

Minutes for the ACB of Maine
Board meeting
December 3, 2020

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, Lee McKenna Directors Absent: Mary Ellen Frost, Nick Giudice

November Meeting Minutes:

Lynn made a motion to approve the minutes with changes and corrections. It was seconded by Cheryl. There was no discussion and there was a vote to approve. Joel abstained as he was not able to receive the minutes by email. Amber and Lee abstained as they were not at the meeting in November. There were no further comments or corrections and minutes were approved. Note: There is no need for abstention as there is not a Vote on approval of the minutes. Clarification follows.

Lynn offered clarification that voting on the minutes is not necessary. There can be a call for corrections and if there are no corrections, the minutes are accepted. One cannot vote against the minutes as one needs to offer corrections to the minutes. After the corrections are made, the minutes can be accepted. The Chair (or in our case, the President) can assume there would be a motion to accept the minutes. It does not need to be voted on because it is never in order to object to the acceptance of minutes. If one objects, one must offer a correction. The Chair (or President) can simply ask if there are corrections to the minutes. If corrections are offered, the minutes should reflect that the minutes were **ACCEPTED AS CORRECTED**. If there are no corrections offered, the minutes should reflect that the minutes were **ACCEPTED AS DISTRIBUTED**. This is according to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. When the organization's constitutions and bylaws are silent of a matter, RRONR is the governing document.

Treasurers Report: The report needs to be accepted rather than approved. Lynn made a motion to accept the treasurers report. It was seconded by Amber. Joel abstained. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Website

Sherry reviewed that Steve indicated that the changes were being made for the Board Members and Officers. On the Homepage Sherry is working on the President's message. Sherry asked for suggestions and Amber suggested the possibility of links for gifts during the holiday season such as tech gifts etc. Sherry reviewed that all information and communication to Steve regarding the website needs to go through her. The recent By-Laws and Constitution updates will be posted on the website.

Carolyn asked about the availability of putting the minutes on the website so that they were accessible to viewers. History was reviewed with Deon building the original website. Also there are considerations of time limitations. Minutes are archived on the website but are not available without a password. Also, Darlene and John McMahon worked on archiving ACB of Maine information but it's not accessible to the general public at this time. A password is necessary to view the archived information.

By-Laws and Scholarship Question:

Carolyn asked if the By-Laws and Scholarship could be reviewed. In both areas voting members of ACB of Maine and the Scholarship recipient need to be Legally Blind. Lynn explained that the Finance Committee handles the Scholarships. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee is responsible for any recommended changes in this area. All need to be approved by the full membership at the October Annual Meeting.

Donation to the Iris Network:

The draft letter was reviewed that would be sent to the Iris Network. "ACB of Maine would like to make a generous donation of \$5,600.00 to The Iris Network. We would like \$4,000.00 earmarked for Iris Park Apartment units that house individuals who are blind or visually impaired and who are behind in their rent and/or cost share. We would like to earmark the remaining funds of \$1,500.00 for seniors who need devices to assist them in remaining as independent as possible. These devices could include, glasses, low cost magnifiers, sun lenses, marking supplies, canes, ice grippers for boots/shoes, accessible calendars, etc." Amber reviewed that all members in the apartments are not visually impaired. It was confirmed that the rent assistance was designated for individuals who are Blind or

Visually Impaired living in the Iris Park Apartments (IPA). Lynn noted a need to correct the amount of \$1500 to \$1600 to total \$5600.

Endowment:

It was reported that the endowment is close to \$199,000. No recommendation for changes were made by the Manager and they were continuing to monitor inflation. Carolyn asked if there was a written report from Jay, the Endowment Manager. Cheryl confirmed that there was a lengthy report and she suggested that she will include the ending balance of the Endowment in the Treasurer's report going forward. Discussion ensued on what the original Endowment amount was. Sherry indicated that the ACB of Maine Private Foundation was established 1992. It was indicated that it was established many years before this date.

The purpose of the Endowment is to further the Mission of ACB of Maine. Other activities could include: How to use Technology services; Any activity that would encourage people to join ACB of Maine; Spring Camps like Camp Camp Molly Molasses were successful in the past. In January could get folks together to share ideas. Lynn mentioned areas that could be covered were online grocery shopping and home delivery. Joel reviewed how extensive the information is on ACB Radio. Lynn indicated that sometimes there is so much out there it can result in information overload. Discussion continued with Joel's description of his new Zoom Text replacement program of Dolphins Super Nova. Sherry mentioned some of the challenges with some texts such as "Activate the Control" and what does that exactly mean?

Membership Committee:

Suggestion from Sherry to have an ACB of Maine all membership call to brainstorm ideas to increase membership. Also, Sherry suggested looking at ACB National's Mission and perhaps tailor our Mission in some ways.

Sherry shared a conversation that she had with her sons who are in their 30's. The connections no longer seem to be with in person organizations and clubs but via Technology and Social Media forums. She indicated that they said their communication had really shifted to technology and that's how they really connect with people. The clubs and organizations are not the primary way now. The plan was a "Come One, Come All" to

brainstorm. Joel mentioned the ACB Radio Zoom. Lynn indicated the Landline phone was our Zoom.

The end of January was the goal for the initial brainstorming session on Membership. Volunteers for the Membership Committee: Sherry, Cheryl, Lynn, Lee, Amber

Identifying a New Accounting Firm and Accountant:

Cheryl reached out to folks who were self-employed who would have accountants but had not heard back. She posted on Facebook for recommendations. Sherry has a possible accountant contact in the Waterville area that she will forward to Cheryl. Lynn mentioned H&R Block as a possibility.

With no further discussion, Lee made a motion to adjourn with a second by Amber.

Action Plan:

- 1) Cheryl and Sherry: Donation to the Iris Network: The Letter and check will be sent to the Iris Network for \$5600 by the end of December.
- 2) Carolyn: Schedule Membership Committee Planning Meeting by the end of December or early January. The goal is to have an ACB of Maine all Member Meeting the end of January to brainstorm on Membership Ideas. Others to be Invited?
- 3) Sherry: The President is working with Steve on updating the Website. Sherry is working on the President's Message and asked for suggestions. Amber suggested links for gifts in Tech and other areas for the Holidays. All members may submit ideas to Sherry.
- 4) Sherry will forward a Waterville Accountant contact she has to Cheryl.
- 5) Cheryl will continue the search for an Accountant in the Waterville area for ACB of Maine.