

## BOTC MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2025

Attending: Nancy S, Tom O, Bob B, Pam L, Janine B, Rachel P, Nolan & Renata B

Online: Mary W, Diane S, Lynne S, Cheryl S, Deb L, Marty A, Cassy L, Gabby D, Bob W

Mary W called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tom O'Brien began discussion of the slate presented by the Nominating Committee & noting with the new club members on the slate, there will be a lot of learning to be done. Here's the proposed slate:

President: Marty Abair  
Vice President: Cassy LaMothe  
Secretary: Eva Fraser-Harris  
Treasurer: Tom O'Brien  
At Large: Noreen Sila

Deb L had a few questions. Why was the slate so late in getting out (receiving it this morning) & not giving members enough time making it difficult to vote? This is not in line with the bylaws. Also, how much experience do these new members have regarding AKC rules & procedures? Mary W suggested each nominee say a few words about themselves briefly listing their experience levels. Mary also noted that she & Tom have discussed holding a mock AKC hearing to educate members in the AKC process. Tom O responded to the late notice saying that this year was especially difficult creating a slate of officers as no one wanted to run & also noting that the Committee tried to keep AKC experience in mind. It took this long to create a willing slate.

### INTRODUCTIONS

Cassy L noted that she's been involved with AKC since 2001, as well as being a previous BOTC member & working with GMGRC on their agility trials before they became BOTC trials. Cassy has a CDX as well & competed in multiple venues in multiple clubs & teaches agility at Show Me The Biscuit. She is pretty well-versed with the AKC rules. Cassy would like to find a way to facilitate how we can get to know everyone.

Marty A also noted that she's got experience & been doing agility since 2006 & AKC Agility since 2012. In addition to AKC Agility, she's done Rally, Fetch & taken a tracking seminar with Ilene. She's been a member of the NOMAD agility club since around 2007, a Steering Committee member for many years & president for two years. Marty's also chaired NOMAD's USDAA trial for 3 years & have chaired their CPE trial since its' inception in 2016. Marty used to run Pembroke Welsh Corgis & now have four Shetland Sheepdogs - two actively competing, one that I hope to debut in April & one who plays on her own terms.

Mary W, out-going President, took a moment to say goodbye as President & noted she's had a fun year as President & appreciates all the support she received. She thanked everyone for their contributions. She will be Chair of the Fetch Test & the Obedience/Rally Trials. As a member for about a year & a half when elected, Mary thanked the membership for their trust & support. Mary thanked Bob B for putting today's event together. Mary runs her Sheltie in obedience/rally & agility. She trains in agility at SMTB, has performance tricks, CC, & farm dog titles. Mary feels we're passing the slate to some good people.

Nancy S, out-going Vice President, has an elderly Cardigan Welsh Corgi needing hospice care now, & a sassy 8-year-old Tibetan Terrier & does rally & scent work & other areas to keep the Tibetan entertained. She's enjoyed being the club VP & helping to bring the club fetch test on board. She's also the trial secretary for the rally & obedience trials. Mary thanked her service.

Diane S, out-going Secretary & long-term BOTC member, & on the Fetch Committee again, has had Golden Retrievers and English Springer Spaniels for decades, with various titles in obedience/rally, agility/jumpers, tracking, trick dog, CGC, & now fetch & farm dog & some scent work. She boards dogs in her home & currently has 2 dogs of her own: a retired almost 16-yo ESS who currently needs a lot of geriatric care – and a goofy 2-yo GR, who's not yet ring ready, but got her fetch title & farm dog title, so far. Mary thanked Diane for her consistent help & being part of a great team of fun & comradery.

Tom O, Treasurer & long-time club member, shared that he & Doris both do agility, he is trial chair & Doris is trial secretary of the club agility trails and have been for recent years, & said he tries to keep quiet. Mary thanked him for his club experience, his knowledge of club history, his advice & coaching this year that he shares graciously & with patience.

Bob B, is hosting this live zoom meeting & does a lot of the BOTC IT stuff, does a bit of obedience & may do fetch & tracking with his French pointer, who's very active. Mary thanked him for his help throughout the year.

Janine B – the club Sunshine person & often food organizer at club events, has 2 Golden Retrievers & is primarily focused on conformation, but also does tracking, some rally & beginning to trial in obedience.

Rachel P, is a newer member with a 1.5 year old very lively Kromfohrlander & is interested in learning & looking into FastCAT, rally & fetch. She was part of the fetch committee & looks to help where she can & learn as she goes. Mary noted she's been a terrific club addition, well-organized & jumps in to help. Bob noted she will be part of AKCs Meet the Breeds in NYC.

