeting and for declaring it open. Special thanks were extended to members who attended and participated in the rich discussions, and to the media for covering the event. She expressed the gratitude of the members and staff to those Councillors who are no longer on Council and welcomed the new members. Mrs. Crooks-Charles also thanked the members of staff who planned the AGM and worked behind the scenes to ensure its success.

#### **17.0. ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no further matters to be discussed, the meeting came to a close at 6.35 p.m.

Confirmed this, the 28<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020.

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**Chairperson**

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**Secretary**

**Saint Lucia National Trust**

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