

BSRA Annual and October Monthly Business Meeting Minutes October 3, 2020

The October 3, 2020 Annual and Business Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Bradley Clarke via Zoom Video Conference. The Annual Meeting was combined with the Business Meeting in the interest of streamlining the business to be conducted.

President's Remarks:

Welcome to the Sixty-First Annual Meeting of the Boston Street Railway Association. This is also our October monthly business meeting and our fourth Internet meeting. Unlike in-person Annual and Business Meetings in past years, I have decided to streamline the order of business for the two meetings by combining them rather than adhere to the past practice of running the two meetings through recess and reconvening, given the nature of Internet meetings for our organization.

I will confine the reading of the Annual Report to the summary for 2020:

Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020) on the day to day operations and long-term projects of the BSRA, the Association has successfully navigated many of the limitations imposed by this difficult situation. Despite setbacks in a number of areas, we have seen success in others, offsetting what could have had, overall, serious impacts on your Association.

On the negative side of the ledger, a few of our members have left us from Covid-19 related illness. They are a loss to our Association and to their families, to whom we express our sincere condolences.

Another consequence of the pandemic was an unavoidable cancellation of our late April Green Line fantrip, intended to commemorate the end of Lechmere Station. A number of our members did attend the station closing the last night, however, and we were able to use their pictures then and in the last days of Lechmere Station operation in a special edition of RollSign, which covered Lechmere from construction to closing.

Our long-term project to complete the restoration of Type 5 No. 5706 was placed on hold. Our contractor had to postpone the completion of his new shop facility, expected this summer, but which now will not happen until 2021. On the positive side, however, we were notified of a sizable bequest, \$30,000 of which we have already received, strong donations to the 5706 Fund, and a grant from the Mass. Bay RRE. This increased funding will advance the project considerably.

We had to suspend the printed version of RollSign until June. In its place, however, we were able to publish an electronic version and distribute it those who opted into a newly instituted email distribution program. The printed version has resumed production. We are sending the printed and electronic types to all members.

Since April, in-person meetings at the Midtown Hotel have not been possible. Using our new email list and the Zoom conferencing platform, we began holding monthly meetings on the Internet. Members attending these electronic meetings average twice the number of our meetings at the hotel.

Financially, FY 2020 ended with strong balances in both the General and 5706 Funds. Expenses were lower than normal due to reductions in mailing, rental, and catalogue printing costs. We saw some expense increases for Covid-19 related membership mailings, but overall, the results were positive. The Annual Report of the Treasurer on the last page is a detailed summary.

Despite these challenges, we are optimistic about 2021. Assuming that Covid-19 and its restrictions will be behind us, we expect a return to normal operations while keeping the positive outcomes that we have achieved in coping with this pandemic.

Treasurer's Fiscal Year 2020 Report:

Charlie Bahne read the Treasurer's Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.
Summary Treasurer's Report, Fiscal Year 2020
(detailed report is available for download)

General Fund

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Income..... | \$57,670.89 |
| Expenses..... | \$52,445.62 |
| Surplus..... | \$5,225.27 |
| Cash on hand 9/30/2020..... | \$16,958.89 |

5706 Fund

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Income..... | \$52,487.40 |
| Expenses..... | \$7,457.26 |
| Surplus..... | \$45,030.14 |
| Cash on hand 9/30/2020..... | \$59,256.89 |

- Many thanks to our Members, who this year gave a record total of \$37,232 to the Association. *We truly appreciate your generosity!*
- We also received a \$30,000 bequest, plus a \$1,000 grant from the Mass. Bay Railroad Enthusiasts, for the 5706 Fund.
- Other General Fund Income includes a \$2,475 refund from the Midtown Hotel, for unused meeting room space.
- General Fund expenses were lower, in part due to combined *RollSign* mailings and a lack of in-person monthly meetings.
- We start off the new Fiscal Year in excellent shape.

Secretary's Election Report:

Tadd Anderson read the results of the Fiscal Year 2021 Election which are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| President: | Bradley Clarke received 145 votes 2 Blanks |
| Vice-President: | Thomas Athearn received 143 votes 4 Blanks |

Treasurer: Charles Bahne received 145 votes
George Chiasson received 1 vote
1 Blank

Secretary: Thaddeus Anderson received 144 votes
3 Blanks

Librarian: James Gately received 144 votes
Roger Tobin received 1 vote
2 Blanks

Director of Car Restoration: David Harling received 145 votes
2 Blanks

Publications Director: Michael Prescott received 146 votes
1 Blank

RollSign Director: Nicholas Tomkavage received 145 votes
Jonathan Belcher received 1 vote
1 Blank

Directors at Large: Jonathan Belcher received 147 votes
Daniel Cohen received 144 votes
Ronald Clough received 1 vote
2 Blanks

Treasurer's September 2020 Monthly Report:

Charlie Bahne read the following Treasurer's Report from September 2020:

General Fund

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Income..... | \$1,809.58 |
| Expenses | \$5,217.53 |
| Cash on hand 9/30/2020..... | \$16,958.89 |

5706 Fund

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Income..... | \$216.81 |
| Expenses | \$450.00 |
| Cash on hand 9/30/2020..... | \$59,256.89 |

Combined cash on hand 9/30/2020 \$76,215.78

- General Fund Expenses include *RollSign* printing and mailing, plus mailing of renewal notices and annual meeting notices.
- Our thanks go to a total of 120 donors who have given \$10,732 to our summer fund appeal.
- We end the year with a record high balance in our General Fund.
- Dues and subscription renewal checks, received by September 24, were deposited on October 1. This includes renewals for 279 members and subscribers, plus \$5,822 in donations.
- Online renewal payments are now being accepted, as of October 3.

Publication Director's Report:

Mike Prescott read the following summary:

Just a quick update on Publications. The Late Summer catalog went out with the most recent RollSign, and those new items are also available in our online store. We are also in the process of adding more new items in advance of our Holiday Catalog, including 2021 Calendars which will start to be available for sale as we get them in. You can shop online any time at thebsra.org/store

Director of Car Restoration Report:

Brad Clarke reported that work on 5706 is currently on hold due to the pandemic. Donations have been coming in strongly, putting us in a much better position to resume work in 2021.

RollSign Director's Report:

Nick Tomkavage read the following summary:

Members should have received their copies of the May-June 2020 ROLLSIGN. Work continues on the July-August 2020 issue which will feature an update on the MBTA response to COVID-19. That issue is expected to be sent to print by the middle of the month.

Director at Large reports: None.

Old Business: None

New Business:

The following applicants were voted on for Regular Membership: Andrew Stephens of Cambridge, MA and Dennis McLaughlin of Somers, CT. The Secretary cast a token ballot to accept the two new regular members as read.

Current events:

Jonathan Belcher read the following report of activity on the MBTA:

October 2020 MBTA Current Events

Green Line:

- Type 9: Still only 16 of 24 accepted

Orange Line:

- No change in CRRC fleet status: Four CRRC cars in testing (1416/1417 and 1418/1419), Twenty (1400-1415, 1426/27, and 1428/1429) are in service

Red Line:

- 1900-1905 remain in testing, no word on revenue debut or additional deliveries.

Commuter Rail:

- K car overhaul: 90 done, 1 in testing, 9 at Hornell, 6 left to go
3rd overhauled MBB car, 535, returned to service
- Loco 1058 sent to MPI in Erie for rebuild
-

Bus:

- 183 of 194 1925-2118 series buses are accepted, the order should be completed in October. The additional 60 buses on order will arrive between September and December. These will be numbered 3100-3159 and assigned to Charlestown. Busses 1400-1459 will be transferred to Lynn. The first three have been transferred. To accommodate hybrid busses at Lynn, routes approaching Central Sq., from the north must be rerouted from Silsbee Street because of a low bridge.
- Neoplan active fleet down to 100 of 192 active, 85 at Fellsway and 15 at Albany
0620 and 0621 being converted to sleet-scrapers, to replace 3 RTS work busses. 0215 is retired, 0267 and 0291 will be next.

Entertainment Report:

Lucius Chiaraviglio summarized the upcoming entertainment through February 2021.

Officers Present:

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs tuned in included Bradley Clarke, Tom Athearn, Charlie Bahne, Jonathan Belcher, Dan Cohen, Ron Clough, Nick Tomkavage, Mike Prescott, Lucius Chiaraviglio and Dana Frisbee.

Adjournment:

The Business Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tadd Anderson
Secretary, Boston Street Railway Association
10/30/2020