

Minutes of Ferry Beach 83rd Annual Meeting - June 9, 2019

Commenced 1:15 p.m. in Rowland Hall Gayla Theater, Minutes recorded by Board Member Pam Emery in absence of Board Secretary Ron Willett

Opening: Barbara Crowley welcomed all in attendance and introduced Patricia Mulholland who led those present in an improvisational “song of community” focusing on change, love, and hope.

Opening Statement: Barbara Crowley, President thanked Patricia Mulholland and thanked all in attendance for coming, introducing this year’s theme of hope with Emily Dickinson’s “Hope” is the thing with feathers (poem #254).

Presentation of the Agenda: Barbara Crowley noted that the Agenda for this Annual Meeting had been posted on the Association’s Website at least 30 days in advance, that the Agenda was also distributed to attendees today, and that the Agenda is now fixed per provisions of our Bylaws.

Introduction of Parliamentarian: Barbara Crowley introduced Dan F. Fitzpatrick as the Parliamentarian for this meeting.

Credentials Report: Marty Burgess, Clerk and Vice President of the Association, confirmed that the number in attendance today (80) meets the quorum requirements for Annual Meeting as stated in the Association’s Bylaws.

Centering Prayer & Chalice Lighting: Reverend Shay MacKay, Minister, Saco UU Church

Memorials: Asking that in remembering those who came before us, we might be inspired by their memories and hold in light and love those members who have died in the past year, Rev. MacKay read the names of the following members (11) who passed in 2018 and 2019.

They are Sylvia Gould Denton, William Smith, Sandra Lee Hopkins, Lynne Mathews, Jack Drucker, Marilyn Fentress, Jim Beshers, Alexander Meek, Ann Beck, Don McNamara and George Gordon Brooks.

Approval of Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting: Marty Burgess, Clerk and Vice President

The Minutes having been distributed to all in attendance, Marty asked for a motion to accept the Minutes as submitted. Barry Lovejoy so moved, and the motion was seconded. Marty asked if there were any questions or comments. **There being none, Marty called for a vote on the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

Treasurer’s Report: Board Treasurer Douglas Atkins provided a report on the past year and current status of the Association’s financial operations, including summary data presented in materials distributed to each attendee today and his comments on and explanations of said data. Doug prefaced his report with a quote from his predecessor,

Treasurer Carolyn Hodges, and expressed appreciation for the excellent condition in which she passed along the Association's financial records.

Doug stated that the independent audit on the Association's statement of financial position as of Dec. 2018 showed no issues or irregularities and the Association is operating in the black, with a current surplus. The Endowment's Funds are being well managed by Bangor Savings Bank, and there has been no need to dip into the Endowment Funds last year or this year. Market climate and active management of the Funds have contributed to healthy growth of the Endowment. Growth in expenses go along with growth in programs. The \$180,000 set aside in anticipation of the end of the tenancy is still in the bank. The \$127,000 Annex demolition costs will be paid out soon, and there is no problem with our cash position.

President's Report: Barbara Crowley acknowledged she is completing her term as President, and stated that her Board experience has been a learning experience; and her personal experience of Ferry Beach has grown along with Ferry Beach's growth toward full year use of the buildings and grove. Stating that the Board and Staff have discussed many interpretations of this year's theme "Hope", Barbara quoted Jericho Brown who asserted that if we cultivate creative minds, the impossible can become possible: "Hope is the opposite of desperation—it's not as comfortable as certainty, and it's much more certain than longing. It is always accompanied by the imagination, the will to see what our physical environment seems to deem impossible. Only the creative mind can make use of hope. Only a creative people can wield it."

Barbara expressed four hopes for Ferry Beach:

That this is a place that enlivens your spirit and brings you hope.

That Nature brings a better understanding of your own nature - the ability to create comes from who you are and where you are at the time.

That we never lose the values we have inherited over time. We need to keep these in front of us for the years to come.

That we cultivate creativity and find new ways to move forward.

Quoting Jericho Brown again, "I exist in relation to you and to your view of me," Barbara said that is what she hopes for our future.

Executive Director's Report (Includes Program and Stewardship): Cathy Stackpole
Cathy thanked all sustaining donors for providing the means to care for our grounds and facilities, and noted their names are listed in the dining hall. Cathy then proceeded to thank Staff including Dave Basler and Linda Reynolds and the Board for their work during the past year. Cathy began her remarks with a poem on this year's theme of hope: "Now that I have tasted hope" and gave examples of the hope she has witnessed at Ferry Beach in shared songs and conversations, ADA accessibility, building our new dining hall, embracing and creating new families here. In hope, we extend the hand of radical welcome to people different from ourselves. In these times, it is good to have 365 days to further our mission. Cathy touched on many recent improvements: new Staff, heat and AC in dorms, transition from the relationship with the school, renovations of the gardens, the round tables in the dining room, and the freedom to walk where we want to, when we want to - all contributing to compassionate action with universal love. Cathy shared that at a recent lunch with a new group, sharing with other

