

## BOW OPEN SPACES

Final minutes, Baker Public Library

Date: March 7, 2023

BOARD ATTENDEES: Harry Hadaway, Bob Dawkins, Eric Thum, Martin Murray, Marc Ferland, Frank Boucher, Ken Demain, Bob Lux; Members: Tom O'Donovan, Beth Lux

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The February minutes were approved and accepted with minor changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was approved and accepted.

There was a conversation (begun by Marc) between several members about matching funds from United Health Care, Marc's employer, as a source of extra capital for BOS funding. No resolution was reached since the idea required further investigation. UHC matching parameters will be reviewed by Marc.

NEW BUSINESS: from Bob Dawkins (out of usual order)

1. Rebranding/visioning of BOS (in part for general confusion about BOS's name suggesting its being part of town government): Martin contacted Five Rivers regarding a firm they were using for this purpose in the Portsmouth area. They would consider seeing if they are interested but wouldn't be available until fall. Bob also spoke with the President of Lakes Region Conservation Trust and learned of a Lizann Peyton who has her own consulting firm. She responded positively and has strategic planning experience in non-profit land trust conservation issues. Martin and Bob will meet with her in the near future for exploring suitability and cost. There are also concerns about bringing in new BOS board members (most are over 65) and increasing the talent pool with them. Setting a plan in motion for BOS's future is

increasingly more important. Where do we want to be in 5-10 years? Looking ahead is critical. Bob points out that 15-20 years ago, BOS almost failed because the board wasn't doing anything, the president wasn't sufficiently active etc. The board was rejuvenated but is without change in many years. We need to succeed and grow. One additional problem we are having is lack of easement boundary walkers.

2. Officers - Bob says it is time for relief for Harry from his long stint as BOS president. The June meeting is not the time for deciding this. We need a new president and VP with the term limited to three years to prevent burnout and have a flow of viewpoints. It is vital that the president enthusiastically wants the job and that person must be from within BOS. Bob also wants to establish a vetting committee to see how enthusiastic a candidate is about serving and that background checks be done.

3. Finally, Bob brought up the issue as to whether or not BOS should go on the record as taking a political stand in support or not of individuals' opinions on various conservation issues. BOS has never taken a political position. It was decided that it is not in BOS' best interest to take a political stand on conservation issues in the town.

4. Tom brought up land conservation opportunities, pointing out we need to be ready to receive money by having documents (finance, stewardship, membership, secretary reports, by-laws, old newsletters) in good shape, easily accessible, in order etc. We should hire someone to help with organizing and digitizing all BOS-pertinent documents and placed in dedicated folders, stewardship for example, in the Cloud, only for board members' access with secure login.

Martin points out we have a hosting site for the BOS web site. Scanning and file-binder creating would call for paid assistance. Tom will do a search for someone with archiving experience with a \$2000 budget which was approved by the Board. Storage space at town hall was also brought up for fire proof storage for paper documents. Martin brings up the fact that we already have

a Google account with old information archived and with abundant storage space.

5. Finally, Bob points out that he and Martin need the same database for the membership. They are using two different software packages with different input that requires blending. This needs remedying.

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

— — Current: (July 1 to Feb 28)

25 (\$810 revenue) paid regular members (down 8, \$230 less), 13 supporting (up 4, \$910 revenue, an increase of \$200), contributing 22 (up 1, \$2160 revenue), Summit Society 3 for \$4630 in total membership dues (\$4560 last year). 63 paid so far this fiscal year (66 last year). There are 9 members in first half of the year that did not renew but 6 new members for a net loss of 3. Bob sent out first and second notices to the January to March batch with some replies. Charitable donations totaled \$5330 vs \$2165 last year.

— — Active: (paid in the last 12 months):

35 regular members (down 10, 15 supporting (up 3), 29 contributing (up 1), 4 Summit society (up 1) for a total of 83 (88 last year). There is \$6060 in membership income (\$5770 last year, \$290 higher).

Bob points out that 29 contributing members paying \$80-105 each and 4 Summit Society at \$250 each creates considerable revenue.

The importance of membership was discussed again by Bob. Funds build future reserves. More importantly, membership in theory creates the board. Currently, membership accounting is

largely automated says Bob but there are still ways that it can be improved.

STEWARDSHIP: Eric says we are official members of the Land Trust Alliance. They offer a lot of conservation topics on their web site accessible with user name and password. They have about a 1000-member land trust. Fieldstone has started the survey of the Patrick Richardson easement but has encountered problems with the reference plan. It was suggested the surveyor contact Ron Klemarczyk.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: Martin met with Bob to discuss ideas of visioning. He's ready to start the spring newsletter and looking for contributions. He also mentioned advertising for the data compiler(s) for the Cloud project. The BOS article sent to the *Bow Times* did not appear in the latest edition.

TRAILS REPORT: There is a need for a new Nottingcook kiosk vinyl map for \$170 vs an aluminum-backed one at \$270. South-facing, Bob advised for a secure base for the vinyl to attach to. The Board voted for the aluminum-backed version. Marc also mentioned his UHC employer-match discussed above.

Eric brought up the Boucher easement and the fact that there are no trail maps on the web site. It was pointed out that it is private property (42 acres under conservation easement) with a snow mobile trail only. There are no hiking trails.

WRAP UP: Harry states that at our next meeting we should make a nominating committee to be set before June, ie, the next meeting with elections by May.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Lux  
Secretary  
Bow Open Spaces