

# **BSRA Annual and October Monthly Business Meeting Minutes October 5, 2024**

## Call to Order of 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

- The October 5, 2024, Annual and Business Meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by President Bradley Clarke via Zoom Video Conference. The Annual Meeting was combined with the Business Meeting as per past practice to streamline the business to be conducted.

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

The Secretary's combined Annual and Business Meeting report for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 and the October 2023 Business Meeting were posted.

## • Summary of Annual Report:

The BSRA has achieved significant accomplishments in fiscal year 2024. We have made great progress on our Type 5, No. 5706, and donations are at an all-time high. The delay in RollSign production in the previous year has been overcome, and the imminent publication of the May-June issue and the July-August edition later will bring us up to date.

- At the end of the year, with the cooperation of the MBTA and several volunteers, we operated a successful MBTA 60th Anniversary Green Line fantrip. Over 100 of our members and friends attended this trip, covering all of the active Green Line and some service trackage not used for regular passenger service.

- Finally, we achieved a healthy financial surplus. We are particularly grateful for the substantial donations from our members and friends, and we sincerely appreciate your ongoing interest and enthusiastic support.

- We have made significant progress on Metropolitan Transit Authority number 5706 this year. We hope to complete the car body by the end of this calendar year. In 2025 and possibly into 2026, we would like to finish the installation of the underbody components.

- We have established a stable routine with our Zoom meetings, which have been well attended. As mentioned in previous years, there is still a demand for live meetings, and we are now contemplating holding at least one, and possibly two, such meetings. Having periodic meetings is much less challenging than trying to schedule meetings throughout the year. It allows us to be more selective about locations and timing, and the quality of the facilities.

- With great effort, we managed to catch up on *RollSign* issues from the previous year right up to the present. We are now putting the finishing touches on an issue and beginning another.

- However, this points to the fact that we need more volunteer help. This is not unique; most nonprofits are in the same boat. Over the years, younger generations have been our primary source of help, but with the rise of video games and other electronic attractions, our ability to attract younger minds has been difficult.

- The Board of Directors has decided to reduce BSRA's retail sales program. Competition with heavy discounting, the effort required to order resale stock and properly inventory publications for sale, limited volunteer availability for the sales process, shallow margins, increasing costs, and unrealistic customer expectations on delivery and pricing have led to this decision.

- In earlier years, we sold our own BSRA publications to the public and our members, and we will keep doing so. We also would like to keep offering calendars to our regular customers who have been ordering them for years, so there would still be some sales, but at a reduced level. This will ease the workload on our limited volunteer staff without a significant revenue loss, given the meager returns we have received in recent years.

- Regarding our in-house publications, work on the new book in the Streetcar Lines of the Hub series, focusing on the Green Line, is ongoing. This book will encompass the Green Line and its branches from 1964 to now. As it is a current publication covering events still unfolding, we anticipate significant interest from our members and the public.

- We are an educational and historical organization dedicated to preserving history of all types. This is exemplified by our restoration of Type Five No. 5706, our publication of 25 books, and more than 60 years of publishing RollSign. We are committed to responding to various public inquiries and will continue to do so in the future. Your ongoing support will help us maintain and further develop our programs.

- Treasurer’s Fiscal Year 2024 Report: Charles Bahne read the Treasurer’s Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.  
 Summary Treasurer’s Report, Fiscal Year 2024  
*(detailed report is available for download)*

*General Fund*

Income .....	\$43,275.33
Expenses .....	\$39,958.53
Surplus .....	\$3,316.80
Cash on hand 9/30/2024 .....	\$17,283.63

*5706 Fund*

Income .....	\$28,151.68
Expenses .....	\$66,802.55
(Deficit) .....	(\$38,650.87)
Cash on hand 9/30/2024 .....	\$54,392.49

- Many thanks to our Members, who this year gave a total of \$41,017 to the Association. This is a new record, 10% more than any previous year. Thank you! *We truly appreciate your generosity!*
- We also received a \$4,000 grant from the Massachusetts Bay RRE.
- General Fund income and expenses are both lower this year, due to the lack of Publications sales activity (and the related expenses).
- This year we spent \$64,616 on the restoration of car 5706.

- FY 2024 Election Report:

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

<b>President:</b>	<b>Bradley H. Clarke</b>	<b>142 Votes</b>	<b>1 Blank</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Thomas Athearn</b>	<b>142 Votes</b>	<b>1 Blank</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Charles Bahne, Jr.</b>	<b>142 Votes</b>	<b>1 Blank</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Thaddeus S. Anderson</b>	<b>142 Votes</b>	<b>1 Blank</b>
<b>Librarian:</b>	<b>James E. Gately</b> <b>Roger Tobin</b>	<b>141 Votes</b> <b>1 Vote</b>	<b>1 Blank</b>
<b>Director of Car Restoration:</b>	<b>David F. Harling</b>	<b>142 Votes</b>	<b>1 Blank</b>
<b>Publications</b>			

<b>Director:</b>	<b>Michael R. Prescott</b>	<b>141 Votes</b>	<b>2 Blanks</b>
<b>RollSign Director:</b>	<b>Clark Frazier</b>	<b>135 Votes</b>	<b>4 Blanks</b>
	<b>Jonathan Belcher</b>	<b>1 Vote</b>	
	<b>Byron Nash</b>	<b>1 Vote</b>	
	<b>Nicholas Tomkavage</b>	<b>2 Votes</b>	
<b>Directors at Large:</b>	<b>Jonathan Belcher</b>	<b>143 Votes</b>	
	<b>Kenneth C. Zwirble</b>	<b>132 Votes</b>	<b>9 Blanks</b>
	<b>Daniel Cohen</b>	<b>1 Vote</b>	
	<b>Robert Hussey</b>	<b>1 Vote</b>	

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

The next order of business was the October 2023 Business Meeting

**Treasurer’s September 2023 Monthly Report:**

- Charles Bahne read the Treasurer’s September 2024 Monthly report.

