

**Friends of Casco Bay Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting of
Tuesday, May 15, 2018
Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland, Maine**

Board members in attendance: Derek Pelletier Vice President, Malcolm Poole Treasurer, Pat Ianni Clerk, AJ Curran, Bud Higgins, Sandy Marsters, Seb Milardo, Tollef Olson, Ann Thayer, Lori Thayer, and Jack Thomas

Board members absent: Dan Brazeau, Peter LeBourdais, Althea Bennett McGirr, and Joan Benoit Samuelson

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

Calendar of Events Please mark your calendar for:

June 19 Tue Board/Staff Social, 5-8 pm., South Portland

July 17 Tue Harpswell house party

Summary

- As of June 1, these officers will serve for two years: Malcolm Poole, President, Derek Pelletier, Vice President, Pat Ianni, Secretary, Jack Thomas, Treasurer.
- Cathy Ramsdell will draft a letter to Maine Media Collective to withdraw from our contract for its magazines to publicize our 2018 Film Festival for this year.
- Ivy Frignoca is working on a June 12 conference on ocean acidification with Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership (MOCA).
- Sarah Lyman reported that beta testing of our new Color by Numbers citizen science initiative is going well.
- After Malcolm Poole solicited feedback on the Strategic Plan draft and read a draft of an executive summary with bullet points of our vision and issues we are working on, the Board enthusiastically adopted the new Strategic Plan 2018-2022.
- Cathy said that Jeff Fetterer, Malcolm, and she will be searching for new office space.

Welcoming Remarks and Business – Derek Pelletier, Vice President

A Minute for the Bay

Tollef commented that he saw shedders burrowing into the mud yesterday. Jack put his traps in the water for the season last Friday; he reported that lobstering is good.

Motion: Review, Reflection and Approval of April 2018 Minutes—Action item: Approved

Financial Report—Malcolm Poole, Treasurer

Malcolm reported that one month into the new fiscal year, income and operations are going as expected.

Cathy provided an update on the new pumpout boat. We had anticipated receiving funding from the DEP to start construction last November, but we just received the first half of the down payment for the new boat, so we have invoiced the State for the second half. The builder will begin work on the new vessel, and we will wait until next spring to take possession. We will use our current pumpout boat through the 2018 season, June through October.

Executive Committee Report: Officers and Succession Planning—*Derek for Dan Brazeau, President*

The Committee met two weeks ago. As of June 1, officers will serve for two years: Malcolm Poole, President, Derek Pelletier, Vice President, Pat Ianni, Secretary, Jack Thomas, and Treasurer.

Malcolm explained that the Executive Committee decided that two-year terms provide stability while the organization addresses moving our office, implementing the strategic plan, and structuring a process for succession planning for the Board. Jack added that the Executive Committee will work on developing expectations of various ways that new Board members can serve the organization.

Community Engagement Committee—*Sandy Marsters, Chair* **2018 House Parties**

This relatively small house party (approximately 60 attendees) on Tuesday, July 17, will be hosted by Lew & Liz Incze in Harpswell. We would like to find a site for a second house party, ideally somewhere on the water near Falmouth or Cumberland. Suggestions welcome!

Rolling out the Color Initiative—Citizen Stewards Beta Testing

After an initial rollout with staff and board, Sarah Lyman invited last year's volunteer Citizen Stewards to beta test our Color by Numbers pilot project. More than 15 volunteers have signed up to use the app, and several called or came to the office to try it out under Sarah's direction. Bud remarked, "Sarah has done an incredible job in a thoughtful way that even I can understand. This is a great dress rehearsal for the next volunteer initiative."

