

**BSRA Annual and October
Monthly Business Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2023**

1. Call to Order of 64th Annual Meeting

- The October 14, 2023, Annual and Business Meeting was called to order at 7:30 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 Clarke greeted the members in attendance and mentioned that Mike Prescott is managing the Zoom meeting functions, and thanked him on behalf of all of us.
- The entertainment was THE STORY OF FRANK SPRAGUE. Tom Laurensen of the Shore Line Trolley Museum in East Haven, CT, presented the accomplishments of Frank Sprague, primary inventor of the modern trolley, multiple unit control, and who played a major part in the development of New York's Grand Central Terminal and the launch of electric streetcars in a number of cities including Boston.

2. The first order of business was the Sixty-Fourth Annual meeting.

- The Secretary's combined Annual and Business Meeting report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and for the October 2022 Business Meeting were previously posted.
- Summary of Annual Report
 - A. Fiscal year 2023, which runs from October 1 through September 30, ended with a small treasury surplus, to our relief. Volunteer medical issues, problems with our website on two occasions, and publications procurement issues headed a list of difficulties which could have resulted in a significantly negative outcome. Three trends are also at work here: the relentless march of economic inflation, member losses over the years due to attrition due in no small part to an aging demographic, and reduced interest in volunteer participation. Your continuing support over the years has reduced these obstacles, and for this your Association is deeply appreciative.
 - B. This said, the Association did show considerable progress in the restoration program for Boston Type 5, No. 5706, ongoing production of RollSign, and record sales at the annual Amherst Railway show at the Big E in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Regarding RollSign, the January-February issue kicked off the 60th year of our transit magazine, a real milestone for the BSRA. Our hard-working Entertainment Chair, Lucius Chiaraviglio, crafted a great series of programs for the shows following our monthly business meetings, and the attendance figures demonstrate the popularity of these efforts.
 - C. The Amherst Railway Society show has always been a good one. In addition to significant publication sales, which were boosted by three tables this year, it allows our member and officers to meet in person, and many of you took advantage of this opportunity. The show also is a recruiting point for new members and offers the opportunity to allow the railfan community and the general public to see and appreciate our educational and historical preservation missions.
 - D. Type 5 No. 5706 has moved from steelwork and specialty welding activities, and roof work to focusing on internal installation of carbody parts. Our first big change is painting the exterior of the car and the interior areas around the door and windows. Until this is finished, the car has to remain inside to shield it from the elements, despite occasional needs for activities better done outside. Financial support for the restoration has been very strong, and this year, the car crossed the half-million-dollar mark. The total as of this writing is now \$504,322!

- E. Our monthly meetings continue to attract audiences significantly larger than the live meetings that we held pre-Covid, but we have not ruled out returning to live meetings on a periodic basis. As we have previously said in the past, it is important to maintain the audience that benefits from Zoom via the Internet, so any live meetings we hold will have to include these members in addition to the live attendees. We continue to explore the software issues associated with doing this in a professional way. Another concern is finding a suitable and affordable location in Boston to meet. Rental rates have increased considerably since our last live meetings, so this may be the greater of the challenges that we face in the resumption of live meetings.
 - F. Electronic distribution of *RollSign* has worked well. We continue to give all our members the printed version of the magazine and the electronic version for download to our email member mailing list. However, given the preference of some of our members for an electronic version only, and given increasing costs for printing and distribution of the hard copy, it is likely that we will go forward in the future with electronic distribution only for those that request it.
 - G. We have compiled all the raw material for the new Green Line book in the *Streetcar Lines of the Hub* series. As we have explained elsewhere in this report, this is a purely volunteer effort, and medical issues with volunteers working on this project, and who often juggle several functions, have derailed production of the book once again. Volunteer help in other areas will do much to remedy this situation.
 - H. Our primary missions are educational dissemination and historical preservation, as exemplified by the Type 5 No. 5706 restoration program. Our responses to public inquiries by email, regular mail, and through our website confirm these missions. We remain a valuable information asset for our members and the public, as we continue into FY 2024. We look to you all for your continuing financial support, bequests, and membership renewals, to continue in the right direction.
 - I. In the interest of time, the Treasurer’s Summary for FY 2023 was read. The entire annual report was posted prior to the meeting for the benefit of those desiring to read the individual department reports.
- Treasurer’s Fiscal Year 2023 Report: Charles Bahne read the Treasurer’s Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.
 Summary Treasurer’s Report, Fiscal Year 2023
(detailed report is available for download)

