

ACB of Maine Board Meeting
2/4/2021

ACB Minutes: 12/3/2020
Submitted: 2/4/2021

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 Absent: Mary Ellen Frost

December Meeting Minutes:

Lynn made a motion to accept the minutes with a second by Cheryl. They were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Leona moved to accept with a second by Cheryl. They were accepted.

Constitution and By Laws: Sherry will check with Steve Kelley to make sure that she sent the Constitution and By-Laws that were approved at the fall 2020 Convention to be posted on the ACB of Maine website.

Donation Iris Network: A thank-you letter was sent by Iris Network. Cheryl will scan and send to Sherry. The letter

will be forwarded to Steve Kelley to be archived on the Website.

Carolyn requested an agenda item to review Article V Section 1 "Any voting member of this organization may make, and second motions, propose nominations, and serve on committees."

Carolyn Bebee is a non-voting member and currently is on the Board, in the position of Secretary and is Chair of the Membership Committee. Section I states one must be a voting member to be on a committee. Lynn moved to have the question on non-voting members be sent to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. It was seconded by Amber.

The 2021 Budget: Cheryl submitted the budget to the Board prior to the meeting. Lynn moved to approve the Budget with a second by Amber. The motion passed with an abstention by Leona.

Endowment: Cheryl reported that the balance was about \$199,000. Sherry said at this point it may be close to \$201,000. Sherry stated the distribution would be about \$10,000. \$2500 has been allotted for the Convention plus last years allotment may still be available?

Recreation: The intent was to determine if a recreation activity could be done in addition to the convention. Ideas were explored and Camp Molly Molasses and Camp Capella were possibilities. Leona introduced Bruce Albiston Resort which is near Sugarloaf as a location to consider. They have zip lines and water sports. Cheryl indicated with the pandemic maybe group recreation may not be an option this year. Amber noted the need for 6 feet a part and the need for bus transportation could present a challenge. Until the majority of folks are vaccinated a recreational group activity may not be possible to do safely with a pandemic. Amber mentioned concerns in this area as well. Lynn suggested appointing another Activity Committee for July or August. Perhaps we could obtain a contract and cancel without penalty if not feasible. There was support to continue the Convention and add an activity onto the Convention. If not able to do so, then the money can be allocated into another activity that will benefit individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Other Ideas: Lynn asked whether there are other ideas to explore. Nick said there is a challenge on how to support Maine people and keep current members and new members involved. Ideas of socially going out like Zoom Disco. Also, outdoor activities are less concerning. However, transportation is still necessary and remains a challenge during the pandemic.

Sherry suggested gathering information from the three recreation places. Sherry noted that having the group out in community places pulls in members and emphasizes inclusion. Joel mention ideas from the Membership Committee for audio key chains, business cards etc. to be used as part of recruiting new members. He asked if money is available from ACB of Maine to support the costs if they appear feasible. Sherry said, “ Yes.”

Finance Committee: Lynn said the committee was working on a budget and a meeting to look at Investment policy and distribution. Cheryl extended thanks to Lynn and Sherry with their assistance in setting up the Budget. Cheryl also talked with Brett at One River CPA in Oakland and recommends that ACB of Maine go with their service. He has a contract that needs to be signed. Lynn suggested that the Finance Committee look over the contract prior to signing and for Board approval. Cheryl confirms this is a good idea and she will provide the contract for the Committee to review. Cheryl reported that we now have the PayPal hooked to the Bank Account.

Membership Committee: The Membership Committee met on 1/28/2021. Carolyn is the Chair. Members include: Sherry, Cheryl, Leona, Mary Ellen, Lynn and Joel. A short range and long range plan was developed. The first

activity is to call past members and new folks who may consider joining ACB of Maine.

Constitution and By Laws: Nick is the Chair of the Committee. Nick, Sherry and Lynn will meet on 2/11/2021 at 7:00PM to review the Scholarship Info and the Constitution related to Blind and Visually Impaired and voting and non-voting members. Also, members will review that the majority of membership will be Blind or Visually Impaired.

Motion to Adjourn by Leona with second by Nick

Action Plan:

- Sherry and Lee will call Recreation Facilities to explore possibility of summer recreation, cost, contracts etc. including need to cancel the contract due to the Pandemic situation if necessary.

- Constitution and By Laws Committee: Meeting regarding changes and clarification with the Constitution and By Laws.

- Finance Committee: Review contract with One River CPA.

-Iris Network Thank-you Letter: Cheryl will scan and send to Sherry so that it can then be sent to be archived on the Website.

-Membership: Meeting to continue plan and efforts to have past members return and identify ways to recruit new members.

-Lynn suggested appointing another committee to explore activity for July or August 2021