

**New Hampshire Bridge Association
Spring Meeting Minutes (Draft)
May 2, 2020**

The 2020 winter meeting of the New Hampshire Bridge Association Board of Directors was held via Zoom due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. It was called to order, by president, David Lawrence at 11:00 AM. Those in attendance included: Lucia Carlisle, Jane Verdrager, Ross Huntington, David Lawrence, Kathy Benjamin, Ron Ouellet, Bill Kennedy, Alice Eberhardt, John Pieper, and Sarah Widhu.

Secretary's Report – Ross Huntington

- Ross Huntington had distributed the winter meeting minutes to everyone via email prior to the meeting.
- Lucia Carlisle moved that the minutes of the winter meeting be accepted. Alice Eberhardt seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Lucia Carlisle

- Lucia Carlisle had distributed a statement of income, expenses and cash balance to everyone prior to the meeting via email.
- Bill Kennedy moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as submitted. Jane Verdrager seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Membership – Kathy Benjamin

Kathy Benjamin had passed out a detailed breakdown of the number of total members, new members, transfers into Unit 150, new Life Masters, and New Junior Masters (to whom she sends letters of congratulation), as well as a breakdown of the number of members in each Master Point rank. The NHBA membership now stands at 581.

Bill Kennedy moved to accept the membership report as submitted. Alice Eberhardt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

August Sectional Discussion

Bill Kennedy, tournament chairperson, recommended its cancellation due to the covid-19 pandemic. He noted that social distancing measures recommended by the State of New Hampshire and the ACBL were likely to still be in place and tournaments for August in surrounding states had already been cancelled. He also noted that any planning for the tournament which was to be held at Rivier College in Nashua is impossible as the school is presently closed. Other members voiced concern on the closeness of Nashua to Massachusetts and the worry that attendees from that state would be much more likely to be infected with the covid-19 virus. Kathy Benjamin made a motion to accept Bill's cancellation recommendation and Alice Eberhardt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At Lucia Carlisle's request the board then discussed the possibility that its upcoming tournaments could be held on-line through Bridge Base Online. John Pieper and Bill Kennedy suggested the board hold another meeting via zoom in 60 days, when we know more about New Hampshire's response to Covid-19 and our on-line tournament options. The board agreed to do this.

Web Site Update

David Lawrence gave the board an update of the planned switch to a new web site and the cancellation of the use of the present Pianola web site. David stated Bob Bertoni would have the new web site up and running shortly and that Bob Bertoni's health had slowed the start up of the new web site somewhat. Some on the board questioned what would happen if Bob Bertoni's health failed. David said there were other people in the company that could complete the start-up. John Pieper stated we need to get the source code for the new web site from Bob Bertoni in case we later have to go somewhere else. Jane Verdrager mentioned we could also look at Unit 190's web site. The present contract with Pianola is still in effect until August.

State Championship

Jane Verdrager, the tournament chairperson, recommended its cancellation as an on site tournament. She mentioned the health concerns and low expected turn out due to the covid-19 pandemic. Jane also mentioned she is unable to do any planning as the venue is presently closed due to the pandemic. The board members agreed to revisit the question of an on-site State championship as well as the September and November sectional tournaments in sixty days at the next meeting. They noted that an on-line tournament may be possible. This will be a topic at the next board meeting.

Leroy Lake Award

The board discussed how they should handle the Leroy Lake Award for 2020 given that clubs were presently closed the state tournament, where it is presented, may not be held. It was decided David Lawrence would send out an e-mail to NHBA members seeking nominations to go to Rick Weinstein the chairman of the award Committee.

Reopening of Bridge Clubs

The board noted that due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic the New Hampshire bridge clubs would be closed for the foreseeable future possibly until 2021. Bridge club owners present stated that the opening of their bridge clubs would be in conformance with ACBL and State of New Hampshire guidelines. Ron Ouellet proposed emailing all NHBA members of the present club status regarding when they might open. Kathy Benjamin agreed with this suggestion and David Lawrence volunteered to send an email to all members. It was agreed further discussion on club openings would be withheld until the next meeting of the board.

Flyers

Kathy Benjamin reported she had emailed the board members a list of flyer recipients including the number of flyers. She reported the flyers for the Dover Sectional cost \$25. The board deferred any further discussion on tournament and state championship flyers until the next board meeting due to the present uncertain status of these events.

By-Law Change Proposal

Kathy Benjamin suggested a change to the present by-laws that would give the board the flexibility to hold a one-day or two-day state championship as they saw fit. Lucia Carlisle noted that any by-law change will have to be accepted by a vote of the NHBA membership at the annual, or special meeting. She suggested that Kathy write up her proposed change to the by-laws for the board to edit and approve. The board would then send an email notice to members of the proposed change. John Pieper suggested that this email should be a separate email from any other emails the board might send to the membership. John Pieper's suggestion was accepted.

Bridge-Base-On-Line Play Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

David Lawrence and Bill Kennedy reported to the board that their clubs were holding on-line games on BBO on Mondays and Fridays and that the games were going well and others from NH could join these games or another club could start a new game. John Peiper stated he was already trying to find enough players from his club for a game but the ACBL required a minimum of 24 players. Sarah Widhu mentioned the possibility of setting up a New Hampshire virtual club to include all NHBA members. But she noted the Portsmouth and Derry clubs were lucky to have been set up by Larry Cheetham early on as much of the staff at the ACBL had been furloughed and setting up new ACBL clubs on BBO was going very slowly. It was also noted that with an on-line club the director must be a non-playing director. Setting up a New Hampshire virtual club was to be revisited at the next board meeting in 2 months.

Scheduled Meetings

The next meeting of the NHBA board was scheduled for June 27th at 9:00 am. The meeting will again be held via Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Bill Kennedy made a motion to adjourn the spring meeting of the NHBA. Ron Ouellet seconded this motion and it was approved unanimously at 12:05pm.