

ACB of Maine Board Meeting  
April 1, 2021

ACB Minutes: 2/4/2021

Submitted: 4/1/2021

Roll Call of Board Members in Attendance:

Officers: President Sherry Belka, Vice-President Lynn Merrill, Treasurer Cheryl Peabody, Secretary Carolyn Bebee

Directors: Joel McQuade, Amber Mooney, Leona McKenna, Nick Giudice, Mary Ellen Frost

February Meeting Minutes:

Mary Ellen made a motion to accept with a second by Leona. They were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's Report:

Leona moved to accept with a second by Mary Ellen. Discussion ensued with a review of the Scholarship. The line item was listed as \$1000 and it has been amended to \$1500. This amount will not accrue from year to year. The motion carried unanimously.

Constitution and Bylaws:

The six director's positions will serve a term of 3 years. The Constitution and Bylaws will be checked to ensure

the amendments are up to date. Sherry will have the webmaster Steve Kelley archive the information.

#### Endowment Update:

Summer Camps: Leona made calls to camps for possible summer activities. Camp Molly Molasses has been sold to Cross Roads, a Christian group. Others camps explored were Camp Capella and Pine Tree Society with whom communication was only by correspondence. Camp Albiston was listed as a possibility.

Lee reported there was no answer on whether contracts were possible or if we could be excused if necessary related to the pandemic considerations. The Camps contacted outlined that only shelter would be provided and campers would need to provide their own food. Recreation was the responsibility of campers and the groups would need to hire the life guards. There are no water vehicles and campers would need to bring their own canoes and kayaks. Prices vary on the length of stay and activities. Lee will send out an email document.

Discussion ensued on whether we could move forward with a camp event due to the complexities of the pandemic. Pine Tree Camp is in the month of September. Camp Capella appears to have the most options. Nick suggested later is better and we at least need to know if money can be returned or if it will be lost. Lynn suggested a meeting with the members to determine what they

would want to do. Sherry indicated we would need to start planning soon if we were to go forward with a camp activity. Lee supported a member meeting as even if not this year ideas could be carried forward to next year.

Mary Ellen reviewed Camp Caribou in Vassalboro. She understood they provided meals. It is on a lake and has a ropes course.

Lynn made a motion not to pursue a summer camp activity this year and focus instead on the fall convention due to the uncertainty related to the pandemic. Mary Ellen seconded the motion. Joel supported the motion as the Lobster festival in July has been cancelled in Maine. Also, ACB National is holding the annual conference virtually this year.

Carson supported the fall conference as a tentative plan and we could consider a virtual meeting if necessary depending on the pandemic situation at that time. Lynn reviewed the fall convention was essential for the election of officers.

A vote was called and it was unanimous to postpone the summer recreation event for 2021.

Endowment Request Donations: It was reported that Brett, CPA said the distribution for this year is \$6500. A

question was raised whether it had to be distributed this year.

Mary Ellen made a motion to donate \$4000 to MOBALE with a second from Nick. Leona stated this was a generous offer. It was reviewed there is another funding request for a donation. Joel amended the donation to MOBALE to \$2000 with a condition that if they could not carry out the sports camp this year the donation would be carried forward to 2022.

Sherry reviewed the Board may want to keep the money for ACB member activities. Lynn indicated we had \$6500 to distribute. The question was raised if not spent does it go into our fund for next year. Sherry stated it would stay in our endowment. Sherry indicated it was not time sensitive. Nick called the question for a vote for the amendment of \$2000 for MOBALE. All in favor with one vote not in favor. The motion passed.

Pine Tree Guide Dog Users (PTGDU) submitted a request for \$500 for Web Development. Carolyn moved to accept with a simultaneous second by Cheryl and Lynn. The motion passed.

It was noted letters would need to go out to MOBALE and PTGDU. Sherry will draft the letters and send out for review.

### Scholarship Next Steps:

There needs to be an application developed. Issues were raised if the scholarship could affect financial aid if it goes to the school. Leona reviewed in the past a scholarship applications went to ACB National and they notified ACB of Maine of the applicant applying.

Information historically available from John McMahon identified qualifications necessary to apply included: resident, blind or visually impaired, enrolled in post secondary program, half time to a full time student, a minimum GPA identified, and an essay by the applicant. A question was raised should joining ACB be a requirement if a scholarship is awarded? Also, how to advertise the scholarship needs to be determined. Lynn and Mary Ellen will form a task force to create the scholarship application and ways to advertise by May 1, 2021.

### Membership Dues Clarification:

New members to ACB of Maine who pay dues by June 30, 2021 will be members for the year 2021. New members paying dues from July through December 2021 will be members paid in full for the year 2022.

Cheryl reviewed that she submits new member information to ACB National on specific times permitted. Three new members were submitted in March. The next

submission to ACB National for new members is June 30th. This allows new members to vote at the ACB National Annual Convention and to access and receive all information from ACB National.

A motion was made to adjourn. There was a second and the motion carried unanimously.