

Newburyport Choral Society
Regular Board Meeting
February 11, 2019

Call to Order: Vice President Mary Ann Lachat called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. at the Newburyport Senior Center 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA.

Present: George Case, Mary Dissette, Brian Greenberg, Ralph Johnson, Mary Ann Lachat, John Moreland, Maryellen Moreland, Brenda Rich, Beth Rogers, Phil Smith, Sandra Starr, and Carol Yunker.

Absent:. Solomon Berman, Tom Clark, Joanne Johnson, Kerri MacLennan, .

Announcements:

Executive Session: VP Mary Ann made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a performance review and the state of a director. Tom seconded and on a unanimous vote of the board executive session was entered at 7:08 PM.

The board returned to regular session at 8:09 PM, whereupon the President reported that during Executive Session the Board received the AC's performance evaluation, reviewed and discussed it and made changes. The Board also received a letter from Joanne concerning her status and resulting need to reduce her workload. Her duties will be distributed among various members. The Board extends all our support and love.

Consent Agenda: The minutes of the December meeting were approved. The Media update and the Winter 2018 ticket sales reports were accepted.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report: In Beth Rogers' absence John motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report on paper. Carol seconded and all voted in favor.

President's Remarks: Solomon announced the projects for the next 6 months, as follows:

1. Fiscal Year 2020 budget – needed by May and will begin in April;
2. Handbook update – to be addressed during the period between the Annual meeting and the retreat;
3. Constitution update – already begun by the President and Secretary;
4. Comp ticket discussion – taken up between Annual meeting and retreat;
5. Creation of RFP for website design.

Director Reports:

Music Director's Report: Phil made a motion to remove the Music Director's report from the table and open it for discussion. Maryellen seconded and discussion ensued. George noted that the chorus seemed to learn the music later in the term than usual; Kerri stated that the sectionals were useful and it was agreed that having them earlier in the term would be helpful. It was suggested that having specific ways to study the music and a mention of what would be covered in the next rehearsal would be helpful. It was agreed that it was a challenging semester and that many of the members lack discipline and do not take personal responsibility for learning the music. This needs to be addressed – somehow.

LCC Grants: Brenda reported that of the 8 requests sent out, 6 have responded, most favorably except for Rowley which declines to fund us.

At the President's request Kerri made a motion to table for the next meeting discussion of the Spring registration and the ICT update. Ralph seconded and all voted in favor.

Special Order Calendar - Order related to ticket sales: Solomon established a team to review the current concert ticket sales policy relative to overselling because a family managed to purchase tickets at the door to Sunday's sold out performance and complained that they were unable to sit together. Team members are Ralph - Logistics, Phil - Concert Manager, Brian - Media, and Mary Ann as Chair. A report is expected at the February 11th meeting.

Ongoing Business:

Ops Plan Review: The Ops Plan was reviewed and updated. Ralph noted there are problems with the February and March board meetings dates. Any changes not mentioned are to be emailed to Mary Ann.

New Business:

2019 -2020 Concert Programs:

George presented his recommendations for the 2019-2020 season.

Summer Sing 2019 – Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass

Winter 2019 – Gabrieli's Hodie Christus Natus Est a 8 and O Magnum Mysterium; Siegfried – Selections from Vidimus Stellam, Movement II and III; Cecilia McDowell's Christus Natus Est; Rutter's Gloria, and audience carols.

Spring 2020 – Mendelssohn's Elijah

It was agreed to approve these recommendations and commit the programs to the budget committee.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Carol, seconded by Ralph the meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Starr, Secretary