

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
Minutes 2023 Annual Meeting Aug 10, 2023, 5:00 pm

Incoming Secretary: Lisa Doner (scribe)

Location: Kirkwood Gardens, Holderness

Number Attending: 66

Meeting began at 5:00 pm, called to order by Chair Sarah Brown.

- First order of business – review of last year’s minutes (hard copies handed out). Motion to accept minutes by Lisa Aulet, seconded by Lisa Bennett. No discussion or amendments. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.
- Treasurer’s report offered by Anne Lovett, Treasurer. She reported on how well the Science Center has rebounded after the Covid shutdown and subsequent slow down in activities. During 2020 and 2021, we received over \$700,000 in government aid (PPP, etc.)and so did not have to tap the reserve funds. Thanks to the help of Justin Van Etten, former Chair of the Finance Committee, we recently received just over \$600,000 (in Covid-related payroll tax credit). Kevin Barrett was introduced and thanked for his oversight of the audit committee. Thanks also to Dave Murphy for chairing the investment committee.. Summary of financial status (also available on the website):
 - \$460K contributed in 2023,
 - \$472K earned in education revenues,
 - \$252K earned in membership fees,
 - Admissions down slightly (no value given),
 - \$2.6 million in expenses for staffing and maintenance
 - Approx 9% return on investments in 2023 (rebounding after losses in 2022)
- Sarah Brown introduced the nominations of trustees and officers, starting with notice of retirement from the Board by Carl Lehner who served from 2014-2023. Carl was given a gift as thank you for his long service. George Carr, recently deceased, was also recognized and will be missed. The following motions and voting results were recorded:
 - Motion to accept the slate of renewing Trustees by Nan Grossman, seconded by Anne Lovett. No discussion or amendments. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes unanimously. Renewed Trustees for 2nd three-year terms are Lisa Aulet, Lisa Bennett, and Geoff Stewart.
 - Motion to accept the slate of new trustees for a three-year term, by Martha Grant, seconded by Ken Evans. No discussion or amendments. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes unanimously. New trustees are Tory Amorello, Brent Anderson, and Ann Ehrhart.
 - Motion to accept the slate of officers by Susan Lynch, seconded by Frank Stevens. No discussion or amendments. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes unanimously. Officers serving one-year terms are Sarah Brown, Chair; Justin Van Etten, Vice-Chair; Anne R. Lovett, Treasurer; and Lisa Doner, Secretary.

- Sarah introduced Executive Director Iain MacLeod with recognition of continuing accomplishments for the Science Center, including the acquisition of two male mountain lion cubs (Jan 2023) to replace the ones lost to old age in 2021 and 2022, and a new bear cub to join the adult female. Iain described several priorities for this year including actions in responses to the loss of AZA zoo accreditation membership and to reaching outcomes highlighted in the strategic plan:
 - Priority 1 is to be top-notch stewards of animals, ensuring their future well-being and meeting their needs. We have begun a “Pathway to Membership” in AZA with new staff and a new animal annex.
 - Priority 2 is to address climate change more overtly with public education, including setting an example with the solar panel array (240 panels). We have also begun the process to seek external program evaluation.
 - Priority 3 is a nature for all initiative, with expansion of diversity and inclusivity efforts. This includes inclusivity training. We are now sensory certified with new signage and outreach. We’ve added a dedicated quiet/private space.
 - Priority 4 is for the future, and financial strategy.

Iain also acknowledged efforts by the Board of Trustees, committee members, docents, interns, and year-round staff, with a special nod to PSU alum Lauren Moulis (absent) and her 15-year service in animal care from 2003-2023. Lauren will receive a bonus check this year. Credit for the mountain lion acquisition goes to her.

Iain announced the Horizon Award, with recitation of prior recipients. This year the award goes to Eric D’Aleo, a Science Center staff member since 1994. One of Eric’s contributions is the beginning of the Hidden Stories effort in 2006, setting up 30+ trail cameras and story maps linked to them online. Eric received the award in person.

Sarah congratulated Eric, and thanked the members for attending. Motion to adjourn by Cris Salomon, seconded by Cathy Denious. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Meeting minutes completed Aug 19, 2023 and submitted to the Chair for review.
Lisa Doner, Secretary.