

Senior College of Belfast Board Meeting  
August 11, 2021 (via Zoom)

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

Present: Nancy Perkins, Beth Sterner, Al Arthur, Jim Owen, Rebecca Jessup, Deirdre Good, Brenda Smith, Martha Laitin, Jim Taber, Elisabeth Pollock, David Greeley.

Absent: John Economy, Ron Jarvella

Observers: Bob Adler, Mayo Bullock, Richard Koralek.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the July meeting were accepted.

Since three future board members were there to observe, Nancy asked that we all go around and introduce ourselves, which was done.

Treasurer's Report:

- Brenda went over the report, which shows that July was a very slow month; she went over the specifics in the report. We paid director and officers insurance of \$1,200 and annual member fee of \$80 to Belfast Chamber of Commerce.
- Our accountant, John Nickerson, has not sent us a bill for a couple of months, nor have we gotten financial statements for July yet although Brenda sent the information to him. He is retiring and Brenda understands that he will be handing us off to MTA accounting.
- Financial statements for last year were attached and sent out with the Treasurer's Report. Finance Committee has not met to review these yet, or to create budget for this operating year. Last year, because the pandemic created so many unknowns, we operated using a rolling budget for the whole year. Our fiscal year ends on June 30, and our membership year starts on Sept. 1, and the new board begins on October 1. Because of ongoing uncertainties about the coming year, Brenda postponed the Finance Committee meeting. We have plenty of money. We have several CDs coming to maturity in October. Since CD rate now is the same as savings rate, Brenda expects to propose that we cash in one CD and put it back into savings to have as a buffer.
- Jim Owen commented that the apparent loss of \$5000 in ordinary income would not be there if we hadn't given a grant of \$10,000 to WCAP, even after such a challenging year. As an organization we have gotten through the last year very successfully.
- Brenda said that our operating model for the year worked because we didn't have to pay rent or refreshments. We dropped the price of our courses, and reached out to people outside of the Belfast area, even from outside Maine. There was some discussion.
- Registration is not yet open for the fall because the question of re-opening in-person classes is still up in the air, is under New Business.
- The Treasurer's Report is accepted.

Old Business

Since Ron Jarvella was absent, we did not have an update about the WCAP grant. Nancy explained the grant to the observers. Our grant requires a written quarterly report, which the board has not yet received. Ron may have it but we don't.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee: Since we don't know what we'll do about in-person classes yet, we don't know what the curriculum will include. Deirdre asked Al to screen-share the list of courses. We had three zoom classes and nine in-person lined up. The screen showed number of people signed up on the understanding that the classes would be in-person at the Hutchinson center. We know that Sandy Cirillo, Marjorie Arnett and Lila Nation will not teach via Zoom. Nancy proposed that we move the agenda item on in-person or fall classes up and discuss it now.

New Business:

Fall Session: In person or Zoom?

The University's policy is that classes will go on, but everyone must be vaccinated to take a class. That came out last Tuesday and Nancy sent it out to the board. She convened the Executive Committee last week, and invited Arlin Larson and Pete Reilly, both past presidents of SCB, to come. At the end of the meeting, four people felt we can't hold in-person classes because of conditions in Waldo County. Since then, conditions have gotten worse, with increasingly high rate of infections, including the Covid Delta variant. It's a very sad time for SCB, as we have all been looking forward to meeting back at the Hutch, with refreshments and camaraderie. However, will people even come? Pete Reilly was adamant that he and Maggie would not come, and Nancy hears that more and more.

The first Zoom class is Sept 21. First in-person class is Sept 23. David Greely asked if we couldn't postpone a decision until September, but we have to let the University know whether we'll rent the classrooms, and there are other issues. There was discussion about how soon the current surge in Covid might pass, how other organizations are handling this, whether the decision should be left up to individuals, risk of breakthrough infections, etc. Bob Adler brought up our insurance as directors, and our fiduciary responsibility for the health of SCB. Brenda responded that pivoting to Zoom this semester would not put our financial health at risk. We are well funded. Bob's concern, though, was if we hold live classes and someone gets sick, then what might our liability exposure be. Al brought up that if we book the Hutchinson center and students don't show up, we'll lose money through refunds and the cost of rent. Deirdre said that a number of other ME SCs have been prohibited by UME from offering any courses in person. Elisabeth said that most ME SCs operate through the UME and run their businesses through UME. We don't. We operate independently and rent space from the Hutchinson Center. Nancy added that Portland and Falmouth operated under the University of Southern Maine.

Jim added that one of the outbreaks here in Waldo County was in our own Emergency Room. Nancy said she will send out an email to the membership depending on what we decide, and will include a link to all the other SCs in Maine. She said that one disheartening aspect of shifting to zoom is that we have an annual meeting in September, and we were planning to have lunch from Bell the Cat.

Bob asked if we could go through the classes and specify which teachers won't teach on Zoom. This was referred to the Curriculum Committee, and Bob was invited to go to one of their meetings. There was additional discussion of the potential effect. Zoom classes can be added to the roster at any time.

Rebecca moved that for fall semester of 2021, all our classes be Zoom only. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

Nancy will call Hutchinson center. Rebecca asked whether we have to have a certain number at the annual meeting, but there is no required number.

Jim Owen: Nominating committee listed the new members: Bob Adler, Marjorie Arnett, Mayo Bullock, Doug Chamberlin, Richard Koralek and Brian Richardson. Rebecca said she would also like to renew her membership on the board. Slate of new board members should be published, and Jim will write an announcement to send to the membership, which will include short bios.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Jessup,  
Secretary