

BOTC MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2024

Attending: Mary, Tom, Val, Diane, Janine, Pam, Deb, Lori M, Lynn S, Bob W, Bob B, Ilene, Lynda, Gabby D, Barb F, Jan B

Mary called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

APPROVE MARCH MINUTES – Mary Willmuth:

Ilene motioned to approve the March Minutes; Janine seconded. All approved.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Mary Willmuth

Thanks to all involved in moving our upcoming agility and tracking events forward. New events are also in the works, but power outages have prevented those in charge to attend. Mary will review some points provided for the fun day as well as possibly a December dinner, always keeping the budget in mind. Membership renewals are complete with only one member not renewing and 2 new member applicants. There will be new and unexpected expenses for obedience and agility that have not been budgeted but that we need to get. Mary requests presentations be limited to 10-minute slots to keep the meeting moving.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Tom O’Brien

Nothing much to add to the reports sent out this morning. March is quiet expense-wise, but that will certainly change in April. Mary asked Tom to work with Diane to update the membership and email listing. No need to approve the Financial Reports.

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Diane Sullivan

Now that we have passed the deadline and have all the paid members, I will update the mailing list and distribute to members. I had been using the last BOTC member email as my list until I completed an update and for some reason Pam wasn't on it and I added Bob's new email to the list, just to get things out quickly until after the April meeting. We'll get it cleaned up. That's it.

AGILITY – Tom O’Brien

April 19,20,21, 2024 / July 24,25, 2024

The April trial opens 2 weeks from tomorrow and we're still on track. We've had some responses to my request for help. We need help, particularly for Friday set up and clean-up on Sunday. We'll need to make transportation decisions soon. We need volunteers to drive the Judge to the events on Friday and Saturday mornings around 6:30 am and return him later in the afternoon. We also need someone to take the Judge to the airport around mid-day on Sunday. The Judge is staying at what used to be LaQuinta on Williston Road, near Al's French Fries. Pam offered the ride back to his hotel or to an airport. Janine asked about set-up times on Friday – 8-10 am is set up, 10am the trial starts. Barb F will help with set-up. Tom noted that the Volunteer List will go on the website probably by the weekend, keeping in mind there are no times allotted to the jobs as it depends on the flow of the trial. Pam requested Tom post sign-up information on Facebook, so non-members can help. Val also requested club members not showing in the lower classes to please come to help in the afternoon. Since upper level competitors will be done in the morning or early afternoon and be off-site, it's a dire need for club members to help. Mary asked about sign-up numbers. Tom said we're in the 200s on all days, not as high as in the past, but again we haven't had the level of competition of other trial sites that we have now. The cut-off is next Tuesday or Wednesday, so still a little more entry time. Mary suggested a type of "roving ambassador" to talk with people and get their input. Dave H suggested a suggestion box. Pam agreed that exhibitors like being able to interact with club members, but also suggested a comment board where people could stick their post-it notes. Barb F said she's happy to talk with people, but it's her first AKC Agility Trial, but can touch base with people socially. Gabby D is happy to help with that too. Mary suggested Gabby and Bob could organize a noteboard with post-it notes for feedback. Barb F may help with this too. Janine is bringing some things from the trailer for set-up and offered to bring some poster boards as well.

TRACKING – Lynda Morgan & Ilene Morgan

April 7, 2024 / May 5, 2024

After getting 8 inches of snow today, it ought to prove an interesting challenge. Ilene noted we have tracklayers and everything is all scheduled. Michael has been informed and has reservations at Shore Acres, which was the only place available because of the eclipse. The trial is full. Val noted we have all alternates for both the TD and TDX and no one has contacted her with weather concerns at this point. Ilene said she's not thought much about the May Tests yet, other than Janine is secretary and already has an entry. Ilene noted that they're hoping that she and Lynda will be able to judge that test and not need the outside judge expenses. We'll work on that after the April Tests. Ilene confirmed with Tom that Val will have all the necessary checks needed for this weekend.

OBEDIENCE/RALLY – Pam Loeb

October 19,20, 2024 R/O

Pam noted that Nancy has handled all the applications. At a committee meeting on March 20, we arrived at entry fees, start times and which classes for each sport. Decided 2 trials on Saturday will be consecutive, not concurrent. Determined when the premium list needs to be completed and have plans to work on it. Ribbons are all ordered and a bit more expensive this year resulting from shipping issues last year. Pam also noted that she found someone who makes little dogs from the rosette streamers that would cost less than the gift card we usually purchase. So, committee agreed and they've been ordered, in coordinating ribbon colors for the HIT, and High Combined, and High Triple. Still need to come up with a fundraising raffle, big ticket item in addition to Nancy's and Lori's beautiful quilts and our usual raffle. Liz H is our fundraising person for this, so please contact her with any ideas. Pam confirmed as Mary asked to be notified of the next committee meeting.

