

**Friends of Barnstable Harbor  
Minutes of Annual Meeting  
December 18, 2020**

The meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order at 4:06 PM by President Avery Revere. In attendance were Treasurer Chris Schumacher, Secretary Peter Eleftherakis and 29 additional members. A quorum was certified.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed slate of officers as outlined in the Proxy Statement (attached). The vote was unanimous (including voice vote and proxy ballots submitted) to accept the slate as proposed.

The minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were distributed by Secretary Eleftherakis via email prior to the meeting and were accepted by unanimous vote.

President Revere presented the names of three new board members and thanked them for their willingness to serve. These include Susan Handy Littlefield, Doug Moquin and Paul Heslinga.

The President then presented a proposed new Mission Statement for the organization and solicited feedback. Discussion ensued and the wording below was accepted unanimously:

**Friends of Barnstable Harbor is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization whose mission is uniting the harbor community in the preservation and protection of Barnstable Harbor, ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy the bounty and beauty of its waters, marshes, and beaches.**

The Treasurers Report was presented by Chris Schumacher:

2020 was a challenging financial year for FOBH, though not without its positive aspects. Although we were unable to sponsor the Youth Education Project and unable to conduct a major fundraising event, we were still able to raise \$18,431 and ended the year with a cash balance of \$14,629.

Work will begin shortly on 2021 budgetary planning with hopes of holding another fundraising event. Any suggestions for additional sources of fundraising are welcomed.

Our 2019 taxes were filed on time by Randy Hunt, CPA. Randy will be closing his firm and has recommended a replacement. Village resident Andy Miller was also recommended as a possible replacement.

The Treasurers Report was accepted unanimously.

President Revere noted that she plans to pay off the remaining \$10,000 balance owed on the Benthic Mapping Study.

Education Chair Britt Lay reported to the group on the status of FOBH Education Projects:

As would be expected, the Youth Education Project (YEP) is currently in a state of limbo. We were not able to run any trips in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. We look forward to expanding the program in 2021 if possible. Discussions will begin shortly with Joe Nastasi regarding the availability of the Horseshoe Crab for the coming season.

President Revere has had contact with the newly formed MA Climate Education Program. Started by a Sandwich High School student, the program is a youth-led grass roots campaign dedicated to promoting environmental education in schools. They are attempting to get the state legislature to add climate-related subjects to the state curriculum. Avery would like FOBH to consider endorsing their work. More details to follow.

The Education Report was accepted in a unanimous vote.

President Revere read excerpts of the interim report of the Benthic Mapping study. Samples have been collected and the sorting and cataloging is now underway. The full report is scheduled to be produced within the next year. Avery would like FOBH to consider undertaking the companion Finfish/Shellfish study of the harbor. Prior to coming to the group with a formal recommendation, Avery will confirm the viability of conducting the study so long after the completion of the initial phase. Estimated cost of the study is \$75,000.

A brief discussion on fundraising followed. One attendee asked if we have tried writing any grant applications and suggested that Cape Cod Foundation might be a good place to start. President Revere mentioned that she has reached out to them in the past and has not received a strong response. It was asked whether we have a Case Statement prepared for soliciting funds (the answer is yes). Someone else asked if we have approached Cape Cod 5 yet (the answer was no). It was suggested that we move our bank account to a local bank and a number of attendees agreed.

### **President's Report**

2020 was a quiet year for FOBH activities. It started strongly with the New Year's Swim, from which we received over \$10,000, but all activities following that were cancelled or postponed.

State of the Harbor Project: This is a collaborative effort with FOBH, Barnstable Land Trust and Long Pasture Audubon. Last year planning focused on the marshes. It is likely that topic will be chosen again when the plan gets resurrected, but likely not until fall of 2022.

2021 goals will be:

- Fundraising
- Developing a Strategic Plan
- Holding another Sunset Cruise

President Revere feels that FOBH should send a letter to the town in support of the work scheduled for Commerce Road, urging that that wildlife access be protected.

Jon Brink mentioned a project underway in New Hampshire where the Nature Conservancy is working with local oyster growers to purchase surplus farmed oysters and use them in oyster restoration projects. A number of comments were shared about oyster restoration projects in other parts of the country.

A question was asked whether this might be something that could be explored for Barnstable Harbor. It was noted that some of the local oyster farmers indicated that the prices being paid were not high enough to generate much interest locally.

Jon and Avery said they would like to explore the possibility of using oysters as a way to clean up the inner harbor area, though there is concern about the potential that contaminated oysters may be consumed and cause health issues. Jon said he will follow-up on this in the coming year and reached out to any FOBH members who would like to get involved in the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15.

Respectfully Submitted January 3, 2021,

Peter Eleftherakis  
Secretary



## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE & PROXY

Friday, December 18, 2020 at 4:00  
PM Virtual "Zoom" Meeting

### Agenda:

- Quorum, Proxy, Minutes, Financials, Votes, etc.
- 2021 Management Team & Executive Committee
- Adopt New Mission Statement
- YEP! Report
- Benthic Habitat Mapping Project & Fundraising
- Suggested 2021 Events and Activities
- Any other items, new business, etc.

### Proxy Directors and Officers:

( ) Vote for all Director Nominees listed below, or vote for each Nominee individually:

- ( ) Avery Revere, President
- ( ) Chris Schumacher, Treasurer
- ( ) Open, Vice President
- ( ) Peter Eleftherakis, Secretary
- ( ) Mike Harden
- ( ) Jack Hill
- ( ) Peter Hutton
- ( ) Cy Nelson
- ( ) Jonathan Brink
- ( ) Craig Schelter
- ( ) Jeanne Willis
- ( ) Brit Lay
- ( ) Dana Bassett
- ( ) Susan Handy Littlefield
- ( ) Doug Moquin
- ( ) Paul Heslinga
- ( ) Ted Theodores (Honorary: Non-Voting, Non-Quorum Director)
- ( ) (write-in candidate \_\_\_\_\_ )

Please vote, sign & deliver to the 2019 annual meeting, mail it to our address above, or reply email with votes indicated by (X), and e-signature below:

Member Signature (one member sign per proxy):

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name also)