General Fund

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Income | \$53,726.63 |
| Expenses | \$53,672.95 |
| Surplus | \$53.68 |
| <i>Cash on hand 9/30/2023</i> | <i>\$13,966.83</i> |

5706 Fund

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Income | \$48,225.11 |
| Expenses | \$34,333.77 |
| Surplus | \$13,891.34 |
| <i>Cash on hand 9/30/2023</i> | <i>\$93,043.36</i> |
| <i>Combined cash on hand 9/30/2023</i> | <i>107,010.19</i> |

- Many thanks to our Members and friends, who this year gave \$36,773 to the Association, a near record. We appreciate your generosity!

- A bequest of \$22,873 was received and allocated to the 5706 Fund.
- Bookstore sales were lower this year, largely due to staff availability.
- *RollSign* expenses were lower, since we only printed five issues this year; we will have to catch up in a future year.
- Warehouse rent increases, postage increases, and paper cost increases all continue to affect our bottom line each year. • Since 1999, we've raised a total of \$504,321.79 for the 5706 Fund.

- **FY 2024 Election Report:**

Tadd Anderson read the results of the Fiscal Year 2023 Election which are as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| President: | Bradley H. Clarke | 148 Votes | 1 Blank |
| Vice-President: | Thomas Athearn | 147 Votes | 2 Blanks |
| Treasurer: | Charles Bahne, Jr. Byron Nash | 146 Votes 1 Vote | 2 Blanks |
| Secretary: | Thaddeus S. Anderson | 146 Votes | 3 Blanks |
| Librarian: | James E. Gately Roger Tobin | 145 Votes 2 Votes | 2 Blanks |
| Director of Car Restoration: | David F. Harling | 147 Votes | 2 Blanks |
| Publications Director: | Michael R. Prescott | 148 Votes | 1 Blank |
| RollSign Director: | Clark Frazier Jonathan Belcher Byron Nash | 141 Votes 2 Votes 1 Vote | 5 Blanks |
| Directors at Large: | Jonathan Belcher Kenneth C. Zwirble Daniel Cohen | 147 Votes 136 Votes 1 Vote | 2 Blanks 11 Blanks |
| Robert Hussey | | 1 Vote | |

The election results brought the annual meeting to an end, and we then moved on to the October Business Meeting.

3. The next order of business was the October 2023 Business Meeting

- For the benefit of those arriving late, President Clarke reiterated the entertainment program following adjournment of the Business Meeting.

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Treasurer's September 2023 Monthly Report:

- Charles Bahne read the Treasurer's September 2023 Monthly report.

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.
Summary Treasurer's Report, September 2023
(detailed report is available for download)

General Fund

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Income | \$428.76 |
| Expenses | \$5,269.77 |
| Cash on hand 9/30/2023 | \$13,966.83 |

5706 Fund

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Income | \$205.95 |
| Expenses | \$3,420.32 |
| Cash on hand 9/30/2023 | \$93,043.36 |
| Combined cash on hand 9/30/2023 | \$107,010.19 |

- The year ended on a quiet note financially, but we were still able to finish with a small surplus in the General Fund.
- The 5706 Fund ended the year with a nice surplus due to the large bequest that we received in January.
- Our 2024 renewal notices have been delayed, so that we can implement a new and simpler online renewal system. We expect to mail them soon.
- Since 1999, we've raised a total of \$504,321.79 for the 5706 Fund.

Publication Director's Report:

- Mike Prescott explained in the annual report that website problems and volunteer medical challenges affected our sales and fulfillment programs this year. We expect to resume operations this year.

