

Friends of Casco Bay Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 15, 2019
Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland

Present: Malcom Poole, President, Derek Pelletier, Vice President, Jack Thomas, Treasurer, Pat Ianni, Clerk, Bud Higgins, Sandy Marsters, Althea Bennett McGirr, Seb Milardo, Tollef Olsen, Ann Thayer, ad Lori Thayer

Absent: AJ Curran, Peter LeBourdais, Joan Benoit Samuelson

Staff: Mary Cerullo, Will Everitt, Sarah Lyman, Cathy Ramsdell

Welcome – Malcolm Poole, *President*

Malcolm said he and Cathy have just finished up nine coffee meetings with people interested in learning more about Friends of Casco Bay.

A Minute for the Bay

Tollef: Saltwater still freezes.

Cathy: She and Ann Thayer went birding on the mail boat on Sunday. Saw a raft of loons, two eagles on GDI, and many offshore pelagic seabirds, including a dovkie, murre, guillemots, and a razorbill auk.

Althea: Ivy spoke eloquently at the meeting the night before on why a proposed massive development project on Rte. 1 in Falmouth would be detrimental to the community's coastal waters.

Board Consent Package (minutes and financials): *Action Item*: Approved

Treasurer Jack Thomas reported that our Financials are in great shape. He commended Cathy and staff for having kept expenses in line. He expects that the endowment funds took a hit but will come back up.

Community Engagement Committee Report and Discussion—*Sandy Marsters, Committee Chair*

Sandy reported on the January 7 meeting.

Campaign: We are in the midst of an ambitious Climate Change and Casco Bay Fund campaign to raise \$1.5 million in 36 months. He asked Cathy to announce that we have raised \$470,000 to date. The first donor she approached gave us a check for \$250,000. Another donor has pledged a planned gift currently valued at \$220,000; if the Fund is no longer relevant when he dies, the bequest will revert to unrestricted status. Cathy will share a more complete campaign case statement for the Board to review soon.

Upcoming events:

More information to follow on all these events. Mark your calendars for:

Casco Bay Matters—talk on acidification, climate change, and our work—to be given:

March 18, 5:30-6:30 pm, Portland Public Library; **March 25**, 5:30-6:30 pm, Jewett Hall, Southern Maine Community College, South Portland, and on **April 9**, 5:30-6:30 pm, at Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick. Board members are encouraged to attend and bring guests. Sandy circulated a sign-up sheet.

April 30, Friends Appreciation Event and Members' Annual Meeting, Harraseeket Inn, Freeport, 5-8 pm

June 10, Pumpout Boat Launch Party, Portland Yacht Services, 5-7 pm

A public boat-naming contest will be held in advance of the event. Details will be developed soon. Let us know of any community or group that may be interested in buying the old Pumpout boat.

Board Discussion: As Board members, how do we best engage with our community about clean water and influence behavior and policy adjustments? What are the key behaviors we wish to address?

Malcolm cited some of the goals of the Strategic Plan to “champion policies and influence behaviors that support clean water” to open the discussion.

Bud: Engagement: Show people what is happening beneath the surface on the mail boat run through an underwater camera. Is there something we could do on the Pumpout Boat—above or below water—that links to our website?

Pat: Behavior: Discuss actions that are most effective: How do you vote and how do you use your consumer power — examining your purchasing/consumption/economic impact on society. What do you buy, how do you use it, and how do you get rid of it? How do we help people make the connections?

Bud & Tollef: How do we get people to stop using fertilizers and pesticides? How can we expand the effectiveness of our BayScaping signs?

Lori: Do you have discussions with schools about environmental responsibilities?

Seb: Meet once a year with legislators, mayors, sewage treatment plant operators, and other decision makers on what we are doing.

Tollef: Meet with golf course managers.

Bud: Give guest memberships to coastal properties' new home owners.

Derek: Provide information on alternative modes of travel to get to our events, such as bus schedules.

Jack: Engage new Governor's office via boat ride, promote tourism on the Bay.

Ann: The more we can connect clean water with economics, the better.

Ann: Give your new neighbors a gift membership instead of a pie.

Will Everitt will provide a free membership for anyone you request. Just send the recipient's name and address to willeveritt@cascobay.org.

