

**Black Point Beach Association  
Board of Governors  
June 27th, 2020 Organizational Meeting Minutes  
6 Sunset Drive, Niantic, CT, 06357**

Present: Cheryl Colangelo, Chair  
Will Fountain  
Steve Beauchene  
Rick Diachenko  
Phil Lombardo  
Sharon Bruce  
Janet Bonelli

- I. A Quorum was established at 12:39 p.m.**
- II. Nominations for Chair**

Brooke Stevens called for nominations for Chair of the Board of Governors for 2020-2021. Ms. Colangelo said seconds are not needed for this process.

**MOTION (1)**

**Ms. Bruce nominated Rick Diachenko for the Chair of the Board of Governors.**

**MOTION (2)**

**Dr. Beauchene nominated Cheryl Colangelo for the Chair of the Board of Governors.**

Seeing as there were no further nominations Ms. Stevens closed the nominations.

Mr. Lombardo observed it has been a difficult year and said he thinks Ms. Colangelo has done a good job and that we should support her.

Mr. Diachenko said he believes that Ms. Colangelo has worked very hard as Chair and should be commended for doing this through very difficult times. However, he thinks we need to take a look at the processes we've been using; as Chair he would like to focus on some of the following:

- Shortening the length of meetings which are simply too long; many individuals in Black Point have the qualifications that would make them ideal for the Board of Governors but the meeting length is a deterrent.
- A more standardized agenda.
- Participation of the Board members and preliminary work prior to the meeting.

- This would help eliminate some of the time consuming questions that come up during the meetings.
- Productivity is a process and a change of process would be better.
- More innovative ideas and more strategic plans like the ones that worked well with the pier project.

Mr. Diachenko said he doesn't want it to appear that he doesn't support Ms. Colangelo; he merely loves Black Point, thinks it's a great place to live and work, and wants to see it be better.

Ms. Bruce said she has the utmost respect for the Board and for Cheryl and knows it has been a difficult year. She thinks Mr. Diachenko has some good ideas and there are things that can be done to make the meetings more productive and less time consuming. In the meetings that she runs all reports are given ahead of time and they utilize a consent agenda; they're all discussed if there is a specific question.

Ms. Bruce discussed utilizing task forces as a means of streamlining association work. She detailed how her meetings are never more than two hours in length despite addressing major items; if Black Point was more like this people would be more willing to get involved.

Ms. Bonelli asked Mr. Diachenko how long he has been on the Board and he replied 6 months, but he has been a Black Point resident for over 10 years.

Ms. Bonelli asked how Mr. Diachenko would be different and he discussed how the process could be streamlined and said he's not a fan of meetings for meetings sake.

Ms. Colangelo had the following comments:

- She has been on the Board for 5 years.
- The agenda is a standard agenda which prioritizes what needs to be done eminently.
- The pier project and Covid have obviously taken a great deal of our time.
- It has also changed how members participate in meetings and how long they remark on things.
- The agenda is established by the Chair determining what the agenda should be after asking for input from every single Board member.
- In the past this has been as a discussion and if the Chair doesn't feel it's appropriate a member can add that item through a motion supported by a majority of Board members.

- The agendas this year were lengthy and it's sometimes difficult to intervene when someone is speaking.
- She can't apologize for how the agenda is done and she can't say she has ever had a year on the Board when there have been this many crises.

Dr. Beauchene said he likes Mr. Diachenko but his concern is the experience level; Mr. Diachenko has been on the Board for 6 months so he knows how things work but there might be a lot he is unaware of. He said it's a multifaceted position and in another year he would be happy to be Mr. Diachenko's campaign manager.

Mr. Diachenko detailed his experience running territories, training and working with many people. He said he doesn't know everything and that is what the Board is for; there is currently very little talking done by the Board and we would be surprised if they spoke 20% of the time, at the last meeting. He added he thinks this is a preparation issue as well. He would like to see more free thinking ideas and more input from the Board for the agenda.

Ms. Colangelo said any member of the Board can have something added to the agenda with the support of 2 or 3 other Board members; this decision is reflective of the Board- they either support the addition to the agenda or oppose it and this makes it the decision of the Board and not just the Chair.

Ms. Bruce said that Mr. Diachenko is right that the Board needs to be nimble; if you have a good idea it should be discussed without getting the support of 2 or 3 other members.

Ms. Bonelli discussed her own experience and said one of the reasons she decided to join was because she listened to the meeting and felt something had to be done.

**Vote 1:**

**Ms. Stevens called for all those in favor of Mr. Diachenko as Chair.**

**Motion failed, 3-3-1.**

**Yay- Ms. Bonelli, Ms. Bruce and Mr. Diachenko**

**Nay- Dr. Beauchene, Mr. Lombardo and Ms. Colangelo**

**Abstain- Mr. Fountain**

**Ms. Stevens called for all those in favor of Ms. Colangelo as Chair.**

**Motion failed, 3-3-1.**

**Yay- Dr. Beauchene, Mr. Lombardo and Ms. Colangelo**

**Nay- Ms. Bonelli, Ms. Bruce and Mr. Diachenko**

**Abstain- Mr. Fountain**

**Ms. Stevens clarified that according to Robert's Rules the vote must be taken until there is a majority.**

**Vote 2:**

**Ms. Stevens called for all those in favor of Mr. Diachenko as Chair.**

**Motion failed, 3-3-1.**

**Yay- Ms. Bonelli, Ms. Bruce and Mr. Diachenko**

**Nay- Dr. Beauchene, Mr. Lombardo and Ms. Colangelo**

**Abstain- Mr. Fountain**

**Ms. Stevens called for all those in favor of Ms. Colangelo as Chair.**

**Motion failed, 3-3-1.**

**Yay- Dr. Beauchene, Mr. Lombardo and Ms. Colangelo**

**Nay- Ms. Bonelli, Ms. Bruce and Mr. Diachenko**

**Abstain- Mr. Fountain**

Ms. Bonelli asked if there was a way to talk this out and asked about Co-Chairs and the Board discussed how it's not in the Charter.

Ms. Bonelli said her and her children were listening to the last meeting and it felt archaic; the meeting just kept going on forever. She said she wants to be involved in a positive way for everyone and as a Consultant, she agrees that it was very long and not very productive. Ms. Bonelli said Robert's Rules is good but it can also be confining.

Dr. Beauchene said he thinks much of the issue this year has been a result of Covid; this year has been a nightmare and we have to obey what the State dictates. If we choose something different and someone were to get hurt, the Board would be held responsible because we changed the rules.

Dr. Beauchene said he would love to have everyone give their input in committees before so the meetings are faster but we haven't had the opportunity to revisit how we accomplish things because everything is secondary to Covid and has consumed all our

time. He encourages people to share their ideas with the Board because they only want to improve things; some people say we're not transparent but he can't see how we can be anymore transparent. He hopes that whoever wins has the support of the entire Board so they can all work together. He doesn't think you can judge the Board by what has happened as a result of Covid.

Ms. Bruce mentioned how it was stated at a previous meeting that public comment could not be made because of FOIA which is not accurate. She stressed how information could be shared in a more forthright manner and gave an example regarding the budget approval last year.

Mr. Diachenko said there were several special meetings to make up for things that were not accomplished even before Covid was an issue. He said if we have a better process we could avoid having those extra meetings.

Mr. Lombardo said he has been a supporter of subcommittees from the get go and agrees there is room for improvement.

**Vote 3:**

**Ms. Stevens called for all those in favor of Mr. Diachenko as Chair.**

**Motion failed, 3-3-1.**

**Yay- Ms. Bonelli, Ms. Bruce and Mr. Diachenko**

**Nay- Dr. Beauchene, Mr. Lombardo and Ms. Colangelo**

**Abstain- Mr. Fountain**

**Ms. Stevens called for all those in favor of Ms. Colangelo as Chair.**

**Motion failed, 3-3-1.**

**Yay- Dr. Beauchene, Mr. Lombardo and Ms. Colangelo**

**Nay- Ms. Bonelli, Ms. Bruce and Mr. Diachenko**

**Abstain- Mr. Fountain**

Mr. Diachenko mentioned how he shared with Mr. Lombardo how he compiled a list of 60 items to address in the future, and how various teams of 2 could address these items which would cover a lot of ground prior to meetings.

Mr. Lombardo said he thinks there should be subcommittees but to attempt to conquer that list is beyond what is necessary and even more time consuming. Dr. Beauchene

reminded the Board that subcommittees have to be noticed as well and minutes have to be done.

Mr. Fountain said he's abstaining because his history is in building and maintenance and not administration.

Ms. Bruce said there are only 7 of them here and there are 600 homes so why not ask for volunteers to work on these task forces, and she discussed what this problem solving might look like.

Ms. Bonelli discussed how difficulty happens from indecision and the importance of deciding "where it falls down" and fixing it. She said there isn't time to be indecisive.

Ms. Colangelo discussed how community involvement has actually increased due to teleconferencing the meetings. She said in the past year and a half the daily emails she gets from community members is ten times what they were, and Ms. Stevens could attest to this. Ms. Stevens nodded her agreement with this assessment.

Ms. Colangelo said all emails get responded to and shared that her background is human services, and that she has been an administrator as well as a university professor. She thinks the best thing they can do is be available and communicative even if they have to say sorry, that they don't agree and this is why.

The Board further discussed task forces, how to address problems, decision making methods and utilization of liaisons.

Ms. Bonelli asked what the items on Mr. Diachenko's list are. Dr. Beauchene said we would have to have a meeting noticed to discuss them. He said new blood benefits the Board and different approaches can be compatible.

Ms. Bonelli asked how decisions are made and Ms. Colangelo explained to Ms. Bonelli how liaisons and reports work. She said it's the Chair's job to organize everything and shared how she has often remarked how even when they disagree with one another they still respect and support each other.

**Vote 4:**

**Ms. Stevens called for all those in favor of Mr. Diachenko as Chair.**

Ms. Bonelli said she doesn't know enough so she thinks she should abstain.

**Motion failed, 2-3-2.**

**Yay- Ms. Bonelli and Mr. Diachenko**

**Nay- Dr. Beauchene, Mr. Lombardo and Ms. Colangelo**

**Abstain- Mr. Fountain and Ms. Bonelli**

**Ms. Stevens called for all those in favor of Ms. Colangelo as Chair.**

**Motion carried, 3-2-2; Ms. Colangelo is Chair.**

**Yay- Dr. Beauchene, Mr. Lombardo and Ms. Colangelo**

**Nay- Ms. Bruce and Mr. Diachenko**

**Abstain- Mr. Fountain and Ms. Bonelli**

**Ms. Colangelo appointed Dr. Beauchene as Vice Chair.**

### **III. Members of the Board of Governors 2020-2021**

Cheryl Colangelo, Chair; second term expires 5/2022

Will Fountain; second term expires 5/2022

Steve Beauchene, Vice Chair; second term expires 5/2022

Phil Lombardo; first term expires 5/2021

Rick Diachenko; finishing vacated term, expires 5/2021

Sharon Bruce; first term expires 5/2023

Janet Bonelli; first term expires 5/2023

### **MOTION (3)**

**Dr. Beauchene moved to adjourn the Black Point Beach Club Board of Governors Organizational meeting at 1:39 p.m.**

**Ms. Colangelo seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried, 7-0-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Stevens, Recording Secretary