Director of Car Restoration Report:

- President Clarke reported that the 5706 Fund now stands at \$93,044.
- We have now raised \$504,322 for Type 5 No. 5706.
- Preparation of the section of the car body painted orange below the windows was finalized for in September. The effect is quite dramatic.
- Kenneth Zwirble, our Director at Large in Virginia has been keeping his eye on the progress and taking pictures of the work for us.

RollSign Director's Report:

- Clark Frazier reported that we are running behind, but hope to catch up soon. The May/June and August/September issues are both in progress.

Director at Large reports: None.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- The following was a list of new member applicants:

JEREMIAS DIAZ, ARLINGTON, MA, *New Intermediate Member*

GREG JACKSON, BOSTON, MA, *New Regular Member*

- A motion was made to have the Secretary cast a token ballot to accept the new Regular Member and new Intermediate Member. The motion was passed and both new members were welcomed into the Association.

Current events:

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

October 2023 MBTA Current Events

- Green Line:** Service between Government Center and North Station and service to Union Sq. resumed. Car 3806 struck an automobile making an illegal, turn at St. Paul Street grade crossing and derailed. It returned to service after minor repairs.
- Orange Line:** CRRC fleet: 92 active cars in service. 1494/1495 delivered for testing.
- Red Line:** Total fleet remains 12 out of 252 ordered. Two trains were operated at same time for first time, but until more cars are delivered, this can only take place if no pairs are in shop for inspections or repairs. Cars 01632/01633 have been out of service for over two years, have been officially decommissioned and stripped for parts. Evening and weekend shutdown of Braintree branch continued into early October for track work. Full shut-down of Ashmont branch and Mattapan-Ashmont line for trackwork taking place between October 14-29.
- Blue Line:** Suffolk Downs Station Eastbound platform is temporarily closed because of deteriorated platform edge conditions.
- Commuter Rail:** Locomotive rebuilding: 26 units have been completed, 13 are at Erie. The Erie strike has been settled and production should resume. 56 of the 83 new Rotems on order have been delivered, 24 accepted for service. The active 1600 fleet is now 16 cab cars and 19 former cab cars (35 total). These will gradually be removed from service as more new Rotems arrive, and Kawasaki cars are transferred to the north side for service. The 16 MBB cars leased to CT Rail are being returned, first 10 returned and moved to Rochester MA. It is not clear yet if they will be stored or possibly be wrapped in MBTA colors and returned to active fleet. Planned closures of Ashland station and service between North Wilmington station and Boston will continue. Temporary new Lynn station now planned to open in December 2023. New Bedford/Fall River service now targeted to start in summer 2024 with simulated test service starting in spring 2024.
- Bus:** Fifteen 1400 series busses of 60 total are now at Midwest Bus for overhaul. The first pilot bus, 1426, has returned for testing. DMA 1120 is held for preservation. Deliveries of 160 3200-3359 series busses from New Flyer continue, 100 are in service at Albany, 16 active at Lynn, most of the remaining 44 have been delivered and are in testing. 24 of the 155 2006 built 0600-0754 series remain in service, all at Fellsway. Costello Dismantling is removing these busses for scrap at a rate of 4-6 a week. 36 2008 busses at Lynn will also be transferred to Fellsway as 3300 series busses are delivered to Lynn, 9 have been

transferred so far. Bus 0842 is going to be converted to a mobile training school. The number of 1300-1344 busses with luggage racks for SL1 service is being increased from 8 to 13 (1332-1344)

Entertainment Report:

- Lucius Chiaraviglio summarized the upcoming entertainment through February 2024.

Officers Present:

- Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs present included Bradley Clarke, Tom Athearn, Charlie Bahne, Jonathan Belcher, Ken Zwirble, Tadd Anderson, Jim Gately, Clark Frazier, Mike Prescott, and Lucius Chiaraviglio.

Adjournment:

- The Annual and Business Meetings adjourned at 8:15PM. Entertainment by Tom Laursen followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Tadd Anderson
Secretary, Boston Street Railway Association
10/15/2023