Maine Media Collective Situation

Maine Media Collective has been an in-kind media sponsor, valued at \$5,600, of our Wild & Scenic Film Festival, providing publicity beforehand and a photographer at the event. Our contract with Maine Media Collective requires that we list them in any advance publicity and in the program, and that we thank them publically numerous times in our social media channels. There was a long discussion about the alleged systemic abuse and harassment of staff members at Maine Media, recently reported by *The Bollard*, *Portland Press Herald*, and on social media. There was consensus that our continued association with them at this time could affect our reputation and put our staff on the defensive trying to justify our position to concerned members and the media. The Community Engagement Committee—and the Executive Committee members present at the committee meeting—asked Cathy to draft a letter to cancel the contract. Future association may be renewed if and when the Maine Media Collective has taken actions to address problems within the company.

SpringShare

Will Everitt explained that MaineShare, a workplace-giving organization that represents over 40 advocacy organizations, is holding a one-day fundraising campaign on May 18 & 19. Friends of Casco Bay is one of the member organizations. Will said that Board members will see promotions for several SpringShare events on social media. Donors can direct that their donations go to a specific charity (like us!).

Leave these at your dentist's office!

Cathy passed out extras copies of the Spring 2018 newsletter and Film Festival Save the Date cards.

Casco Baykeeper Update / Executive Director Update — *Cathy Ramsdell, Executive Director*

Ivy recovering

Cathy shared that Ivy had taken a bad fall on Sunday, April 29, and she is recovering from a severe concussion. She is beginning to do work at home, meet via phone, and attend some meetings, but she still cannot yet handle much screen time which limits her use of computer, texting, and email. Still, Ivy is recovering faster than she anticipated.

Aquaculture

Ivy attended a meeting of Casco Bay harbormasters on May 14, where they shared their concerns about their role in dealing with issues surrounding aquaculture leases. Cathy reminded Board members that we cited aquaculture as an emerging issue during our strategic planning, and she is gratified that Ivy already is engaging in the dialogue. With Ivy's legal background, she may play a strategic role in helping to figure out how to handle lease issues, such as jurisdiction, marine debris, limits on aquaculture operations, and competing uses of the Bay. William Sedlack, a student at UMaine School of Law, will be our legal intern this summer. He will assist Ivy with policy research, including on aquaculture.

MOCA Conference

Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership (MOCA) is a voluntary consortium of scientists, advocates, and policy makers, with a rotating leadership. Friends was pivotal in its formation. Ivy is the coordinator of MOCA for this year, organizing a Summer MOCA Conference to be held on June 12 at Bowdoin College. Lobsters and ocean acidification will be the focus of several presentations; the keynote speakers will be our Film Festival favorites, O'Chang Studios: Andy O'Brien and Hanji Chang.

Another pesticide preemption bill

Cathy reminded the Board about our recent efforts to once again defeat a bad bill before the State legislature to restrict municipalities' ability to set limits on pesticide use. The massive federal Farm Bill (HR 2) now before the US House of Representatives has an amendment that will allow states to do just that: preempt home rule. The farm bill is a huge piece of federal legislation covering crop subsidies and food benefits for the poor, but amendments to it may allow spraying pesticides on water and taking away municipalities' ability to enact pesticide ordinances.

Office space

As SMCC has no interest in renewing our lease, Cathy said that we will start to look for new space in order to control our own destiny, rather than have the college decide for us when we have to move. She plans to ask the Executive Committee to review a memo from March 2017, in which our Office Manager Jeff Fetterer, Malcolm, and she outlined our needs. This list of attributes can be shared with the full Board as we start to search for suitable properties between Cape Elizabeth and Freeport.

Strategic Plan 2018-2022 – Malcolm Poole

Malcolm was pleased to bring a draft of the Strategic Plan before the Board for comment, the result of deliberations by 25 people over 6 work sessions. Cathy said that our need for office space should be added into the initiative list. Bud and Malcolm said the staff can use the Strategic Plan to keep us on track and prevent mission creep. Pat said she viewed the Strategic Plan as the organization's resume. Several people asked for a brief document that can be used to explain our mission, task, and values to others. Malcolm read a draft he had written of talking points. The Strategic Plan will be edited further based on this conversation.

Motion: Use the current draft of the strategic plan to create bullet points that the Board will review, and vote to finalize the Strategic Plan. **Action item: Approved**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.