

## BOTC MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2024

Attending: Mary, Tom, Diane, Nancy S, Janine, Pam, Deb L, Bob W, Bob B, Ilene, Barb F, David H, Rachel Peters

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

### APPROVE APRIL MINUTES – Mary Willmuth:

Barb F motioned to approve. David H seconded. All approved.

### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – Mary Willmuth

Mary feels we're in a good and exciting place and expect new applicants to be here again tonight for approval. She's hoping to start new members working on various small committees and encourages committees to invite them. Mary suggests that committees create a one-page sheet of volunteer needs including times and duration. Perhaps Bob B can put it up on the website so people can sign up. Tom and Bob W will work on this suggestion. Congratulations to Deb L and her field spaniel Audrey, who recently had 7 puppies. New applicants were not signed on (Rachel Peters and Nolan and Renata Bohac).

### TREASURER'S REPORT – Tom O'Brien

Tom is getting ready to close the month of April for BOTC, so hasn't sent his report out yet. He expects a loss of about \$1,600 on income for the agility trial. The expenses were right on target. We were hurt because of the very high area hotel rates and that we rely on people to drive here as well as the competition from two other trials. Otherwise, April is pretty quiet, with a bit of tracking income and expenses. Tom hopes to send a treasurer's report this weekend. Except for the tracking test this weekend, May will be relatively quiet. June and July will see more activity with the July trial. Community Bank accounts are now closed. At the October or November meetings, we'll need to review alternatives to the high area hotel rates.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT – Diane Sullivan

Diane asked people to update their BOTC email lists with the new information. Liz Harward is missing emails as some are sending to Harwood. Also, future new applications will be reviewed and voted on in the President's Remarks. Deb L noted that tonight's meeting notice link ended up embedded in other emails and suggests the link be sent separately. Bob W noted that the link should have automatically created a link for you every month as a reminder, where it would pop up in your calendar. Bob will look into it. Welcome to Rachel Peters, who just joined us. Diane continued confirming that now we're accepting membership applications with either verbal or written endorsements until the application policy is finalized by a committee. Bob B had suggested applicants send in a brief email about themselves for the membership to endorse. Diane's just making sure she's following the current accepted procedure, even though an 'endorsement' is typically an actual signature. Mary confirmed that we're currently using 'endorsement' to mean there are two club members in support of an application and that a committee to review the application process still needs to be set up, but has been postponed for now. Diane agreed with the suggestion that members be able to submit a short piece about themselves on the website for people to see who's who in the club. Diane also informed us that Pam Bartlett's place in Williston has 2 certified Fetch judges, so it's an option for us to use as a club to get some Fetch titles. Pam's also working on Scent work, but would need a club to sponsor that event per AKC rules. Of course, both events would require workers. Diane just wanted to put that out there for everyone.

Mary suggested inserting Rachel Peter's application at this point and asked Rachel to tell us about herself. Rachel moved to Burlington from Massachusetts 2 years ago. She's a veterinary pathologist. Acquired first purebred pup 6 months ago and has had lab rescues all her life. Wants to get with like-minded people, feels owes it to the breeder and the breed to get the pup out there, and this group seems excellent with really kind and helpful people as well as a lot of great resources and experience to help her to some dog sports and maybe conformation. Her breed is a Kromfohrlander. It's an FCI breed now and its' club is hoping to get it into the miscellaneous class by early 2025. Pam L and Nancy S are endorsing Rachel. Rachel logged off while voting began. Unanimously voted in as a club member. Rachel returned and was welcomed in as a new club member.

### NOMAD Report – Mary Willmuth (for Val)

Barb F explained that Nikki from NOMAD is helping Laura from Cloverfield set up an agility program at Cloverfield Farms. NOMAD is interested in ways to collaborate with BOTC around training, but their equipment is too old. Cloverfield is ordering all new equipment to use as a training opportunity for NOMAD and BOTC. Val spoke with Laura and would like to move forward and define some days and times for us. The cost is \$50/hr., which is more than our cost at the Field House, but they'd have a full arena of agility. They will also offer novice agility training separate from us. BOTC members using the Field House for agility are not unhappy. Will pursue discussions slowly with Cloverfield and NOMAD and see how it evolves. In addition, Cloverfield would like us to sponsor an AKC FastCAT event for which some of our members have expressed interest. Val thought it might be a source of revenue for us. Deb L asked if anyone at Cloverfield has experience running the FastCAT machinery. No idea yet. Val's suggestion was to have one or 2 club members interested in FastCAT be the contacts with Laura

