

## **NewfoundLUG - September 2026 General Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** September 23, 2026

**Location:** Memorial University Botanical Gardens

**Time:** 8pm

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

**President:** Christine Gillard

**Vice-President:** Justin Stone

**Treasurer:** Isabel Costa

**Events Coordinator:** Kira Whittaker

**At-large Member:** Paul Dawe

**LEGO CoLab Community Representative:** Chris Mitchell

Absent: **At-large Member:** Sheila McDonald

**Members in Attendance:** (Quorum reached; including Board Members, there were a total of 18 members in attendance, 2 virtually. One proxy sent via a member in attendance, same communicated electronically to the Treasurer prior to the meeting).

### **President's Report and Previous Meetings Minutes**

- Isabel summarized the September Board Meeting to the general members and informed members that previous General Meeting Minutes are now available on the NewfoundLUG website.

### **Membership and Annual Fee Motion**

- A motion to introduce a two-tier membership to NewfoundLUG was brought forward by Isabel. The rationale for the proposed change was discussed with the members. Questions were answered regarding the proposed changes to the bylaws, the new member t-shirt, requirements for signage and representation of the LUG as a member of the new LEGO CoLab Program.
- Motion seconded by Christine. **Motion passed**, with eighteen (18) votes in favor and one (1) against.
- A summary of the key differences between the membership types is outlined below (page 4) as well as the specific changes to the NewfoundLUG by-laws. The tentative deadline for submission of the new membership form and payment of the annual fee for the 2026/2027 year, if applicable, is October 28th, 2026 by the end of the October General Meeting.

### **NewfoundLUG t-shirt - Sizes and Ordering**

A mock of the NewfoundLUG Member t-shirt was shown to members present at the meeting and different size t-shirts available for members to try on to decide on sizing.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Presentation of the projected annual budget was postponed until the October meeting. Due to the change of membership and associated annual fee. Members in agreement with the same.

**Events Coordinator Report:**

Train/Christmas Show at the GeoCentre - Paul (Dawe) shared a "cube display" used in the 2025 Train Show to share with members the format for one of the possible collaborations at this year's show. Kira and Christine brought some examples of possible builds for demonstration.

**LEGO CoLab Community Representative Report:**

- Chris updates members on the LEGO FanColab program, and his activity on the app on behalf of NewfoundLUG.

**Ongoing Projects:**

- "Member Shoutout" on NewfoundLUG socials (on going).
- "Themed Meetings/Presentations" and/or "Show and Tell" following each monthly meeting (on going).
- NewfoundLUG website update (on going).
- Development of supporting documentation for events partnerships (on going).

**Future Events:**

- BulkSmash - Hosted at Bricks and Minifigs, likely October 7th
- "Geek Out at the Library" - Memorial University/Arts and Culture Centre, October 13th, 2026 - 5:30 to 7pm. Stephen, Wes and Justin are planning to participate.

**Other Business:****Partnership with MariLug for LUGBulk 2027.**

- Chris was approached by the LEGO CoLab Community Representative from MariLUG inquiring if NewfoundLUG would be interested in hosting MariLUG's members interested in participating in LUGBulk 2027. MariLUG is not able to secure the minimum number of participants required on their own and thus a partnership with NewfoundLUG would allow them to participate in the program.
- NewfoundLUG would receive the order, sort NewfoundLUG's portion and ship the remainder to MariLUG (at MariLUG's cost).
- Some discussion was had on the topic and generally the membership was okay with the partnership, as long as the MariLUG participants are also active members in good standing within MariLUG.

**Sorting Issues**

- Issues with LUGBulk sorting day were brought up for discussion, mainly focusing on the short timeline and notice of sorting day.
- Christine mentioned that the board was already discussing ways that could make this process more enjoyable and streamlined for next year. Some suggestions were: a)

sorting the order over several days, and for shorter periods and, b) storage of the order at the Botanical Gardens, providing easy access to the bricks.

