

**Friends of Casco Bay
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 20, 2018
Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland, Maine**

Board members in attendance: Dan Brazeau, President, AJ Curran, Bud Higgins, Patti Ianni, Sandy Marsters, Althea Bennett McGirr, Seb Milardo, Derek Pelletier, Malcolm Poole, Joan Benoit Samuelson, and Jack Thomas

Board members absent: Kim Charmatz, Peter LeBourdais, Tollef Olsen, Ann Thayer, and Lori Thayer

Staff in attendance: Mary Cerullo, Will Everitt, Ivy Frignoca, Sarah Lyman, and Cathy Ramsdell

Calendar of Events: Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

March 30 Fri	FOCB New (Fiscal) Year's Eve, Andy's Old Port Pub, Commercial St., 4:00 pm
April 11 Wed	Strategic Planning Steering Committee, GMRI, 5:00-7:30 pm
April 17 Tues	Community Engagement Committee meeting, 4:00-5:00 pm
April 17 Tues	Board meeting, 5:30-7:30 pm
May 15, Tues	Board meeting, 5:30-7:30 pm
June 19 Tues	Board/Staff Social, location TBD

Summary

- Cathy Ramsdell said it has been a terrific year for FOCB; we are glad to be finishing on such a high note. She invited everyone to celebrate FY19 New Year's Eve at Andy's Old Port Pub.
- Ivy Frignoca discussed her warm reception in Boston, where she met with the new Region 1 EPA Administrator, and in Washington, DC, where she met with Maine Congressionals.
- Ivy and Staff prepared an alert sent to our email list a day earlier, asking them to oppose a bill before the Maine legislature that would in effect prohibit communities from passing their own ordinances to restrict pesticides. Great response to alert.
- Board approved the Operating Plan and budget for FY19.

Welcoming Remarks and Business – Dan Brazeau, President

A Minute for the Bay

AJ reported that thanks to recent Nor'easters, surfing has been good, but even so, smart surfers watched from shore on the day with 20 foot waves.

Dan says Venus is next to the crescent moon.

Review, Reflection and Approval of February Minutes

Action item: Approved

Financial report—Malcolm Poole, Treasurer

Malcolm reported we spent much less than what we budgeted for this fiscal year. Cathy projects that we may see a surplus of \$8,000-\$12,000 by March 31, the last day of FY18.

Cathy said it has been a terrific year for FOCB; we are glad to be finishing on such a high note. She invited everyone to join with Staff to celebrate FY19 New Year's Eve at Andy's Old Port Pub.

Strategic Planning Update

The March 6 meeting was snowed out. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee will meet on April 11 at GMRI, to prepare a draft to present to the Board at its May meeting.

Community Engagement Committee—*Sandy Marsters, Committee Chair*

The committee discussed nurturing relationships with our donors through a Cumberland Club event for higher giving levels, as well as house parties. We have identified a possible venue in Harpswell for an eastern Bay event this summer. We would like to have a second house party at a venue with a yard large enough for a tent, and with a water view, for 100+ guests, ideally in Falmouth or Cumberland.

The group reviewed Film Festival feedback forms. We are beginning to look for sponsors and raffle items for our 11th annual Film Festival next November.

FY19 Operating Plan and Budget—*Dan and Cathy Ramsdell, Executive Director*

Two weeks ago, several members of the Staff and Board attended a workshop at which Cathy explained the structure of our financial reporting and went through the highlights of the Operating Plan and the supporting budget. After a good discussion, minor changes were made to the budget. Several Board members who attended the workshop complimented the planning process and how the budget dovetails with the goals of the operating plan.

Pat: Operating Plans are good archival histories; you can look back ten years to see what was accomplished. Cathy pointed out pp. 44-45, which provide some good summaries of our programmatic work and volunteer opportunities.

Action item: Unanimous approval of the FY19 Operating Plan and FY19 Budget.

Casco Baykeeper Update — *Ivy Frignoca, Casco Baykeeper*

- Ivy distributed our testimony opposing a bad pesticides bill, introduced by Sen. Saviello and the Governor, which would do away with Home Rule. Leadership reassigned LD 1853 from Saviello's Agriculture Committee to the State & Local Government Committee where a similar bill was defeated unanimously last year. Our alert went out to our email list yesterday. Already 60 people had reported to us that they emailed the State and Local Government Standing Committee.
- Ivy met with the new EPA Region 1 Administrator, Alexandra Dunn, in Boston, along with Scott Firmin of the Portland Water District and Nancy Gallinaro, Portland's Water Resources Manager. The EPA Administrator, who was appointed in November, is very interested in clean water. At Ivy's invitation, Administrator Dunn plans to come to Maine on June 21 to attend a Nutrient Council meeting and to go out on our boat with us to see how Portland Water District is reducing nutrient pollution. Dunn said the highlight of her first eight weeks was meeting with Friends of Casco Bay, Portland, and the Water District. She was impressed by how we work together to find solutions.
- At the invitation of—and with funding from—the Ocean Conservancy, Ivy joined a group of Waterkeepers and other conservationists in Washington, DC, to support preserving NOAA and EPA funding in the federal budget. She met with all four of Maine's Congressional offices. Ivy said a highlight, besides speaking at length with Senator Collins and Senator King, was traveling with the team from Maine: oyster farmer Bill Mook, retired lobsterman Richard Nelson, and Hattie Train, a student from UMO and a Casco Bay islander. Ivy said it was an inspiration to meet so many people from all around the country working to protect the environment.

Closing Remarks —*Dan*

Dan reminded Board members to email him or Cathy if they had any ideas or issues to bring up. The meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.