ages is an experience of hope. Cathy quoted Helen Keller and Joanna Macy and stressed the need to awaken to the living word, the need to learn to forgive ourselves and to move away from fear and into gratitude – the first step toward this summer's theme ACTIVE HOPE. Joanna Macy sees active hope as something we DO rather than HAVE and leads to what she calls “the great turning” – our great awakening from struggling to pay bills to spreading universal love. When we open ourselves to hope, we let go of what was unsustainable regarding uncertainty. Cathy quoted Solnit who said, “Hope locates itself in the premises that we don't know what will happen and that in the **spaciousness of uncertainty** is room to act.” Cathy listed numerous new uses and users of Ferry Beach this past year, as well as others coming this Fall. She brought our attention to the expanded Auction October 19, and said we have tasted hope and we are not going back! Cathy acknowledged 2020 will be a year of anniversaries: Women's Suffrage, the State of Maine, Universalism. Cathy ended her remarks with a call to inclusion – not just of the like-minded – and suggested inclusion may help us find ourselves again, even as it makes us different.

Report from the By-Laws Committee: Caitlin Peale Sloan, Chair Governance Committee presented the By-laws Committee Report and moved (for the Committee) that the amended By-laws as set forth in the report be approved by the Membership.

Discussion ensued. **Claudia Efferdink** thanked the Board for their hard work, Cathy and Staff for making dramatic differences that invite people to come to Ferry Beach..

Efferdink proposed first amendment: **“Insert into the proposed By-laws that have not been voted yet Article II, Section 2, after ‘activities’, ‘inspired by Unitarian Universalism’**

Discussion Ensued: Point of Order: **Bobbi Keppel** asked for alternating “pro” and “con” discussion format. **Crowley called for a vote on the amendment: 17 in favor, 37 opposed. The amendment was defeated.**

Efferdink proposed to Article IV, Section 2 (Officers, etc.) Add this sentence: “At least three (3) Board Members must be current members of a UU congregation.”

The motion, duly seconded, discussion ensued. **Barbara Stroup called the question, the motion was seconded, and approved. The Vote was called on the addition of a sentence to Article IV, Section 4. The amendment did not pass.**

Discussion of the original motion resumed. An amendment was preposed to Article IV, Section 3 to insert the following after the words “three years. “Directors will serve staggered terms so all seats will never be co-terminous.” Barbara Stroup proposed a friendly amendment, “Directors will be elected for staggered terms of 3 years.” Dan stated this issue needs further work by the Board, and should be brought back to the Membership after referral to a Committee. This takes precedence. The issue (of terms of Board Members) will go back to Committee.

Dee Wilbur called the question on the original proposed 2019 Changes to the By-laws, the motion was seconded. The motion passed. Barbara Crowley commented that the Board will continue the conversation around the By-laws.

Acknowledgement of Past Board Members: Barbara Crowley expressed gratitude for the contributions of those who have served on the Board of Directors in the past. She then asked those former Board members present to stand and be recognized.

Retiring Board Members and Nominating Committee Members Acknowledgement: Barbara Crowley asked those in attendance at this meeting to recognize and acknowledge the contributions to Ferry Beach by those Directors and members of the Nominating Committee whose terms have ended: from the Board, David Beseda and Steve Fogg. Barbara asked that we thank David and Steve for their service when we see them.

Each will receive a gift of a clock and compass in a commemorative case. Barbara also noted Steve (Foggy) Fogg's valuable maintenance advice and assistance. As Barbara presented the gifts, she said, "You love Ferry Beach and we love you."

Nominating Committee Report: Cyd Melcher, Member, Nominating Committee read the names of candidates for open positions on the Board of Directors:

- Marty Burgess of Kennebunk, ME, for a three-year term as President;
- Caitlin Peale Sloan of Massachusetts, for a three-year term as Vice President;
- Kathleen Dziadzio of Saco, ME for a three-year term as an at-large Director;
- Richard Plumb of Massachusetts for a three-year term as an at-large Director.

Cyd also read the name of one candidate for a three-year term on the Nominating Committee:

- Claudia Sienko of Saco, ME.

Vote on Nominations by the Membership: Cyd then called for a motion to approve the slate of candidates for positions on the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. **Duly moved and seconded by Members in good standing, the vote to approve was unanimous.**

Special Awards of the Community: Cathy Stackpole, Executive Director announced that this year's award winners:

– **Philanthropy Award: Ruth Gitchell Rempt** – Cathy thanked Ruth for her history of generosity to Ferry Beach, the Gitchell Porch for example; and after applause, Ruth responded by asking all present to do their best for Ferry Beach.

– **Community Award: Roger White**, Ferry Beach Caretaker was chosen with "the big picture" in mind. Cathy called Roger 'an institution', a salesman for Maine and an ambassador for Ferry Beach. Roger professed his expertise at "upside-down reading" helps him stay informed as needed, and credited the advice he received in recovery with his approach to his life: his job is to be of service to others. Roger's response to the award and the standing ovation was "Too Much Love!"

Induction of Members: Board and Officers: Marty Burgess, President called new and current board members to the stage to read aloud together the Board Covenant.

Vote to Adjourn: Marty Burgess, President invited a motion to adjourn, one was made and seconded, and approved at 3:50 p.m.

Special Music: Song: We Shall Be Known, Community

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Emery, Member of the Board