*General Fund*

Income .....	\$2,004.80
Expenses .....	\$2,619.13
Cash on hand 9/30/2024 .....	\$17,283.63

*5706 Fund*

Income .....	\$524.52
Expenses .....	\$15,639.66
Cash on hand 9/30/2024 .....	\$54,392.49
<i>Combined cash on hand 9/30/2024 .....</i>	<i>\$71,676.12</i>

- We ended the year on a quiet note; our Green Line fantrip yielded \$1,360, more than half of our General Fund income for the month.
- Membership renewal notices for 2025 are in the process of being mailed; members should receive theirs soon. Please renew promptly when received, so we won’t have to send reminder notices.
- Members may renew either online or by mail. Our streamlined online renewal process has proven easy and quick to use.
- Since 1999, we’ve raised a total of \$532,473.47 for the 5706 Fund.

**Publication Director's Report:**

- Work on the Green Line fan trip and vendor-related website interruptions have limited our activities. We would like to offer a calendar selection for the Holiday Season.
- We appreciate your ongoing patience and understanding as we work with a limited, all-volunteer staff.

**Director of Car Restoration Report:**

Brad Clarke reported the following:

- The 5706 Fund now stands at \$54,392.
- We have now raised \$532,473 for Type 5 No. 5706.

### **RollSign Director's Report:**

- Mike Prescott reported that work on the May/June issue is finishing up and work has begun on the July/August issue.

**Director at Large reports:** None.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- The following was a list of new member applicants:

SCOTT LEWANDOWSKI, STOUGHTON, MA , *New Intermediate Member*

JAREK J. ALEXANDER, DORCHESTER, MA, *Rejoining as Regular Member*

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

**Current events:**

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

### **October 2024 MBTA Current Events**

- A. **Green Line:** Type 8 3874 derailed 10/01/24 at Red Bridge junction, seven minor injuries. Initial review suggests human error as cause. Car has major damage. Two more Type 7s in addition to 3615, are being used as work cars. 3669 is now a railer car to carry equipment to derailment sites, and car 3680 is being used to tow a track geometry test pod. 3260 returned to service at Mattapan as third PCC rebuilt with Brookville Equipment controls. 3238 is in production at Everett as 4th car, to be followed by 3254 as 5th.
- B. **Orange Line:** CRRC fleet: 116 active cars in service, 1522/1523 accepted, 1516/1517, 1520/1521, 1524/1525, and 1526/1527 are in testing. 26 remain to be delivered. There will be two separate Orange Line shutdowns for track work in October, Back-Bay to Forest Hills and Oak Grove to North Station
- C. **Red Line:** Total CRRC fleet is 18 (1900-1917) accepted out of 252 ordered. 1918/1919, 1920/1921, 1922/1923, 1928/1929, and 1930/1831 delivered and in testing. 224 remain to deliver. Red Line shut-down to Braintree is complete, speed restrictions removed. There will be two more shutdowns before end of year: Harvard to Park Street and Broadway to North Quincy.
- D. **Commuter Rail:** Locomotive rebuilding is as follows: 26 units completed, 11 are at Erie. 83 of the 83 new Rotems on order have been delivered, 68 accepted for service, 15 are in testing Coach 1721 returned to service which had been out for repairs since a debris strike. Coaches 525 and 529 have been completed as non-revenue office cars. An additional 1500 series car may also be rebuilt as a track observation car. Coach 253 has been modified as a non-revenue coach equipped with lasers to remove crushed leaves from the track. Idea first used by Metro-North, to replace wash

trains Non-revenue cab car 1643 is also being used on the laser train. A locomotive rebuilding firm, Rolling Stock Solutions, has sent a pilot rebuilt ex-Amtrak F40 to Boston for display during a meeting of commuter rail officials in October. The MBTA and/or Keolis may lease 6. Unit is #1001, but is former Amtrak #316. Winchester station has reopened.

E. **Bus:** Fifteen 1400 series busses of 60 total are now at Midwest Bus for overhaul. 23 busses have returned. First ten pilot 40-ft battery busses, 4200-4204 and 4300-4304 to start arriving in November. Will temporarily be assigned to Cabot and then later to Charlestown, and then permanently to North Cambridge (4200s) and Quincy (4300s).

### **Entertainment Report:**

- Lucius Chiaraviglio summarized the upcoming entertainment through January 2025.

### **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 8:19PM. Entertainment by Leo Sullivan followed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tadd Anderson  
Secretary, Boston Street Railway Association  
10/30/2024