

BOTC MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

Attending: Mary W, Nancy S, Diane S, Bob W, Bob B, Lori M, Val S, Liz H, Ilene M, Lynda M, Janine B, Pam L, Rachel P, Cheryl S, David H, Gabby D, Marty A, Cassy L, Mischka R, Eva FH, Nina D, Maria K

Mary called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

APPROVE JULY MINUTES – Mary Willmuth:

Dave H motioned to approve. Nancy S seconded. All approved. Opening President's remarks where Bob F or Bob was noted has been corrected to note Barb F & Barb (3 places). Mary plans to draft a welcome letter from the President to new members to outline who we are, what we do & how you can participate. Nancy & Gabby will help review the draft. All agreed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – Mary Willmuth!

Mary noted it's exciting to see the level of interest in our club & encourages respect & continued discussions. Let Mary, Nancy or Diane know if you'd like to add to the agenda. Cassy & Marty will be joining the group with Nancy & Liz to look at the Operations Manual, part of which will be the application process, to be reported by year-end. Mary introduced 4 new members: Eva, Mischka, Maria & Nina. There are time conflicts for Cassie, Eva & Maria but we'll work around them. Maria noted her interest in being more involved with her own All-American dogs, as well as contributing to help others doing fun dog activities. Maria is a trainer at Fetch the Leash, but happy to be a participant & volunteer. Maria is doing agility & rally. Mary noted that Maria will be one of our 2 alternate Fetch Test Judges. Eva followed noting that she's retired & began agility training with her dog & is now totally addicted & wants to promote more agility opportunities in this area. Eva loves the 2 trials we have & will participate with her new Golden puppy, Sky. Nina noted she dabbles in many things, & just wants to know about all the things. Nina's a Karen Prior Certified Trainer, Trick Dog & CGC tester & a subcontractor at Comfort Hill Kennel in Vergennes where she teaches agility & rally, puppy classes as well as behavioral consults. Nina was a member of Boxer Clubs but prefers the mind workings of dogs & is not as interested in the breed ring. Nina wants to be part of a club that encourages people to have fun & work with their dogs & help dogs be good citizens in the world from the time they're a puppy. Mary pointed out that Nina is the other alternate Fetch Test Judge for us. Mischka lives with her 2 Border Terriers in Burlington & has enjoyed training with Nina & doing all the dog sports that she can, earning a certified therapy dog, CGC & rally so far. Mischka would really like to support a local VT club & participate by volunteering. Mary asked the new applicants to log out for about 3 minutes and then log back in. Cassie is a sponsor & has worked with all of the applicants. Val noted that she's totally in favor of all 4 applicants, but we should look at our quorum, especially if they will all be training on the nights we have meetings. Mary agrees & noted that Tom O has also pointed this bylaw adjustment & the need to go through AKC & the state. Voting proceeded. One person missed scrolling down & voting on Eva, but otherwise all agreed. Welcome to our 4 new members! Cassie joined the meeting.

MEETING DATES – Mary Willmuth

Upcoming membership & board meeting dates are set unless we change from Thursday night meetings. We've had one board meeting recently which allowed more time for in-depth discussion to present to the membership. The Bylaws require us to have 6 membership meetings per year. Mary proposes that we add 4 board only meetings which brings us to 10 meetings per year, with the option to skip 2 meetings. We usually skip February for one. These meetings can be changed, but this gives us some outline. Marty asked why 6 meetings are needed, as it seems like a lot. Mary noted at this point, it's what we need to do. Pam noted that BOTC has a number of events throughout the year that get discussed at meetings. Bob W noted that changing the Bylaws is a major undertaking with AKC. Mary noted we'll be looking at what can be accomplished through the Operations Manual first. Mary said that Tom is in support of Bylaw changes with AKC & feels it's not a big deal. Mary suggested we see what the Operations Manual committee can do, but we may need to change the Bylaws as they were set up many years ago. Diane asked to identify meetings at least through February.

Here's the meeting list for the first Thursday of the month: October=membership/Nominating Committee; November=membership/Nominating Committee presents slate (or present FY25 budget); December=TBD board or membership meeting/assemble Jan agenda, FY25 budget; January= membership annual; February = skip. All agreed with these plans.

Mary noted that the Nomination Committee needs to meet & nominate the slate for the Board, officers & members at large. Tom has offered to be the board member Chair & we need 2-3 others from the general membership. Tatjana volunteered. Tom will search for the rest of his committee. Mary's grateful that Tom has stepped up to chair this committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Tom O'Brien

Tom could not be with us at this meeting. Bank statements for August just arrived. Tom will send out financials to club members next week.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Diane Sullivan

Nothing new to report tonight.