Pam L, long-term club member, past president, with experience as trial chair for obedience/rally, recently club training director. Pam has 2 smooth Brussels Griffons now, had Rotties in the past. She predominately competes in obedience/rally & dabbles in

other sports but doesn't see herself competing in high levels in any of them. She often takes club pictures. Pam has an old calendar of club monthly needs to share with the incoming board & any others interested. Mary thanked her service. Nolan & Renata B, fairly new members, with their first dog, a 1.5-year-old Golden Retriever named McAlister with a lot of energy, both learning & have done tricks, rally & fetch with him. They want to try a bit of everything & see what's next. Mary said both are great new members who also jump in to help out. Bob W has Australian Shepherds & a new 8-week-old addition, Maury, who's a half-sister to Fling who's 11 years old. He does obedience/rally & has dabbled in agility with Fling & will look into scent work. He was O/R show chair for GMDC Tunbridge trials. His wife, Martha, helps a lot as steward & other areas. They live in Barre, but usually around & he goes to the FH on Thursdays & takes classes at Waggles. Mary noted he's another club member with much experience to share & helpful. Deb L is a breeder, owner, handler of Field Spaniels, competes at high levels in many sports, confirmation, obedience/rally, scent work & some FastCAT. She's been a past board member & co-chaired with Pam, as well as trophy chair for a number of years. Deb has also been on the board of Green Mtn Dog Club & Field Spaniel Society of America. She's been heavily involved with AKC & her breed & unfortunately also involved in some serious hearings in the last 4 years. She's taking a needed break. Lynne S is a Board at Large member, has Ziggy, a Border Collie mix, who she works in agility & tries to help where she can. Cheryl S has a 22-month-old male Golden Retriever, Einstein. She's previously held several positions at GMDC. Einstein has his CGC & tricks novice & their ultimate goal is therapy dog, although they do train in obedience/rally mostly for fun. She enjoys stewarding & helps where she can. Mary noted she's a great steward & nice to have around. Gabby D is a student at UVM with a 3-year-old mixed breed named Roo & plans to compete in various novice classes to determine what she likes best. Gabby likes to help stewarding & tries to help whenever she can. Mary noted that Gabby's on the June 1 fetch committee & thanked her for volunteering.

**NOMINATIONS:** No new nominations were received from the floor. Tom motioned to accept the Nominating Committee's proposed slate with a show of hands. Confirmed. The slate was accepted as presented with a majority vote & 3 abstaining members (Deb L, Pam L, Cheryl S). Mary W thanked Tom O for again being willing to serve as Treasurer.

### **MEETINGS**

Tom noted that the next meeting is a board only meeting in February for planning purposes, including the bylaws, upcoming trials & budget. He noted that the 2024 board adopted a new meeting schedule of 6 membership meetings per year & today's meeting counts as one of those. The March & April meetings will be membership meetings. Deb L likes the separate board & member meetings, but expects the board only minutes to be distributed to the full membership. Mary noted that it would be a board decision. Bob B noted he posts approved minutes on the BOTC website. Diane S noted they have not been approved. Pam L agreed that the board meeting results be distributed to the full membership. Mary noted that how & when will be up to the new board. Deb suggested the December board minutes be approved & distributed. Mary asked Diane to distribute the board minutes to the board again for approval. Done. Marty A noted that board minutes will be shared moving forward.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Deb L also questioned the 501(c)7 status for VT & Federal requirements. Deb asked when the last AKC dues were paid. Tom responded that none have been made since he took over from Judy. Tom noted that he will go to the IRS office for the info. Deb L noted that the IRS online site has the last 990 as filed in 2019. Marty said these will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Marty noted the need to change the meeting day to Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. Tom recommended the board discuss this at next month's meeting since the new full board is not present & then distribute to members afterward. These items are also mentioned in the bylaws. Other suggestions can be sent to the board.

Pam L questioned the ability for club members to take advantage of training spaces owned by club members as has been done in the past. Cassy noted that she does not own SMTB, but can certainly talk about that. OTW, open rentals, are not an option.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Tom O'Brien.**

Tom noted the financial reports will be emailed shortly.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT – Diane Sullivan**

Nothing to report. New applicant, pending vote: Christine Allen

### **AGILITY – Tom O'Brien**

April 18, 19, 20, 2025 and July 24, 25, 26, 27, 2025. – AKC Pending

### **OBEDIENCE/RALLY – Pam Loeb**

October 18, 19, 2024 – AKC Pending

### **FETCH TEST – Mary Willmuth**

June 1, 2025 – AKC Approved

**TRACKING– Ilene Morgan and Lynda Morgan and Val Spadaccini**

April 6, 2025 and May 4, 2025 – AKC Pending

Cassy noted how nice it was to have notice of approved AKC events so early, making it much easier to promote & plan. Mary W motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Tom O. All agreed. Meeting adjourned & pot luck fun began for those in attendance.

**The next BOTC meeting will be a Board Only meeting, held in February at a time to be announced.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Sullivan, Secretary 2024

DRAFT COPY