

Senior College of Belfast Board Meeting

July 14, 2021 (via Zoom)

Call to Order: President Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM.

Present: Nancy Perkins, Brenda Smith, Jim Owen, Deirdre Good, Ron Jarvella, Jim Taber, Elisabeth Pollack, Elizabeth Sterner, Al Arthur
Absent: Martha Laitin, Rebecca Jessup, John Economy, David Gregory

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: BrendaSmith reported that there was an issue she was not certain about and would like to delay acceptance of the Treasurer's Report until August. She did report that \$460 had been collected in 2021-2022 Membership and Summer class fees. CourseStorm has been initiated with no problem. Brenda expressed concern about financial stability unless we market fall classes efficiently. Summer fees were low but Elisabeth Pollack reminded the Board that Summer classes were never intended to be a source of financial gain but to basically break even. Last year during the pandemic we had 308 paid memberships roughly 75% of the previous year and approximately \$12,000 in course revenues representing only 40% of 2019-2020 course revenues. On a bright note Hutchinson Center will only charge us rent for 3 quarters in the coming year which amounts to \$13, 700. Brenda does not believe we should do an annual appeal at this time so we must assure that classes are well attended and membership numbers rise.

She also announced that our long time accountant Mike Nickerson would be retiring but she will meet with those taking over his accounts. While a new budget would have normally been compiled by this time it was difficult to do so not knowing what the fall would bring as far as in person classes and the return to the Center. A new budget will be forwarded to the Board in August. The first quarter for the Waldo County grant is upon us and we need to hear from them shortly. Brenda had mailed out the Tax Returns for 2020 to the Board and asked that all let her know if they have questions.(Nancy will send a reminder). It was also discussed that Belfast Senior College should have a Conflict of Interest statement from all Board members. Nancy Perkins will bring a sample to the next Board meeting.

Old Business: The Hutchinson Center will allow business as usual this fall. Jim Owen asked about coffee, cookies, and refreshments and Nancy reported "yes" they may be offered. Elisabeth Pollack reported that she had ordered refreshments from Bell the Cat for Sandi Cirillo's Summer course and she would speak to them regarding a contract for the rest of the year. Nancy also reported that the Center is holding an Open House on August 4 and we are invited to have a table with brochures, etc. **(Please note this Open House has been postponed to September, no date yet).**

Brenda had reported under the Treasurer's Report that all was proceeding well with CourseStorm and Al Arthur concurred.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Committee Report: Deirdre had to leave for another meeting so there was no formal report.

Nominating Committee: Jim had previously mailed the final report of the Nominating Committee and discussed the excellence and expertise of the nominees. Ron Jarvella announced it was a terrific slate because “I don’t know any of them, so there are no retreads.” This was followed by appreciative chuckles. Nancy, on behalf of the Board, thanked Jim for the work of the Committee and praised members for their diligence and devotion to the task. The slate will be announced next month and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

A discussion followed regarding the Annual Meeting and it was agreed to hold it on Thursday, September 30 between sessions. There was further discussion about serving a light lunch and since there was no longer a quorum this item would be put to a vote in August.

Brenda Smith suggested that since 42% of the Board be new members that an orientation was in order. All agreed and Nancy will ask Martha Laitin to chair this effort between the Annual Meeting and the first Board meeting in October. Jim Owen brought up the idea of a Leadership session for Senior College members which might work well during Winterim. This will be explored.

New Business

Nancy had sent a list of Fall Classes which included several new ones not yet approved. Several Board members had felt that the Board should review some of the work of this Committee to assure that a wide range of classes be available and that they attract others rather than just those with an academic bent. Several members felt that the current list was quite good, diverse, and interesting. Jim Owen felt that he would have difficulty picking just 2 classes from the list. Brenda Smith, on the other hand, felt like there was nothing offered that interested her at the current time. These two points of view can give some guidance to the Curriculum Committee in the future. Elisabeth Pollack reminded the Board that it is not unusual to have a Curriculum where you might want to take 4 or 5 classes one Session and none the next. We must keep this in mind. Nancy pointed out that several classes are in the less “academic” stream and could be called “fun” classes. There was a suggestion made to hold a joint meeting between the Board and the Curriculum Committee. Nancy will present this to the Curriculum Committee.

Further discussion on the Curriculum issue included comments that more Science offerings were needed, courses that attracted younger Seniors, and consideration for different times including evenings. Al Arthur reminded the group that Zoom allowed for spontaneous classes that could be offered any time and not be a part of a given Session. Nancy also mentioned that the Maine Senior College Association listed courses available to all Senior College members throughout the State. The monthly newsletter listing current classes can be viewed at :

<https://www>. Elisabeth Pollack asked about the Catalog for Fall Session and Nancy said she was working on it. Elisabeth will be happy to assist. These can be mailed to non-computer users but placed in key spots in town.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Perkins for Rebecca Jessup, Secretary