# OBCC Board Meeting Minutes

## December 11, 2020 7:00pm

### Attendees:

Janet Fahey

Kim Gretton

Rebecca Lawrence

Mary Thompson

Marie Sawford

### Agenda:

* Confirmation of Board of Directors Positions
* Discuss membership price structure
  + \*Early Bird Special\*
  + Best ways to inform membership of change
* Reminder structure for renewals
  + By newsletter and/or email?
  + How often?
* Fill Newsletter and Learning & Outreach positions
* Decision on web domain name & expenditure to support it
* Other business

### Committees Confirmations

* **Board of Directors**
  + President: Mary Thompson
  + Vice President: Janet Fahey
  + Director: Marie Sawford
  + Treasurer: Kim Gretton
  + Secretary: Rebecca Lawrence
    - **TO DO:** Rebecca to post on website
* **Trials Committee**
  + Tracy Hinton is stepping down this year, along with John Palmer.
  + Various members have expressed interest in joining this Committee:
    - Lorna Savage, Carol Guy, Andrea de Kenedy, Anne Wheatley, Fiona Robertson and Patrick Gosselin have expressed interest in joining this Committee
    - Mary’s 3 picks at the time are Lorna, Carol & Ann. Janet likes the idea of Fiona if the latter is interested. Rebecca is going to reach out to Patrick to confirm with him, as she knows he was interested in the Committee for 2020
  + **TO DO:** Mary to reach out again to FionaRobertson to see if she is interested, Rebecca to reach out to Patrick again to confirm his interest. Board will vote by email if we have an even number of people interested. Looking to have it decided before Christmas
  + **TO DO:**  Rebecca to post the confirmed Committees on website once the above is done.
* **Learning & Outreach**
  + Previous Committee members are stepping down, though will continue to finish the Interview with Amanda film
  + Mary reached out to Anne Wheatley for more information as to what the Outreach portion was about historically. Anne told her it was for reaching out to farmers etc. to do demonstrations, provide information and get more interest in the Club. Mary doesn’t think this relevant anymore in the digital era anymore and perhaps it should be re-named to “Learning & Development” with a focus on lessons, teaching, practices and clinics
  + Marie wanted to know if we can change the Committee name, we can, it isn’t in the by-laws. The Club has had the Committee has had it at least for 5 years, and it really has exploded in the past few years
  + Mary states she has some great ideas for it, and has been provided with it. Janet isn’t interested in being on it, but would be willing to host an event. Marie agrees that the word Development makes more sense, especially with the Covid-19 pandemic. Mary wants to do work for both Novice & Open handlers who are struggling. Marie has interest in being a part of the Committee.
  + Mary noted there was an idea of having a fun trial but to call it a practice trial instead with a fake judge. Rebecca noted that the Committee did that this year with Tracy as host/teacher/judge
  + Mary notes that Jane Kessler is also happy to host an event at her farm
    - **TO DO:**  Mary to reach out to Jane & Susan again to see if there is any interest. She will also reach out to Louise Hadley & Kelly Morrow to see if they are interested.

Membership Price Structure

* Janet is questioning on how the original proposal for the fee change came about as she wasn’t aware of it, neither were Kim or Rebecca. The latter were aware of discussion of change to by-law re: removal of June 1st to avoid penalizing Club members who pay late, and make the change that the handler has to pay before going to the post or points will not count towards year end awards.
* Kim says with the “close down” in March due to Covid-19, she feels there wasn’t the urgency for the members to renew their membership. We weren’t hosting trials and didn’t until August, she feels this is a one off.
* Rebecca says the by-law discussion was to remove the headache the previous Boards have gone through when a person paid past the June 1st deadline/stepping to the post.
* Kim also points out that the increase has been happening in other groups she & Kevan belong to, and the discussion they’ve had is “what are we getting from these increased costs?” How is this increase benefit the Club and its members?
* Janet is not sure that the proposal to the price increase was even done legally at the AGM
* Marie says we need to present it as the membership cost is now $40/single: $45/family but if you pay before March 1st the cost is $30/single: $35/family. We should also consider a non-trialing membership cost at perhaps something like $25.00
* Mary feels it is a penalty, but Marie brought up how Lene Band brought it as being better as an incentive rather than a punishment is a better way to phrase it
* Marie says because it was voted upon by the members at the AGM, it is a valid proposal? Rebecca agrees based on her understanding of the by-laws of the Club. Janet doesn’t feel it is proper proposal, she says we have to investigate to see if it is even valid. She says she didn’t even receive the opportunity to vote before the AGM went to the next portion.
* Marie says we need to let our membership know regarding the change, Rebecca says she feels we should be letter our Club members know of the change in pricing change. Marie thinks Tracy should contacted first regarding this proposal before the Board attempts to overturn it.
* Janet feels the delay in payment based on previous by-law is a lack of communication with the Club and with the pandemic that took place this year
* Rebecca says the first vote to change the by-law to remove the June 1st deadline and points count only if paid before going to post passed 100% in the meeting
* Rebecca states that the AGM vote to change the fee structure for membership was: 16-FOR 5-AGAINST 9-NO VOTE. Rebecca had suggested during the AGM that perhaps this should have gone out to the whole membership to vote on at a whole but it was decided to go ahead with the vote at the AGM. Rebecca has replayed the meeting several times but could not account for the 9 missing votes at the AGM. Janet points out we should have voted only on Tracy’s proposal as it was written, then gone on to vote on the amended proposal as laid out by Amanda. She feels that the vote would be void as proper procedure was not followed. Marie says as the AGM only happens once a year, we may need to follow it for this year, and we should speak with our members about it this year. We, as the Board, can then bring up a proposal at the 2021 AGM to be reversed.
* Janet, Kim, Rebecca, Marie says it should be presented as a reward to the Club to pay earlier.
  + **TO DO**: Rebecca says we can’t dismiss it as it was voted upon at the AGM. From what she understood while taking notes & transcribing the meeting, it should have been a legit vote. Janet wants to investigate to see if proper procedure was followed.
  + **TO DO:** Rebecca to update Membership Form regarding receiving newsletter & contact by Club via email, and post to the site. Also, to highlight price structure change on the website.