and Cloverfield and see where it goes. Deb L has run in FastCAT and noted GMDC has done FastCAT fun runs for the past 3-4 years. Deb feels that if Cloverfield does this, then GMDC may no longer be able to do the fun runs as it will be too much of a competition. Discussion on fun run vs trials. Tom O volunteered to be point person to begin with as he knows something about it as well as AKC rules. Tom's also curious about Cloverfield and agility because he felt the last time was done poorly. Cloverfield will need assistance from an AKC club and BOTC is the obvious choice because we cover a couple of different events. Mary suggested Tom contact Laura or discuss with Val too and keep us informed. Barb F noted that the original purpose of the NOMAD call was to get our two clubs together to find ways to make and save money together, like sharing equipment ownership and renting space together. Mary suggested Barb continue this discussion with Val and NOMAD.

### **AGILITY – Tom O'Brien**

July 25-28, 2024

We're all set with the Field House and vendors. We added another class on Friday, time to beat, to hopefully improve our income. The premium will be posted in about 2 weeks, entries open the early part of June and close the middle of July. Set up first thing Thursday morning, then excellent, with a B-Match that night.

### **TRACKING – Lynda Morgan & Ilene Morgan**

April 7, 2024 / May 5, 2024

Ilene noted that the April test was cold! 5 tracks and 1 passing dog. This weekend's test on May 5 has 5 dogs entered and we've been busy this week putting out tracks.

### **OBEDIENCE/RALLY – Pam Loeb**

October 19,20, 2024 R/O

Not much happening right now. Decided in our meeting last month to do something different for high in trial and high combined. Nancy will send in the paperwork. We'll work on the premium soon.,

### **IDEAS FOR NEW EVENTS – Nancy Suarez**

Liz H, Lori M and Nancy S put out a member survey for ideas. Pam L noted that she never got it. The 4-5 responses were evenly split between FastCAT and Fetch. Reinstating a summer Fun Day was also suggested and Bob B suggested a Bolton Dog Camp and we're waiting for his pricing and availability information. We will need help to make this happen-please volunteer. We could do demonstrations on the new Fetch title and other areas. Lori M is a certified Fetch judge and would like to hold a seminar-practice that could be part of Fun Day. We'd need a 2<sup>nd</sup> judge if we hold a Fetch trial. Mary W mentioned a Fun Day at the Field House or Cloverfield. Pam said the Field House is essentially unavailable weekends but will check. Farr Field/Waterbury was mentioned – Dave H will check. Submit ideas for possible locations/homes we could use. We need to call it by the next meeting. For the December pay-your-own dinner, Bob B spoke with the Windjammer and said they could come up with a fixed menu.

### **DATABASE / WEBSITE UPDATE – Bob Bolduc**

Website update is in progress. Tom and Bob are working well together. As pages are updated, page dates are updated. Some feedback suggestions for a gallery of dogs and people and bios. The features in our transcription version are no longer available unless we upgrade to the \$180 premium version. We'll still get the recording with our current version. We'll see how it goes.

### **VERMONT FEDERATION – Mary McFaun**

No update tonight. Mary could not make it tonight and is following 2 bills. Updates will be issued as we receive them.

### **VERMONT CANINE COLLABORATIVE – Pam Loeb**

This is primarily a positive reinforcement organization, so Pam has stepped away since her philosophy does not align with there's. Deb L said GMDC decided not to endorse them for similar reasons. Mary noted at this point, we'll let this go on without us.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Mary Willmuth**

Tom will contact the Bohac's about making it to the next meeting. Mary suggested holding off on the last 2 agenda items for now. The Membership Application Form is working for us now and perhaps Bob B can get it on the website at some point. A Welcoming Committee/Mentor can float for now. Pam spoke with Al for Max 200 about the displaceable high jumps – when their prototype is ready, they can price it (but about \$375 new) and see if there's a way to retrofit existing jumps. We'll need 2 jumps. Pam will keep us posted. Pam also let Rachel know about the fundraising raffle in case she has any ideas. Mary hopes Rachel will join a committee soon. Pam L motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Nancy S. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

As usual, the next BOTC meeting will be held on the first Thursday of the month: June 6, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Sullivan, Secretary