

## BOTC MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2024

Attending: Mary W, Bob B, Pam L, Janine B, Eva FH, Deb L, Cheryl S, Lori M, Diane S, Rachel P, Tatjana S, Betsy C, Beth D, Mary McF

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

### APPROVE OCTOBER MINUTES– Mary Willmuth:

Pam L motioned to approve. Lori M seconded. All approved.

### PRESIDENT’S REMARKS – Mary Willmuth

Mary wants to move discussion on meeting dates to the next Board Only meeting in December. All agreed.

Tom cannot make it tonight & is working on the Bylaws & the application process & will present a proposal, so that’s tabled now. Introduced new member applications for Betsy Carter, Beth Dixon & Clover Towns. Betsy is sponsored by Cassie L & Marty A, who are not here now. Mary knows Betsy well from SMTB & asked her to introduce herself. Betsy has 6 dogs (4 BCs, 2 JRTs) in a high-energy household! Has competed in agility for 10 years & wants to join to get involved in a local club & help with agility trials and perhaps fetch & obedience & scent work. Mary noted we would welcome your involvement. Our next applicant, Beth Dixon, is sponsored by Tatjana S & Barb F. Beth heard good things about them but had not met them. Beth introduced herself, noting she’s taken agility classes for 6 years & has a 7-yo Aussie, Maggie, & a 6-month-old Aussie. She’s come to BOTC trials for 3-4 years & loves them & would like to get more involved & she’s done some tracking with the Lapiers too. Mary noted she’ll fit right in. Our third applicant, Clover Towns, is sponsored by Nina D & Mary W, but has not arrived as yet. Mary noted that Clover was a student working with service dogs & brought service dogs to the obedience trials. Mary noted we’re excited to have a few high schoolers interested in the club & hopes she’ll appear soon. Beth & Betsy signed off during voting. Bob noted 13 votes. Betsy 8/10/2abstained. Beth 8/10/2abstained. No discussion. Deb L noted it’s great to have new members, but is concerned that a lot of the newest members have been endorsed by new members who haven’t been members of the club for even a year, so most of us don’t even know them. Mary agrees with the concern, but it’s difficult for new members to find people who know them so they choose people who do the same activities. Mary feels requiring new applicants to be sponsored by long-time club members would completely tie up the process. Diane suggested we bring this up at the Board Meeting. Agreed. 12 attendees/quorum. Mary suggests we approve the new members. Deb L noted a vote was taken so we move forward. All approved. Welcome! Mary noted that Val S is on another call, but will pop in to discuss tracking.

### TREASURER’S REPORT – Tom O’Brien.

Tom could not make tonight’s meeting, but has emailed a budget to the membership. Mary asked if it went to everyone. Diane confirmed that, yes, it went to everyone. Tom knew he was missing some members & asked Diane to forward. Diane S noted she asked Tom about some differing numbers on the Fetch treasurer’s report. Tom didn’t have time to address it before leaving for his judging gig & will look into it when he has the time. Mary noted it’s not a lot of money & can get sorted out. Agreed. Mary noted the P&L statements & summaries look similar to last year & essentially broke even with a stable amount in the bank. Deb L emailed Tom with Nancy’s concerns about the AKC requirement for new jumps by 2025, being put into the obedience trial expenses. They feel it should be a club expense since AKC gave us no option & it’s about \$700. Diane noted that Tom did respond by email with a detailed explanation as to why it’s where it is in the reports. Mary thinks part of the explanation is that it has to go somewhere & this is the event that uses it, but it does make obedience look like it lost money. Mary suggests this also be brought up at December’s Board meeting. Agreed. Mary noted overall we’re doing well, solvent & steady.

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE – Tatjana Salcedo

In Tom’s absence, Tatjana gave a brief report. The Committee has been seeking nominees for various club roles. Tom has agreed to run again for Treasurer. We have a few offers for a member at large position. However, we are still seeking President & Secretary positions which is becoming critical at this point. We discussed the idea of potentially a co-president situation. The meeting schedule is expected to be paired back, so the commitment might be less than in the past & perhaps pairing a long-term member with a new member. We need people to step up, please! We hope to have something to present at the January party. Diane asked about the VP position & Tatjana noted that the Bylaws state that position is optional. Tatjana noted that if the Bylaws get reviewed perhaps the current structure will change so we don’t get in this bind again. But that’s part of next year’s work. Bob said the Committee also hoped the current President & Secretary would be willing to review needs with potential candidates. Mary & Diane agreed to be willing to review the positions with new candidates. Mary agrees with the co-position idea, but Deb L suggests checking with AKC rules about co-officers. Lori M noted that Co-Chairs were not AKC acceptable for one event.