AGILITY – Tom O'Brien

July 25-28, 2024

Tom's notes indicate that the July Trials went very well & it appears the Club will make a small profit.

OBEDIENCE/RALLY – Pam Loeb – Nancy Suarez

October 19,20, 2024 R/O

Premium list is out & entries opened a week ago. Nancy expects to fill or close to it. Many entries are coming from out of state. Pam is waiting to hear about flight schedules from the Judges. Pam noted that we need someone to transport Judges at least for Saturday & Sunday mornings. They are staying at the Homewood Suites in South Burlington. Janine offered to transport Judges. Cheryl said she could transport Judges one day & Janine can do one day. Thank you! Pam also noted the need for someone to tow the club trailer from Grand Isle to Shelburne on a convenient day of the week of the trial. Then it gets restocked on Sunday evening & can be returned on Monday. Nina offered to see if Eva would tow the trailer. Marty texted & noted that Barb is willing to tow the trailer. As Chief Steward, Mary noted that we've got a good list of stewards for both days, but she'll reach out to include new members. Pam also noted that we have a beautiful quilt to raffle that Nancy created. Pam asked for volunteers to do raffle sales. Pam again requested ideas for potentially getting a big-ticket item to raffle in the future to cut down club costs.

FETCH TEST – Nancy Suarez and Diane Sullivan

September 15, 2024

We have 45 entry slots for the Fetch Test. We have 6 open slots currently & people will be able to come as walk-ins. Pam & Marty will be taking pictures. We are running all 4 levels, but most entrants will be in Novice, with a handful in Intermediate & Advanced. Mary noted how grateful the club is for Lori M being one of our Judges. Diane noted that she & Val are working on the running order to send out with the comprehensive reminders email to participants. Liz noted that Nancy got both qualifying ribbons & title ribbons. Mary noted that we have a few gifts that came from Ruth's & we'll recognize her then.

TRACKING– Ilene Morgan and Lynda Morgan

April 6, 2025 and May 4, 2025

Lynda noted that there's no Chair or Secretary yet, which will get done by December. We need to hire 2 Judges for May 4. Lynda will be entering the May test which means that Ilene cannot be a Judge. Mary requested a cost/income proposal. Lynda reminded us that they have always volunteered their time & assured us that it will be included in the budget in December. Val agreed that it's not voted on separately. Lynda requested that Tracking be on the agenda every time. Liz suggested on our Facebook page.

JANUARY LUNCH UPDATE – Bob Bolduc and Nancy Suarez

Nancy will confirm St. Jude's Catholic Church in Hinesburg Village to hold our pot-luck luncheon & will pick 2 Saturdays in mid-January, the 11th preferably & maybe the 18th but there are agility trials. Having a fun holiday dinner became very problematic quickly with the cost & diet restrictions, so a pot luck was suggested. Nancy found St. Jude's was the most flexible, with only a donation suggested, so we'd have no refunds needed should we need to change the date. Nancy suggested we let St. Jude know by October. There'd be no alcohol, no smoking & no dogs. Mary suggested the club donate \$100 & not ask the membership for donations. Rachel can bring a fiddle & asked if others could.

DATABASE / WEBSITE UPDATE – Bob Bolduc

Bob noted that he & Tom made the website secure. You can post links within Facebook to our website. Bob spoke with the web development Professor at Champlain College about a class project to look at updating the club website without cost. TBD. Mary asked about Bob's idea of a form on the website where people could put questions & agenda items they'd like to see addressed by the board. Bob said he saw that the Green Mountain Dog Club has it on their website. Mary hopes we can do it too. Bob noted that instead of implementing a database, we're probably going to work with spreadsheets & then into Google docs.

New Business

Mary read the proposal from Val S for the Board to consider approving & membership to be aware re: club dedicating this year's obedience/rally trials to Ruth Woodard, recently deceased, & one of the founding members of the Northern VT Dog Club which evolved into BOTC & was very active for many years & very well known & loved in the dog community. The premiums are already out, but confirmations can include the dedication in Ruth's memory. Val requested approval of \$100 to purchase a banner with pictures of Ruth & her dogs. The cost will likely be less than that. This was unanimously approved. Nancy will get the banner for the Secretary Table at the Trials. All approved. Val noted that she'll be gone at a dog show with her dogs. Nancy agreed to put it at the Secretary table. Val will get it to Nancy.

Pam motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Marty. All agreed. Meeting adjourned at ~8:35 pm.

The next BOTC meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Sullivan, Secretary 2024