IDEAS FOR NEW EVENTS – Nancy Suarez

Unfortunately, Liz and Nancy are not here tonight. Mary read through some notes from Nancy. They will put off reviewing the by-laws for a month or so for now. Tom will send Nancy some of the old discussions during the last by-law review to give some background. Val also gave Nancy a marked-up copy of the last by-law review as well as the operating procedures, which are completely out of context on how we are operating the club. Mary thanked Tom and Val and hopes we get this completed so we are doing what we say we're doing but try to keep it simple. Mary noted that Nancy planned on sending out a club email to get ideas about new events. A fun day and Fast CAT were the main interests of people so far. A fun day is likely the direction we're heading in late summer, early fall, possibly as a half-day and possibly with potluck, aiming for revenue neutral, since it has not been budgeted. Mary suggested maybe charging \$10 and is thinking September. The committee is thinking about demos of various dog sports, with opportunities for members (& non-members?) to try them. Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, Scent Work, Tricks, Fetch, etc. Decisions depend on who's willing to volunteer to lead a small demo, etc., very similarly to how it was run last time. Bob B will tell us about Brook Run, which also has a pond, a pool and hiking trails. Bob B noted that Brook Run is at a lady's house with a dog day camp and next to that is about a half-acre fenced area with a lot of agility equipment, and could have an area for obedience too, etc. The owner expressed concern on number of dogs and possible dog conflicts, and suggested charging it out for 15-dogs at a time, but Bob did not get that cost yet. Discussions were temporarily muddled by an additional club member asking questions of the owner. Dave H noted that his wife felt the equipment was tea-cup sized, but Bob said she has new equipment and planned to send photos. Mary noted that our last fun day had only about 20 people doing different activities. Bob noted that we could order pizza, use a grill, or a food truck or pot luck. Brook Run is in Bolton just the other side of Richmond, about a half-hour from Burlington. Bob also noted another venue in Jericho, Mill's River Park, near Brown's River, with a full off-leash area, a river, hiking trails, picnic tables, grills, etc., but we'd need to provide all equipment. Mary noted it's often crowded, so area control is not an option. Mary asked for those in favor of moving forward. All agreed. Dave H noted Farr Field in Waterbury may be cheaper than Brook Run. Bob will add this venue to the list for the committee to review.

DATABASE / WEBSITE UPDATE – Bob Bolduc

Website: Bob has done some work, updating and color-coding the 2024 calendar, listing our meetings, agility practices/trials, obedience practices/trials, and tracking tests. The approved minutes have been added also. A subcommittee would be useful for content to review things like what's new, with photos of recent trials, a little write-up for background. As pages are updated, the date will show on the bottom of each page. Pam suggested including brags. Mary suggested including post-it comments from exhibitors and perhaps member write-ups, etc.

Database: Nothing new at this point and research is in progress. Mary agreed we should push that into the future. For now, a spreadsheet will suffice. The recorded minutes are working well too. Mary thanked Bob and Tom for their work on this.

VERMONT FEDERATION – Mary McFaun

Mary noted that the 626 bill has stalled in appropriations. The pet shop 622 bill has also been postponed to next week due to power outages. Val asked who Jen is sending out the emails to when asking us for input. VT Fed sent this to each club representative. Mary thought Pam did for BOTC. Pam noted that she needs Diane's current email address, to have her share with the club or Pam will use an updated list and forward it herself. Diane noted she's already sent Pam her email address, etc.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Mary Willmuth

Mary noted the time and will postpone discussion on the 2nd applicant as she's not here tonight, as well as revisiting the new member application and the Welcome Committee.

New applicants: Gabby is here and Jan was to be available by phone. Mary introduced Gabby, who helped at our obedience trial and is full of enthusiasm and a great worker. Mary asked Gabby to say a few words. Gabby worked with Pam Bartlett last year, observing her training classes, has had dogs for her lifetime, her current dog is a mixed-breed named Rue, and started with AKC events last year. She loves training and is excited to be a part of as many activities as she can and looks forward to any help offered. Mary asked Jan for her input, but Jan was not available. Moving forward, Mary asked Gabby to sign off during the club vote. Mary asked for the membership vote for Gabby. All confirmed acceptance. Gabby returned and Mary informed her that

she's now a full member of BOTC, with Pam and Lori as her official application endorsements, and that she was unanimously confirmed. Gabby was excited and thanked everyone. Mary then asked about Jan's application. Tom noted that we cannot move forward and should put this off until we can address it the way we should. Then Jan appeared in the nick of time. Jan introduced herself. She's moved here to North Hero from Erie, PA and been schooled as a vet tech working in emergency in Cleveland for 15-20 years, always involved in the medical aspect of it. She'd like to get her current 2 dogs involved in agility. Her older 6-yo is now in the open AKC level and her younger 2-yo is just starting. Jan's never been in an actual training club and would like to learn from others and be involved in helping at the trials. Mary asked Jan to sign off for the club member vote. Jan has Flat-Coated Retrievers. Mary asked for the membership vote for Jan. Bob noted the count was unanimously in favor. Mary asked for any other input. Lori noted she's very interested in Fetch. Mary agreed she'd love to see us do some practice Fetch. Lori would like to be part of that committee, and Mary will make Nancy and Liz aware. Mary also asked Bob to see if there's a way to identify Board members during these meetings. Deb L also suggested that we introduce ourselves at meetings so people can see who we are. Jan returned and Mary welcomed her to the club membership. Members introduced themselves. Mary asked for a motion to adjourn. Mary M motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Dave H and Lori M. Meeting adjourned.

As usual, the next BOTC meeting will be held on the first Thursday of the month: May 2, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Sullivan, Secretary