### SECRETARY’S REPORT – Diane Sullivan.

Diane didn’t have a lot. AKC tracking notices already done. Agility had some bank issues that Tom is working out with AKC & the bank, so we’ll get an update later. Diane asked for the 2025 Agility dates. Barb F is in NC and wanted us to know that she couldn’t make it tonight since she’s flying to NC to support her daughter who was on her way to visit her Dad. Sadly, Barb’s ex-husband was hit by a car & killed, so she took the next flight out to help her daughter cope. Janine will send a card & to Lynda.

### **AGILITY – Tom O'Brien**

April and July 2025.

### **OBEDIENCE/RALLY – Pam Loeb**

October 19,20, 2024

Pam said the Committee had a debrief meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>. According to Tom's version, we lost about \$600. If we don't include the required AKC jumps, we about broke even. Pam donated the \$218 for dog ribbon trophies. Janine donated the cost of hospitality. These can be included & perhaps affect the bottom line. Our numbers have been consistent for the past 2 years, even with the added competition. We received lots of positive feedback. We had plenty of stewards. One potential negative dog situation where a jump height was attempted, but the dog was a little growly & the judge excused the dog, but it was all kept under control. Judges all seemed very happy. One other thing was some club members spoke to exhibitors about not eating on the turf & some exhibitors were put off mostly because they didn't know that in advance. Pam noted that she has chosen to step down as Trial Chair & Training Director. She feels it's time for someone else to step in. She can help hire judges & steward. Of note is that the trial entry numbers maxed out at about 40 & we about broke even, which is good. Agility can have 350 runs a day. Mary offered to Chair O/R if she gets enough help from others on the Committee to teach her. We need volunteers. Deb will check on the trial dates (10/18-19/25). Mary will work dates with Nick at the Field House. Pam has a timeline notebook to share.

### **FETCH TEST – Mary Willmuth**

September 15, 2024

We had a Fetch wrap up meeting with the general sense that Fetch is a lot of fun, & was enjoyed by all participants. Fetch is a test not a trial & non-competitive. We have most of the same Committee members for 2025 & have chosen Sunday, June 1, 2025, for our next test. We have the Field House for June 1. We have 2 local judges & an alternate (Lori, Nina, Maria). Now we need the club to OK this test. Lori asked if the Field House can be rented privately for her to practice at the Retriever level. Pam will give Lori Nick's number & noted we pay \$40/hr. to rent half a field. Lori asked if she could bring some students & will she be renting as a club member or privately. Mary offered to help Lori. Tatjana asked if there was separate club Fetch practices & was informed that it is included in the obedience/rally practice times. Mary noticed Renata & she agreed to join the Committee.

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

April 6, 2025 and May 4, 2025

Val S said we'll again wait to file paperwork until January so the expense falls into the same year. Val S will Chair the April 6 test & Janine B will be the Secretary. Bob B volunteered to lay tracks. Ilene & Lynda will be Judges. Some other non-club members will help. Val noted this is a great opportunity for new members to learn one of the club activities & learn how to lay tracks. Ilene & Lynda are great at showing you everything that needs to be done. Please volunteer. We don't have any Chair or Secretary for the May 4 test at this point & welcome volunteers for those spots. Secretary can compete. 2 Judges have not been contracted yet. Lynda will be entering, meaning neither she nor Ilene can Judge. A budget for both 2025 tests have been submitted to Tom. Beth D is interested in helping. Mary asked Val to connect with Beth. Val will email Beth & copy Ilene & Lynda too.

### **JANUARY LUNCH UPDATE – Bob Bolduc**

January 11, 2025 – at St. Jude's Parish Hall in Hinesburg from 12:30 to 3:30 pm - \$5 donation.

Bob sent a few emails & received 15 responses. We're heavy on desserts, with a few entrees, napkins, plates, so doing well. Mary asked if we could put some club money into this, as it's the time we see each other face to face for a social event. Diane noted that the small GMGRC allotted a small dollar amount to members toward their choice of 4 options at Fire & Ice and it went over very well & people would pay for their own liquor. Bob will email save-the-date to new members. Mary asked Diane to email club members reminding them to let Bob know if they'll attend.

### **NEW BUSINESS – Pam Loeb**

Pam noted that the VT Federation of Dog Clubs had a meeting on October 14 & requested members to consider being a delegate to the VT Federation, which works on canine legislation. Mary McF is the President & Pam L is a delegate. There's one more slot for a BOTC member. We defend everyone's rights to own our dogs. Legislative verbiage is also important (owner vs guardian) as well as breed-specific legislation, housing, etc.

Lori M motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Pam L. All agreed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**The next BOTC meeting will be a Board Only meeting, held on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Sullivan, Secretary 2024