

Minutes of the NEKBSSI Monthly Meeting, January 17, 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom videoconference and called to order at 1:40 p.m. by the president, Mark Davidson. There were 13 members and no guests present.

Officer Reports:

Secretary: Not present but the minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted with one correction: The second paragraph of Old Business references the Executive Board meeting of November 16, 2007. It should read November 16, 2017.

Treasurer: Reported \$4727.15 beginning balance, receipts of \$173.68, and expenditures of \$251.00 yielding an ending balance of \$4649.83. There are currently 18 members paid for 2021.

VP: Nothing to report.

Safety Officer: Not present.

Old Business: As no record of membership approval of the November 2017 executive board meeting decision that established our current dues structure was found, a motion to approve the board's dues structure was made by Bud Park, seconded by Dave Boudreau, and passed unanimously.

The by-laws committee chairman, Bud Park reported the results and recommendations from the committee's review of the by-laws and the secretary's proposal to add the definition of a new member to the by-laws. The committee concluded that such details do not belong in the by-laws, but suggested a "dues structure" document be created by the board, approved by the membership, and posted to the website. The committee also identified a grammatical error in Article VIII that needs to be corrected.

New Business: VP Bill Miller said that he has received several reports that the field cameras are not working properly. He will check them after his Covid-19 quarantine ends.

Greg Inkmann asked if there was any interest in local clubs sharing their newsletters among members of other clubs, on an individual basis, to help promote activities of other clubs that they might not otherwise know about.

Motion by Bud Park, seconded by Sam Brown to amend by-laws Article VIII to require future amendments be proposed in writing, and to correct a grammatical error in the last sentence of the article. There was no discussion; a copy of the complete proposal with justification is published and attached below, and scheduled to be voted on at the February meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Program/Show and Tell: None

Attachment: Proposal to amend NEKBSSI By-laws

To amend Article VIII of the club by-laws to require amendment proposals be presented in writing, and to correct a grammatical error in the last sentence of the Article.

As reads:

ARTICLE VIII Amendments or Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

Amendments may be proposed at any regular or special meeting by any member in good standing, to be published and voted on no earlier than the next regular or special meeting. Amendments must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present. Proposed amendments or changes to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be made available to the membership by any one of several methods: publication on the Club web site, through E-mail, publication in the monthly Club Newsletter, or by individual mailing, and must be available to the membership prior to any vote. No amendment to the Constitution of By-laws may be voted on at the meeting at which the amendment is proposed.

Proposed (changes shown in bold italics):

ARTICLE VIII Amendments or Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

Amendments may be proposed ***in writing*** at any regular or special meeting by any member in good standing, to be published and voted on no earlier than the next regular or special meeting. ***Amendment proposals will include both the current wording and the proposed new wording.*** Amendments must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present. Proposed amendments or changes to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be made available to the membership by any one of several methods: publication on the Club web site, through E-mail, publication in the monthly Club Newsletter, or by individual mailing, and must be available to the membership prior to any vote. No amendment to the Constitution ***and*** By-laws may be voted on at the meeting at which the amendment is proposed.”

Discussion: Making changes to the by-laws is necessarily a cumbersome procedure. This helps reduce frivolous changes and provides for a more stable governance of the club. Requiring such changes to be presented to the membership in writing will streamline the amendment process and yield several other benefits. It will:

1. Require the person proposing the amendment to carefully think through the change and wording thereof,
2. Provide the exact wording of the proposed change for the secretary to publish in the minutes and to the membership prior to the next meeting for voting,
3. Reduce or eliminate misunderstanding by the membership as to what is being proposed,
4. Reduce or eliminate unnecessary "wordsmithing" that wastes time when such changes are proposed orally, and,
5. Provide the continuity from the meeting at which the amendment is proposed to the next meeting at which the proposal is voted.

Respectfully submitted for the Secretary by Bud Park.