

BOTC MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2024

Attending: Mary, Tom, Diane, Janine, Pam, Deb L, Bob W, Bob B, David H, Lori M, Val S, Liz H, Nolan & Renata B, Mary McF, Cheryl S

Mary called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

APPROVE MAY MINUTES – Mary Willmuth:

Lori M motioned to approve. Tom O seconded. All approved.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS – Mary Willmuth

Congratulations to Mary McF on helping to pass the animal welfare bill. Mary also noted the AKC update to clubs regarding children and educational opportunities and requests members read it to review at a future meeting and get 2-3 members to take the training to be available at trials. Tom noted that within a year, this AKC training will be required by Lori, Tom, Ilene & Lynda, as judges, and the cost will be covered by AKC. Mary asked to be advised of their training so it can be on the agenda to explain it to club members. In addition, the AKC suggested wording to include on entry premiums regarding when to ask people to leave the grounds. We can decide next month if BOTC should take this advice. Mary began a discussion about meetings for Board members only, noting that the bylaws call for 4 times per year and she’d like to go back to doing some of that. This gives the board a chance to discuss items in detail and then bring to the membership. Mary proposes doing that for the first time in August and asked for approval. Agreed. Mary moved on to introducing new applicants: Renata & Nolan Bohac and Cheryl Schwartz. Tom O introduced Renata & Nolan, noting that they were both delightful helpers at the April agility trial and feels they’ll be great club members. Renata gave a brief summary, recently moving to So. Burlington from Barre. They’re having fun training their first dog, Mac, a 1-year-old Golden Retriever, and started Fetch and Rally and trying a few things. Deb L sent Cheryl the link in a text. Bob B asked the Bohac’s if they might have special talents to bring to the club. Yes! They both work in IT, are tech savvy, with some web development experience. Bob W introduced Cheryl Schwartz, whom he’s known for years, noting she’s delightful and lives at Lake Elmore with a lovely Golden, Einstein. He sees her at obedience trials and highly recommends she be admitted as a member. Deb L noted that Cheryl has volunteered a number of times and Mary McF confirmed, noting she volunteered even when she didn’t have a dog. Cheryl gave a brief summary, noting she has a 14-month-old Golden Retriever pup who needs training, so she’s interested in joining BOTC. Bob B asked them to log off and return in 2-3 minutes. VOTE: All confirmed. Mary asked club members to please involve these new members. Welcome to all three new members.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Tom O’Brien

Report will be coming. Nothing else to mention. Mary thanked Tom for taking good care of BOTC funds.

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Diane Sullivan

Not much here either. Ilene, Lynda, Barb F and Rachel P advised they could not make tonight’s meeting. New CDC rules for returning or bringing dogs into the USA begins August 1, 2024. Mary asked Diane to send a link to the membership. The transcription process is a bit more cumbersome, but doable. If it becomes too much, Mary asked to inform the board, but otherwise, it’s upgrade money we don’t need to spend. Mary thanked Diane as secretary & for working well with her too.

NOMAD Collaboration Report – Val S & Barb F

Val noted they’ve not had another meeting. A little unofficial discussion with Val, Tom and another NOMAD member about working together at Cloverfield is still an idea we want to happen, but not for another 3-4 weeks. Val doesn’t see sharing equipment working out for BOTC. BOTC doesn’t have the same number of agility people with the ability to move equipment. Val will keep everyone up to date on working collaboratively at Cloverfield with some classes, etc. Val urges members to visit the NOMAD UKI and USDAA trial in Farr Field on July 14-15-16 to see how a non-AKC event is run and offer to help. The more we can work together, the better all the clubs will be. Pam L requested & Val agreed to send out information on these trials.

AGILITY – Tom O’Brien

July 25-28, 2024

Trial opens next week and the premium is posted on the BOTC website and emailed to club members. Reminded the need for set up and clean up help from members. Set up is on Thursday morning, 7/25, at 8am and usually done by 10am. If you can work the first one or two classes, that would be great. Clean up on Sunday, 7/28, around 2pm. We need extra hands to help us get out ASAP. Check in with Tom with any entry questions. The trial starts at 10am again on the first day, followed by a match afterward that Val will handle day-of-trial entries. Friday schedule is adjusted with another class added, Time-To-Beat, which is great for all levels. The volunteer schedule link will go up by July on the BOTC website so you can see where workers are needed. Remember there are no times as it depends on the trials progress. We’re right where we need to be at this point. Mary asked members to please volunteer as we can’t be successful without you - and we get to know each other.

TRACKING – Lynda Morgan & Ilene Morgan

May 5, 2024

Lynda & Ilene are absent, but Janine offered the test results. There were 2 TD and 3 TDX entries on a very rainy day, and unfortunately no one passed. But it went well, happy people, no issues, and great fields, but very wet. Janine will let Lynda & Ilene know she gave the update. Pam L noted that Janine's office place made for a lovely host location.

OBEDIENCE/RALLY – Pam Loeb

October 19,20, 2024 R/O

Working on premiums this month, and confirming the listed hotels are still accepting dogs. Plan a committee meeting soon. Pam ordered awards for high in trial and high combined of little dogs made out of ribbons, and used old expired BOTC ribbons. Showed these dogs to committee members who loved them, and they cost less than gift cards. We're on schedule. Mary confirmed she'll be lining up stewards soon & offered to call the hotels as well. Pam spoke with Max200 about replacing the high jumps. The cost is \$349.95 + shipping for a 5' jump and we need 2 of them. We'd save shipping if it comes to the agility trial. No response on retrofitting current jumps. They are required for obedience and rally by July of next year. Unfortunately, the compliant agility jumps are not interchangeable with the obedience/rally jumps. Tom noted we can afford it. Pam is donating the ribbon dogs and saving BOTC over a hundred dollars. Lori M motioned to purchase 2 jumps now. Seconded by Pam L. All agreed. Bob W suggested noting the new jumps in the premiums. Pam will contact Max 200 for delivery at the July agility trials.

