

Friends of Casco Bay
Minutes of Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Commercial Street, Portland

Present: AJ Curran, Bud Higgins, Pat Ianni, Sandy Marsters, Althea Bennett McGirr, Seb Milardo, Derek Pelletier, Joan Benoit Samuelson, and Jack Thomas

Absent: Malcolm Poole, President, Peter LeBourdais, Tollef Olsen, Ann Thayer, and Lori Thayer

Staff present: Mary Cerullo, Mike Doan, Ivy Frignoca, and Cathy Ramsdell

Welcome – *Sandy Marsters for Malcolm Poole, President*

A Minute for the Bay

Seb said the sky over the Bay was crystal clear last week.

Pat said you have to love it when you see the Bay is frozen.

Bud said Peaks Islanders are riled up about the proposed new ferry, which can carry up to 600 passengers.

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

Two Board of Director Nominations for consideration at the March meeting

Sandy explained that we are instituting a more thorough, thoughtful process of bringing on new Board members. Prospective Board members will have one or two meetings with Cathy or other members of Executive Committee; a discussion among Board at one Board meeting; the Board votes on the candidate at a subsequent meeting.

Two new Board members have been nominated:

- David Kaufman, nominated by Malcolm Poole, is an experienced sailor. He participated in our Strategic Planning process. He was described as passionate about whatever he does, thoughtful, engaged. He used to own Channel WMTW and other media outlets, as well as Brahms Mount. His broad background is in broadcasting, communications, and marketing, he might be a great asset in helping to publicize and promote FOCB.
- Stephen Bushey was nominated by Malcolm who was not present. Stephen has a background in civil engineering and is concerned about climate change and the health of the Bay. He has known Malcolm and Charlie Poole for a long time.

Discussion highlights:

Pat would like to learn some history that demonstrates their commitment to community. What has been their volunteer path with nonprofits?

Bud suggested adding another stage to the vetting process: invite a candidate to a Board meeting to see how we operate and discuss what their involvement would be, rather than voting them in at that meeting.

More Board members could meet candidates in advance.

Board members commented that the Board makeup needs to reflect the diversity of our community. Sandy encouraged Board members to seek names of those who could help diversify the Board.

The Board agreed to invite David Kaufman to join the Board and tabled discussion on Stephen Bushey to allow Malcolm to provide more background.

Community Engagement Committee—*Seb Milardo for Sandy Marsters, Committee Chair*

Seb reported on the February 4 meeting. Monday, March 4, is our next Community Engagement Committee meeting at GMRI, 5 – 6:30 pm.

- Committee members discussed the case statement being written for the Climate Change and Casco Bay science campaign. Cathy has received feedback and is working on final edits, to be followed by design and layout by staff. Bud suggested that Board members receive training on how to use the document to solicit donations.
- Sarah Lyman led an exercise on finding and using the data graphs from our Continuous Monitoring Station. Bud congratulated Sarah for her exemplary work on the website.
- Cathy discussed the Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC) and noted that our bill to create an advisory council on climate change has become one of EPC's 5 climate change priority bills for this legislative session.
- Water Reporter will be our volunteer focus for the coming year.

Board Discussion: Thoughts on Climate Change and How to Address – Sandy

Sandy introduced the discussion by mentioning a seminar on climate change and sea level rise that he had attended, hosted by Island Institute and GMRI.

Derek cited a recent article in the *New York Times*, which may have parallels for FOCB. What can we do to promote proactive solutions? Ivy thanked him for teeing up the presentation that would follow.

Pat cited a carbon tax and other ways to stop the worst-case scenario (so far) of 4 degree rise.

Bud recommended modeling good behavior, which has a trickle-down effect on neighbors, as he and Cheryl have found on Peaks Island where they walk the island perimeter monthly and pick up trash.

Data, Advocacy, and Influence: Ocean Acidification, Climate Change, and You— Staff- led presentation and discussion by *Mike Doan, Research Associate* and *Ivy Frignoca, Casco Baykeeper*

Warming water temperatures, rising sea levels, increasing precipitation, and increasing ocean acidity are impacts of climate change that are happening here and now. Mike and Ivy discussed how climate change and coastal acidification are already impacting Maine's marine waters and the organisms that live here. They cited several examples of local impacts, such as, pitted clams, invasive green crabs, increasing incidences of lobster shell disease, thinner copepods (juvenile lobsters' first food), and shifts in the distribution and population of marine species in the Gulf of Maine.

They shared actions being taken to understand and confront climate change, including our Continuous Monitoring Station, which documents changes in the ocean's chemistry, the creation of the volunteer Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership (MOCA), and the introduction of a state bill to create a science and advisory policy council to address the impacts of climate change on Maine's marine resources. Board discussion focused on the importance of a call to action.

Baykeeper Update— *Ivy Frignoca, Casco Baykeeper*

Ivy explained our extern partnership program with the Maine School of Law, where law students provide the extra capacity she needs to do in-depth legal research. Last semester our extern law student researched and catalogued existing best environmental practices for aquaculture leases. He created a template that has been shared with state regulators and the Maine Aquaculture Association. This semester, our legal extern has created a spreadsheet of 120 bills that Ivy had identified as possibly being important to us (out of the 2,200 bills submitted in this legislative session). We can now track what is happening to these bills, allowing us time to consider how we may respond or simply stay informed as they progress through the legislative process.

Executive Director Update—*Cathy Ramsdell, Executive Director*

Mon Mar 11 Workshops: Nonprofit Financials, FY20 Operating Plan and Budget, GMRI, 3:30 – 8:00 pm The operating plan and budget will be sent to you to read before the March 11 event, where we discuss and review the plan. Cathy invited Board and staff to attend the FY20 Operating Plan and Budget Workshop on Monday, March 11 in the GMRI Conference Room. Beginning at 3:30, she will do a tutorial on how to read nonprofit financials, followed by a light dinner and a thorough overview of the operating plan and budget. This workshop gives everyone a chance to “dig in” to the document that will govern the staff’s work for the coming fiscal year. It is a chance to ask questions before the Board votes on the operating plan and budget at the March 19 Board meeting. Our FY20 begins on April 1, 2019.

Please take advantage of these upcoming events:

Mon Mar 18 Casco Bay Matters – Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Mon Mar 25 Casco Bay Matters – Jewett Hall, Southern Maine Community College, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Fri Mar 29 Fiscal New Year’s Eve Celebration in the afternoon, Andy’s Old Port Pub, 3 pm on

Tues Apr 9 Casco Bay Matters – Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Tues Apr 30 Friends Appreciation and Members Annual Meeting, Harraseeket, Freeport, 5 – 8 pm

Mon June 10 Pumpout Boat Launch, Portland Yacht Services, 100 Commercial St., time tbd

Edits for the campaign case statement text are completed, and the document is in the design phase.

At the June 18 Board meeting, Cathy and Will plan to do a short workshop about our Campaign so that all Board members know the talking points. A social time will follow as we normally do for our last Board meeting before the summer hiatus.

We have \$250,000 in cash of the \$470,000 already pledged for the Campaign for Science. We will upgrade the equipment in the Yarmouth Continuous Monitoring Station soon. Some of our monitoring instruments are 20 years old. The fund will help support our science work for this year and next year’s operating budgets.

Two more coffee meetings are scheduled so Cathy and Malcom can introduce FOCB to potential new supporters. Let us know if you have suggestions of people we should meet.

We continue to be on the lookout for new office space, although there is no indication we will be asked to leave SMCC in the near future.

Staff reviews will be done in late March or April.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.