Reminder structure for renewals

* Discussion on how to go forward in future regarding this, previous there had been pushback on sending out email reminders to Club members
* Rebecca, Mary both brought up they receive reminders to pay other organizations that they belong to, not sure why the Board cannot
* Janet says it relates to the privacy issue and Canadian law, we need to change our form to have an opt-in option on our Membership Form
  + **TO DO**: Rebecca to add to the form

Newsletter

* Michelle Lawrence & Kris Kiviaho have stepped down, the latest newsletter was fantastic
* Mary was talking with Anne & Lorna regarding how many people actually view the website, and feels that too many people don’t remember the website password. Rebecca pointed out it goes out to the Club in the first newsletter of the year, and in an email when they join. Mary feels it should go on Facebook. Rebecca is adamant that this is not a good idea, while the Facebook group says “Official”, it is not controlled by the Board, anyone can join it, and there is an awful lot of data mining that takes place via Facebook. Mary says Anne’s idea was to have a private group, Rebecca says she is already part of private groups. This discussion has happened in the past, and previous Boards did not want to go the route of a private group as they did not want to lose the people (like our US handler friends) who view that group, along with there is plenty of people who do not use Facebook due to personal datamining(Janet being one of them). Rebecca says we do actually have receive a lot of hits on our own Club site though Mary doesn’t feel it does. Mary says we should put a notification on the Facebook when we add something to the site. Rebecca says we do, but if you see it or not depends on Facebook’s algorithm. The Club should not be beholden to that. Rebecca says Facebook sells the data they collect to advertisers, while the Club’s website does not do that.
* Mary feels that the newsletter has just turned into reports on trial reports, with the loss of “meatier” articles. The newsletter was changed to reflect the leadership of previous boards.
* Mary says people have expressed interest in being a part of the newsletter, Rebecca found the opposite to be true while trying to gather names as part of the Nominating Committee. Janet wants to know if the website could have private forums on our site, Rebecca will look into it as part of the new site upgrade. There is an option to do so on our current site.
* Mary would like to see the newsletter to be more current, not months out of date. If it is digital, it could be done more currently
* Mary noted she said yes to writing an article and sent it within a few days. Rebecca says from watching Michelle, that is the exception. Most will say no to writing an article, or not delivering it in a timely manner.
* When Michelle took over the newsletter editing, she was restricted to using Word so that future editors can take over. This is very restrictive.
* Marie states her webperson she uses personally for her own site & newsletter may be able to do the layout for the Club & distribute. This would mean the Club would be responsible for providing the articles, photos etc. to her contact to create the newsletter & the Club would distribute.

Website update & expenditure

* Rebecca has agreed to stay on as webmaster, she is to investigate new ways of updating the website (not the domain) as our current provider is limited and doesn’t allow for proper mobile formatting. Amanda had brought up the $500 during the AGM to investigate & update the website. Rebecca stated that we will not be spending anywhere near that, we don’t require that much to do so.
  + **TO DO:** Rebecca to discuss with Marie Sawford re: possibility of using the extra site space the latter currently has and is not using. This could save the OBCC some expenses. The two will have a meeting to discuss.

### Next meeting:

* + To be determined

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm