

Newburyport Choral Society  
Regular Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 15th, 2018

**Call to Order**, Vice President Mary Ann Lachat called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm at the home of Ralph and Joanne Johnson, 1 Lanes End, Newbury, MA.

**Present:** Mary Ann Lachat, Carol Yunker, Beth Rogers, Ralph Johnson, Phil Smith, Mary Ellen Moreland, John Moreland, Tom Clark, Mary Dissette, Brenda Rich, Joanne Johnson, Solomon Berman, Kerri Maclennan (7:18)

**Absent:** Brian Greenberg, Sandra Starr

**Announcements:** We have agreed to host a reception after the Skylark Concert on Sunday, May 27th beginning at 4:00pm. Solomon made an additional announcement regarding the change to the rehearsal day to Tuesdays. Solomon has drafted a letter to the membership.

**Communications:** Three communications were submitted by Solomon:

1. Nominations - there are two vacancies that need to be filled on the board.
2. Officers for financial signatures: President, vice president, treasurer and past president . The can be revisited if these are too many.
3. Retiring of "past President" position.

**Consent Agenda:** The minutes of the April 2018 board meeting were accepted and approved by a voice vote, as were the minutes of the October, 2017 and February, 2018 Executive Sessions, and the Standing Orders.

**Treasurer's' Reports:** Beth presented the Treasurer's report which on a motion by Ralph, seconded by Tom, was accepted by a voice vote.

**Committee Reports:**

**MCC Gateway Grant Visit:** Mary Ann shared highlights: Reviewer is Lecolion Washington. The timing for the visit was a little off, but he heard the Ave Verum and observed George teaching. The chorus sounded wonderful. Thanks to Ralph, Joanne and Solomon for their input. Mary Ann created a notebook for Lecolion to take with him. Felt he engaged with the group, probed and pushed the education piece. Mary Ann provided further demographic information from the local census to support our diversity. Talked about the outreach for Annelies concert. Lecolion didn't quite understand the organizational chart at first, but this was clarified. He was interested in our use of surveys to gather information from the membership. We will hear results of this process later in the summer.

**Ongoing Business:**

**Spring 2018 Concert Reflections:** (Beth) Some felt Saturday concert was too late. (Carol) Amazed that such diverse group learned music so well! (Tom) having had to sit out, realized how important being in the chorus is. (Kerry) - Mozart is the bomb! Balance issues, orchestra may overpower concert, some sound issues. Missed George speaking - his presence adds to our concerts. Solomon will discuss with George. Issues of concert dress/singers protocol discussed. Discussion of encouraging more memorized section of music.

**Horse Chestnut Dedication:** Mary Ann reported on the dedication scheduled June 15th for students at the Nock Middle School. Thrilled at buy-in from the school department. Student led ceremony. Small group of students/landscape will create a small butterfly garden. George will speak at the ceremony as well. Discussion or publicity and getting the "whole story" told.

**Belleville Church update:** Joanne provided an update on building repairs, etc. Building inspector has approved the building for the coming year. Discussion about perhaps us thinking again about the space issue.

**Review of Board and NCS Schedule:** We will need to reschedule board meetings because of the new rehearsal schedule (Tuesdays). Solomon discussed meetings. The 3rd Monday of the month is the only night available at the bank. Discussion of other issues around the date change. Possibility of changing places, swapping out one or two meetings, date conflicts, etc.

The President ordered the following dates for board meetings:

**2018**

September 17  
October 22  
November 19  
December 17

**2019**

January 21  
February. 18  
March 18  
April 15  
Annual Mtg. May 13

**Rehearsal schedule for Concert week:** Saturday morning, Tuesday evening, Thursday evening, Concerts Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon.

**Ops Plan Review(though the summer):** MaryAnn noted that ordering Summer Sing music needed to be added. Membership looks good. Added in LCC reports/paperwork to be completed by the end of May. Order spring and fall music added/moved to June.

**New Business:** Beth reported on the Budget Committee (members: Beth, Solomon, Mary Ann, Ralph, Kim Nabinger). 2019 Budget - not approved yet.

Highlights:

Up to \$5000 for assistant conductor

Added \$500/semester for graphic artist

Ticket sales same

Mention of possible membership increase (we did raise them last year)

Added payroll costs

Recommending a 20% increase in music fees to defray rental costs. Solomon explained this.

Concern about this. Define language that makes it clear, get ahead of a potential problem.

Insurance costs (D&O) Directors and officers

Solomon walked through some of the changes (not too many)

Increases:

Insurance costs

Payroll

Decreases:

Printing

A motion to ratify the FY 2019 budget, as submitted by the Budget Committee was made by Ralph, seconded by Phil. Motion passed on voice vote.

**Capital Improvement:**

\$5000 - one time expenditure to "modernize"

Computer issues, - Software

Cushion built in for coders, etc.

Discussion of membership issues in terms of data entry.

Beth - request to purchase a 30 month CD. Will be put on agenda for June's retreat.

A motion to call the question to authorize and approve made by Mary D., seconded by Ralph, was approved on a voice vote.

A motion to Authorize and appropriate \$5000 for IT/website team for IT infrastructure overhaul was made by Ralph and seconded by Carol, approved by voice vote

**Adjournment:** On a motion to adjourn made by Carol, seconded by Ralph the meeting adjourned 9:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Rich. Member-at-large