VERMONT CANINE COLLABORATIVE – Dave H

Mary asked Dave H, as a Canine Collaborative member, to be the BOTC liaison and keep us informed. Dave agreed.

BYLAWS & OPERATIONAL MANUAL REVIEW – Liz H & Nancy S

As Nancy is away, Mary asked Liz to summarize their recommendations. Both documents are online. Bylaws suggest quarterly meetings and since we meet almost monthly, we're good with that with leeway to miss 1 or 2. Liz & Nancy wrote up bullet points that Liz read. Bylaws suggest quarterly Board meetings which we should do again and those discussions could make member meetings shorter. Mary already suggested an August Board meeting. Bylaws do not mention a Zoom format for meetings and we could possibly add that to the Operations Manual. Member application states the need for 2 endorsements & we recommend clarifying the type of endorsement needed and add that to the Operations Manual as well. Bylaw amendments are proposed by the Board and sent to AKC Relations for approval. But the Operations Manual is the working document for the club and changes do not need to be approved by AKC. The Manual has not been updated in many years. We recommend it be updated yearly following January elections as the best start and leave the Bylaws alone. Updates include current Board, current committee heads, current Bank, anything used monthly, etc. Mary thanked this effort and asked if they'd be willing to update the Operations Manual by year-end. Liz agreed and Nancy will need to answer for herself. Bob B asked if we could post this on the web or a Google doc. Liz and Mary agreed that we should.

IDEAS FOR NEW EVENTS – Nancy Suarez

December dinner & Fun Day – Bob B. Bob checked the Windjammer, where it's been done before, as well as McGillicuddy's in Colchester. Both venues have separate rooms to rent, with an option of fixed menus prices. We need to get on their books quickly. Bob agreed to make the food decisions based on cost and will come back with date options to choose. Pam noted it's been done in January to avoid the holiday stress & to kick off the new year. First, all agreed to do the dinner. Mary suggested the week between Christmas and New Years and asked Bob to look into that. Perhaps Sunday, 12/29, was an option.

Summer Fun Day – Mary noted that unless someone has this organized with a place, we should let it go for this year. Dave H noted that he called Farr Field and was told the cost for less than 50 dogs would be \$500 for the day. All agreed to pass this year. Pam L noted other clubs are putting on a 'try-it' kind of day that she's posted on Facebook and suggests people attend to see how it's been done for suggestions on how we could do it ourselves in the future.

Fetch Workshop – Mary W, Lori M, Liz H, & Nancy S have been working on this and hoping for approval tonight. Lori M & Deb Kreider have offered to run a 3-hour Fetch Workshop to train and introduce AKC Fetch rules to participants on June 30 at Waggles from 10-1 to be followed by an actual test around early September. Liz has also offered to be certified as a Judge. Diane has offered to receive the entries and money to forward to Tom. Liz has created a flyer to circulate online and post at Waggles and Pam Bartlett's, etc. Finances: \$100 for 2 judges (dinner & ferry); \$150 to Waggles; \$15 miscellaneous. Limited to 20 active participants at \$30 and then auditors at \$20. The September test would likely be for novice and intermediate, but Lori needs to get the measurements at Waggles to be sure there's enough inside room – outside is more distracting. It would be lovely if we could get the Field House, which would have the 50' needed for intermediate and 30' for novice. Diane asked if BOTC members would get priority registrations followed by non-members. Mary agreed to review with the committee. Diane also asked about Waggles requirements for attendance at their facility. Liz is waiting to hear from Waggles on that. Mary noted that Waggles has 10 crates to use and then people can crate in their cars. Lori asked to see the flyer and likes the dogs in the building but doesn't want disruptive dogs inside. Tom O motioned to proceed with the Fetch Workshop plans. Diane seconded. All agreed.

FastCAT Update – Tom O – will update us next month on FastCAT and possibly some other things as well.

DATABASE / WEBSITE UPDATE – Bob Bolduc

Bob and Tom O worked with Network Solutions and believe Website resolutions were achieved. Bob noted that Barb took great photos at the agility trial and he's posted them on the website in the gallery. He hopes to do the same thing in July. He's also posted the BOTC meeting minutes. Mary reminded Bob to post after the minutes have been approved. Nothing new on the Database yet. Discussions with Tom regarding some auto-filled agility forms and how to collect money more seamlessly, which requires more effort. Bob is happy our new members have some user-friendly technology experience. Mary noted progress has been made and it's looking better and the efforts are appreciated and hopes Nolan and Renata will join Bob's team.

VERMONT FEDERATION – Mary McFaun

The bill did pass the House and the Senate, but it's still on the Governor's desk at this point. He can veto, sign it, or let it sit until Tuesday when it will automatically become law. If he vetoes it, we still have a chance on June 17-18 when the House will be back in session to discuss overriding any vetoes. My guess is he will let it pass into law. Mary M suggested sending a message on his website under news and communications and fill in the blanks. Mary W asked her to summarize in an email to the club. Update: Governor Phil Scott signed H.626.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Mary Willmuth

Diane noted that the first Thursday in July falls on the 4th of July. Mary W thanked her for picking that up. The next Thursday, July 11, conflicts with the Tunbridge shows. Mary W suggested Tuesday, July 9. All agreed. Mary asked Diane to get that information to members ASAP.

Mary McF motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Val. All agreed. Meeting adjourned at ~8:15 pm.

The next BOTC meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm. The meeting date was moved from the 4th of July to avoid conflicting with the holiday and the Tunbridge events.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Sullivan, Secretary