

Friends of Casco Bay Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Commercial Street, Portland

Present: Malcolm Poole, President, Steve Bushey, Mark Green, Bud Higgins, Pat Ianni, Sandy Marsters, Althea Bennett McGirr, Seb Milardo, Derek Pelletier, Dave Kaufman, Ann Thayer, Jack Thomas, and Lori Thayer
Absent: Peter LeBourdais, Tollef Olsen, and Joan Benoit Samuelson
Staff: Mary Cerullo, Mike Doan, Will Everitt, Ivy Frignoca, and Cathy Ramsdell

Welcome – *Malcolm Poole, President*

Malcolm asked the board and staff to introduce themselves to Board nominee, Dr. Mark Green.

Introductions – Board Nominee Mark Green

Action Item: Approved appointment of Mark Green to the Board of Directors

A Minute for the Bay

Jack and Susan Thomas have just moved into their new house on the coast of Cumberland and woke up to a spectacular red sunrise over Casco Bay.

Bud Higgins discussed the impact that culling of the overpopulation of deer over the past few years has had on Peaks Island. The first authorized hunt killed over 200 deer; this year, only a few were taken. Now the herd is a more manageable population for this island and the ecosystem is healthier overall.

Board Consent Package (minutes and financials) – *Malcolm*

Action Item: Approved to accept the December 2019 minutes and the financials.

Community Engagement Committee – *Sandy Marsters, Committee Chair*

Sandy reviewed highlights of the January 6, 2020 meeting:

- The staff has is planning the transition of Mary’s position. Cathy is starting to craft a job description for a new hire, and will seek input from Sandy and staff later on this winter. Tentative plans are to open the search in April and hold interviews after the 30th celebration and public launch of the campaign are behind us.
- The December Donor Appreciation event went well.
- At a Patagonia store event on December 15, Steve Bushey, Sandy, and two other volunteers greeted shoppers to talk about Friends of Casco Bay. They raised \$3,700 to be matched by Patagonia.
- Several Board members have been doing short interviews of people associated with Friends of Casco Bay to get quotes that can be displayed with their photo in a slide show during the 30th anniversary celebration.
- Dave Kaufman has been meeting with WMTW staff about ideas to promote Friends of Casco Bay.

Board Discussion of Troy Moon and Julie Rosenbach Sustainability Presentation and Relevance to Friends of Casco Bay

Bud was impressed that two neighboring cities can work together, and their collaboration on One Climate Future should inspire other communities. We need to make sure our science is integrated into their work. Seb Milardo said 6 other towns are hiring a shared sustainability coordinator. Cathy explained that staff will review One Climate Future’s recently-completed Vulnerability Assessment and forthcoming Action Plan (due out in April) to see where our community engagement efforts may specifically join forces with the cities’ efforts. Pat Ianni mentioned that One Climate Future hosts monthly Lunch and Learn discussions on many topics, from societal to scientific changes necessary for climate change remediation. Ivy said that the Governor’s Climate Council members are starting to go into communities to discuss climate change topics and how they are related to state government actions.

Viewing of the new Friends of Casco Bay film—*Cathy Ramsdell, Executive Director*

Cathy commended Will Everitt’s leadership on this project, noting that all the B footage belongs to Friends of Casco Bay to use however we wish. Comments: “Good messaging.”

Introduction to Collaborations Policy, Politics, and Perils – *Malcolm*

Malcolm explained that the purpose of the agenda item is to engage the Board in discussion about our connections and partnerships. Cathy said there are many relationships and issues that we work on where outside observers only see the results at the end of the process. Most people are not aware of the hard behind-the-scenes work done—often over a long time—to come to agreement and accomplish these achievements. With climate change, for example,

environmentalists sometimes come from very different positions that require huge, complicated compromises and tradeoffs – or not, with ongoing agreements to disagree. Ivy noted the difference between policy work and political work; we don't do political work. We lobby for policy changes.

Baykeeper Update —*Ivy Frignoca, Casco Baykeeper*

Ivy said that the Maine Climate Council involves more than 230 participants serving on the Council and several different Working Groups, not including outside experts. Every group is charged with developing a problem statement, strategies, and projected economic impacts. Within the Coastal and Marine Working Group on which Ivy serves, she is engaged with two subcommittees: Ecosystem Resilience and Monitoring. Mike is informally participating as an advisor to Monitoring.

Ivy was asked to put together a panel on ocean climate change for the January 9 meeting of the Coastal and Marine Working Group. The presentations provided an orientation to the monitoring being done along the entire Maine coast. It became clear that Casco Bay is the focus of most of the efforts going on in marine and coastal monitoring, which may provide the model for the rest of the state.

All of our past work and the MOCA stakeholder meetings we facilitated over the summer will feed into the Monitoring group's work. Ivy was designated to facilitate the Monitoring group. Now through June, Mike and Ivy will help to craft the coastal monitoring plan. Since the Monitoring group will address more than coastal monitoring, it was suggested that Ivy re-visit whether to continue in the of facilitator.

The Ecosystem Resilience subcommittee is focusing on Stormwater Pollution. Don Witherill, head of the Water Quality Division of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Ivy are tasked with drafting work priorities for this group. The list of what they would like to accomplish will incorporate work we have done over the year.

Executive Director Update —*Cathy Ramsdell, Executive Director*

Integrated Planning

Cathy reported on another aspect of our collaborative work: Portland's Integrated Planning, which is moving into its draft phase. The goal is to create a more responsible, comprehensive approach to handling stormwater and sewage remediation. Requiring monitoring and testing will be built into the integrated plan. Improving water quality is the top priority. Our role is to remain supportive while tightly monitoring the progress, including asking, "How will this all be paid for and how much will that slow the process?" Our role will be to identify what we can we champion and what we may need to challenge.

CAD Cell

The permits for the CAD cell have been submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers and to DEP.

MS4 permit

We commented on the public draft (after commenting on multiple private drafts). The public comment period has just closed, and the EPA has 90 days to review, after which DEP will issue the general permit.

Internally

The **FY21 Operating Plan and Budget** are in development. Cathy will present a workshop to the Board before the vote to accept the budget and operating plan at the March meeting.

A **house party in Cape Elizabeth** is lined up for July 30 at a mid-century modern house built in 1972 and completely rehabbed. It was featured in *Maine Homes* magazine and in a series of four segments on WCSH recently.

Cathy noted that a draft calendar of upcoming events is in the Board packet.

A brief annual meeting will be held at the start of the April 29th event.

A Water Reporter training workshop will be held in the spring.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. and the Board went into Executive Session.