- Members seemed to agree with this strategy.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:50pm.**

The next meeting (October Meeting) is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 28th, 2026 at 7pm, at Bricks and Minifigs.**

## NewfoundLUG Membership Review

With the start of NewfoundLUG's membership in the new LEGO Fan CoLab program, and following a review of NewfoundLUG's operating costs and operational standards of other LUGs in Canada, the NewfoundLUG Volunteer Board is putting forward a motion to update membership options and requirements.

### Proposed Motion/Change:

The primary change is the introduction of two membership tiers, each offering distinct requirements and benefits. A summary of the key differences between these membership types is outlined below. Specific changes to the NewfoundLUG by-laws are also detailed below.

### Rationale for Proposed Change:

NewfoundLUG's operational expenses include administrative costs, assets, branding, and social events. Participating in the LEGO CoLab program requires a more active and frequent presence from the NewfoundLUG Community (formerly defined as LUGs), alongside effective community branding at events—such as t-shirts, badges, and signage.

These updates are designed to ensure NewfoundLUG can continue providing members with opportunities that align with the mandate described in the LUG's by-laws.

## THE NEW MEMBERSHIP TYPES AT A GLANCE

| <b>Active Members</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Associate Members</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Access to LUG General Meetings (including voting and motion rights)</i></li><li>• <i>Access to ALL LUG-related social events, social media platforms and online chat groups.</i></li><li>• <i>Display space priority at LUG organized showcases with no registration costs.</i></li><li>• <i>Contribute an annual \$25 fee to support LUG operations.</i></li><li>• <i>Member t-shirt (with initial membership registration).</i></li><li>• <i>Access to all LUG-related resources and support programs.</i></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Access to LUG General Meetings (no voting or motion rights)</i></li><li>• <i>Access to some LUG-related social events, social media platforms and online chat groups.</i></li><li>• <i>Access to LUG organized showcases depending on display space availability and registration requirements.</i></li><li>• <i>No membership fee.</i></li></ul> |

## **Current NewfoundLUG by-laws section on Membership**

### **4. Membership**

4.1. Membership to the group shall be open to all persons on condition that they uphold the spirit of the hobby and do not violate any official code of conduct created by the Board or Group.

4.2. A member in good standing is a member who:

4.2.1. Has attended at least one meeting or event for a calendar year (exceptions may be made for those members for whom distance is an obstacle).

4.2.2. Is eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the AGM.

4.3. Each member in good standing shall have one vote in matters requiring a vote by the Membership.

4.4. The Volunteer Board may, by 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote of the Volunteer Board, suspend the membership of any member. They may also recommend to the members at a general meeting for the expulsion of that member.

4.4.1. The expulsion of a member shall not be valid unless confirmed by a three-quarters majority vote of a quorum of members at a general meeting.

4.4.2. The person who is the subject of the proposed resolution for expulsion shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the general meeting before the resolution is put to a vote.

## **Proposed change for NewfoundLUG by-laws section on Membership**

### **4. Membership**

*4.1. Membership to the group shall be open to all persons on condition that they uphold the spirit of the hobby and do not violate any official code of conduct created by the Board or Group, and are eighteen (18) years of age, or older, at the time of the AGM.*

*4.1.1. A tiered membership option is available depending on the level of involvement desired by the prospective NewfoundLUG member. Prospective members can join NewfoundLUG as an Active Member (please see 4.2) or an Associate Member (please see 4.3).*

### **4.2. Active Member**

*4.2.1. An Active Member of NewfoundLUG is eligible to:*

- a) Participate in all NewfoundLUG events;*
- b) Participate in any voting matters related to NewfoundLUG's activities and is eligible to cast one (1) vote (in-person or by-proxy);*
- c) Submit a matter as a motion during any LUG General Meeting or AGM;*
- d) Participate in all showcases organized by the LUG (registration costs waived) and, will be given priority in available display space;*
- e) Participate in all support opportunities made available to NewfoundLUG via The LEGO Fan CoLab;*

- f) *Receive a NewfoundLUG member t-shirt upon initial registration and opportunity to order extra t-shirts if desired (extra t-shirt(s) cost being the responsibility of the member).*

*4.2.2. In order to maintain an Active Member status the NewfoundLUG member is required to:*