Staff-led Discussion: Volunteer Relations and Programs—*Sarah Lyman, Community Engagement Coordinator*

Sarah described our newest community engagement program, **Water Reporter**. It is an Android and iPhone app and worldwide social network that connect individuals with organizations like Friends of Casco Bay that are working to protect and improve water quality. Water Reporter is a great way to record what is happening around our beautiful but changing Bay while building community connections.

Water Reporter enables us to get information in real time on what people are observing on the Bay (both good and bad), by sharing a photo through the Water Reporter app.

We ask people to observe and report on what they are seeing around that Bay, including algal blooms, pollution, trash, wildlife, and sea level rise. How to share photos on the Water Reporter App: Take a photo, add a caption and hashtags to describe and categorize what you are seeing, confirm your location, share with Friends of Casco Bay and submit your report.

Everyone on the app can see, share, and discuss what is happening. We respond to every post that is shared with us. We have used the information to alert regulators, marine mammal rescuers, DEP scientists, enforcers, and others, and we let our Water Reporters know of the action taken.

We are focusing on Water Reporter as our primary volunteer effort in 2019. Sarah handed out the one-page user guide and explained that the information is posted on our website at <https://www.cascobay.org/water-reporter>. She is happy to meet with board members, and other groups or individuals to help get them started. For example, participants have been recruited through ME/NH oil spill responders, Casco Bay Lines, and the Governor's Day of Service volunteers. If you want Sarah to present to a group or want some help yourself, contact her at slyman@cascobay.org.

How can we grow the number of Water Reporters?

Suggestions: Posters and training at marinas and Casco Bay Lines, yacht clubs.

Baykeeper Update—*Cathy for Ivy Frignoca, Casco Baykeeper*

Cathy read a note from Deb Delp at Royal River Marina complimenting Ivy's thoughtful, well-reasoned approach on dredging.

Ivy was at the Route 1 development meeting in Falmouth last night.

Today, Ivy and our Volunteer Malcolm Burson (retired from DEP) met with Erno Bonebakker of Waterfront Alliance to discuss having the DEP to update its 2005 report on air emissions by cruise ships. Ivy also met with the Environmental Priorities Coalition on coordinating climate change bills that the EPC is advocating for this

legislative session. In the evening, Ivy is at a Brunswick hearing on the Mere Point oyster farm aquaculture proposal, as part of our examining procedures for allocating leases (particularly the size of leases) and setting standards for operation (marine debris and sanitation practices on the lease sites). One of our legal externs has drafted a memo on best practices that Ivy will share with the Maine Aquaculture Association and DMR for their consideration.

On November 29, Ivy presented on ocean and coastal acidification to the Legislature's Coastal Caucus in conjunction with the Maine Coastal and Ocean Association (MOCA) winter meeting, which Ivy coordinates. It set the stage for a bill recently introduced by Representative Lydia Blume, cited in a *Maine Sunday Telegram* article on January 13. MOCA will put together a five-year strategic plan, which could inform climate change council focused on the marine environment, if the bill passes. Friends has been invited to submit a proposal to a foundation to help support our work with MOCA and ocean acidification.

Ivy's involvement with the Maine Law School has ramped up. She now is an adjunct professor, and she can leverage legal research by law students and access to Westlaw online legal research service.

Cathy submitted a three-page letter to Portland City Council's Sustainability & Transportation Committee on the need for a fertilizer ordinance, encouraging the committee to incorporate this effort into its 2019 work plan. They are not likely to tackle the issue for at least the first six months of the year.

Executive Director Update—*Cathy Ramsdell, Executive Director*

We are moving into Operating Plan season. We have scheduled the annual workshop for March 11 at GMRI on how to read our financials along with the a review of the operating plan and budget. We will convene at 3:30 and break for a small meal at 5 or so, then reconvene.

Year-end donations were good.

We are creating a calendar of events in 2019 on the website that you can share, as well as an event calendar with more details for Board members only.

Staff members and Friends have contributed an aggregate of about \$900,000 in funds to our 403(b) retirement plans, which gives Frineds more bargaining power with money managers. Cathy and Jeff are exploring options and are making a few small shifts that will mean lower fees.

Really exciting things are happening with our science work. We will share more about that at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.