

Friends of Casco Bay
Board Meeting – Minutes
Hybrid Meeting: In-person at GMRI and Online via Zoom
Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

In Attendance

Board: Sandy, Malcolm, Kirsten, Mark, Pat, Anthony, Ellen, Janna, Deb (online), Peter (online)
Staff: Will, Heather, Sara, Ivy

Welcome – President Sandy Marsters

Sandy welcomed Anthony Moffa and Janna Rearick to the Board of Directors! Board members did a round of introductions.

Minute for the Bay: Board members shared their thoughts on the need for cruise ships and how they need to adhere to environmental regulations when they are in the Harbor. Ivy shared that there is movement to build infrastructure dockside so that cruise ships can plug into Maine's electrical grid when they are docking.

Action Item: Acceptance of Consent Agenda

Ellen moved, Malcolm seconded, PASSED

Community Engagement Committee Update and Important Water Reporter Update – Vice President Kirsten Piacentini

At the last CEC meeting we discussed the Water Reporter program and the problem that the Water Reporter app is being phasing out. Water Reporter is our observational data program where our members upload photos. We found out that Water Reporter is going away and it will be dead on people's phones in March 2024. It was specially developed for Waterkeeper Alliance organizations like ours. Initially we were disappointed, but we see a silver lining as the app is not intuitive to use. We are looking at other options including a Friends of Casco Bay branded app. We have met with a nonprofit app developer called the Commons and we have another meeting with them October 26 about a timeline and price estimate. Tomorrow we are sending out an email announcement to Water Reporters to keep them in the loop. We should have firmer news by the Water Reporter appreciation event. We think that the estimate will be approximately \$8,000 and we will know more next week; because we did not end up switching donor databases we have technology funds we can put toward this.

Kirsten also shared that we are bringing back the gift membership program. Sarah sent out an email. Remember to give her names. Board members were reminded about the upcoming Film Fest and Donor Appreciation Event.

Governance: Update on Board Recruitment – President Sandy Marsters and Ellen Grant

Sandy, Ellen, and Will met last month to talk about board development. We are proud to welcome Janna and Anthony aboard at this meeting and we recognize that it is an ongoing process. Board members received an email about the next four people that we are evaluating for proper fit with our organization given the skills, experience, and backgrounds we hope to have on our board. Last month we reviewed an assessment about what current board attributes are so we can recruit where there are gaps. We hope to have two new prospects by January. Anytime you have new ideas to nominate, please speak up. We want a pipeline of people who will fill those gaps.

6:17 – 6:25 Executive Director Update – Executive Director Will Everitt

Will shared, with Chris Gilday's permission, that Chris, our Pumpout Coordinator was diagnosed with colon cancer. He ended the season with us early and is getting treatment. Given this terrible news, our

thoughts are with Chris. This means that our end of season boat maintenance will be done by the marinas we work with rather than by Chris.

In preparation for our discussion about advocacy, Will shared that we see climate change and stormwater pollution as the two biggest threats to the Bay. These threats are interrelated: as our climate changes, it will continue to bring larger storms and more precipitation to our region. Without improving our stormwater rules, regulations, and protections, stormwater pollution will increase. We have built a great team over the past few years. We have added capacity in both our science and Baykeeping by adding Heather Kenyon's position, the Science and Advocacy Associate, to our team. This position fulfills the promise we made to build capacity in these areas through our Climate Change and Casco Bay Fund. We have a full-time Community Organizer and Volunteer Coordinator. We know it takes a community to take care of the Bay and Sara Freshley's work is to help us engage our supporters in engaging in our most important advocacy efforts.

Will shared that overall, we are in good financial shape. We are ahead of budget on income and below budget on expenses. That said, we are behind in foundation giving and in government support. The foundation giving may be a matter of timing. There are numerous foundations that we will not know their support until the end of November. Please stay tuned and know we are looking at the finances closely as we enter year end giving. We have good news on the Film Fest line item: we just got word that TD Bank is aboard as a \$5,000 sponsor, after initially telling us no, so we have exceeded our \$10k sponsorship goal and are on track with ticket sales.

Will also shared that we are close to securing 65 West Commercial Street, Suite 301 as our new home. This is a mix of open-concept and closed-door office spaces that work well for how we do our work. A major plus for this space is its location. Another major plus is the free parking spaces, a virtually unheard-of perk on the peninsula here. On Monday, we met with JB Brown's maintenance folks, the landlord. We have received the okay to build a lab space in part of the office space and we will soon have an estimate from our contractor, Sean Cooper, on the lab build-out, painting, and new flooring in part of the office space. We have a draft lease that Sandy, Pat, and Malcolm have helped comment on. We have also engaged Beth Boepple [Bep-Lee], a land use and real estate attorney with Murray, Plumb, and Murray as a pro-bono lawyer who will help us with technical parts of the lease. The lease negotiations are going well. Will said that he has news on the move: he met with one of our largest supporters. The donor committed to making her "normal" \$25,000 gift and is giving us an additional \$25,000 for the lab build-out and the move. This is great news. We will continue to fundraise for our move.

We have received more than 30 applications for our Communications Coordinator position so far, some of them look promising. The application deadline is by November 5, so we will keep you posted!

The Baykeeping and advocacy conversation was postponed to next board meeting.

The official board meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. and the board entered executive session.