- a) *Attend a minimum of one NewfoundLUG meeting or event within the 12 months prior to the Annual General Meeting (exceptions may be made for those members for whom distance is an obstacle);*
- b) *Be up to date on Membership Fees (please see 4.5);*
- c) *Follow the NewfoundLUG Code of Conduct at all LUG-related events, online chats and social media platforms;*
- d) *Complete the Active Member registration form.*

*4.2.3. Membership in NewfoundLUG is non-exclusive. An Active Member may be part of one or more LUGs outside NewfoundLUG. However, when representing NewfoundLUG at events, Active Members will not actively promote other LUGs or equivalent groups.*

*4.2.4. An Active Member may terminate their membership at any time. Active Members who end their memberships become Associate Members and are no longer entitled to the benefits granted to Active Members. Reinstatement of membership with NewfoundLUG, may be requested via interview with the Board who will decide upon the former Active Member's readmittance.*

*4.2.5. Failure to comply with the NewfoundLUG Code of Conduct may result in membership with NewfoundLUG revoked. The former Active Member will not be eligible to participate in future events or any NewfoundLUG activities, social media platforms or online chats. This condition will be in effect for one full year from the date the membership is revoked. Following this period, reinstatement of membership with NewfoundLUG, may be requested via interview with the Board who will decide upon the former Active Member's readmittance.*

*4.2.6. Active Members who fail to meet the requirements detailed in items 4.2.2. a) and b) for more than 30 days after the Annual General Meeting, will be considered Associate Members until both above conditions are resolved.*

#### *4.3. Associate Member*

*4.3.1. An Associate Member of NewfoundLUG is welcome to all General Meetings of the LUG but not permitted to put forward motions, or to participate in any votes on decisions involving the LUG. Associate Members of NewfoundLUG are also eligible to:*

- a) *Participate in all NewfoundLUG-related social media platforms and online chats;*
- b) *Participate in specific NewfoundLUG social events;*
- c) *Participate in NewfoundLUG organized showcase events based on availability and completion of any event-required registration.*

*4.3.2. In order to maintain an Associate Member status the NewfoundLUG member is required to follow the NewfoundLUG Code of Conduct at all LUG-related events, online chats and social media platforms;*

*4.3.3. Associate Members can become Active Members by meeting the conditions laid out for Active Members (please see 4.2.2). There is no limit on the duration of an individual's status as an Associate Member.*

*4.3.4. Failure to comply with the NewfoundLUG Code of Conduct may result in membership with NewfoundLUG revoked. The former Associate Member will not be eligible to participate in future events or any NewfoundLUG activities, social media platforms or online chats. This condition will be in effect for one full year from the date the membership is revoked. Following this period, reinstatement of membership with NewfoundLUG, may be requested via interview with the Board who will decide upon the former Associate Member's readmittance.*

4.4. The Volunteer Board may, by 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote of the Volunteer Board, suspend the membership of any member. They may also recommend to the members at a general meeting for the expulsion of that member.

4.4.1. The expulsion of a member shall not be valid unless confirmed by a three-quarters majority vote of a quorum of members at a general meeting.

4.4.2. The person who is the subject of the proposed resolution for expulsion shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the general meeting before the resolution is put to a vote.

#### *4.5 Membership Fee*

*To enable NewfoundLUG to cover costs associated with LUG's administration (website, banking fees, etc.), assets (signage, promotional materials, etc.) and social events costs, Active Members are expected to submit an annual Membership Fee of \$25.00 CAD to NewfoundLUG.*

*4.5.1. The Membership Fee may be paid in one lump sum directly to NewfoundLUG via EMT or in person to one of the Volunteer Board members.*

*In the case of renewal, this payment must be made for the upcoming year on, or before, the date of the Annual General Meeting. In the case of a new member, this payment must be made upon the date of admittance to NewfoundLUG\*.*

*4.5.2. The annual NewfoundLUG membership fee will run from May to April of the following year and is non-refundable.*

*\* For the 2026/2027 year, the membership fee will be due by the General October meeting. This will allow time to order this year's NewfoundLUG t-shirts so members can wear them for the upcoming LUG events.*