



Annual Meeting of the Membership And Merger Celebration

June 29th, 2023

Highland Green Community Center
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Agenda

5:15 pm Program

- I. Welcome and Call to Order – Ellen Bennett, Board Chair
- II. Approval of Minutes from 2021 annual meeting – Ann Gardner, Secretary
- III. Finance Report – Bob Perry
- IV. Executive Director's Report – Caroline Eliot
- V. Recognition of departing Board Members – Ellen Bennett
- VI. Recognition of Board members continuing to BTLT – Ellen Bennett
- VII. CREA Signature Programs Review
 - School Programs — Carey Truebe and Sarah Rodgers
 - Summer Camp – Jenny Mueller
- VIII. Reading and approval of 6/29/23 Meeting Minutes – Ann Gardner, Secretary
- IX. Closing remarks – Ellen Bennett

6:00 pm Social hour

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cathance River Education Alliance is to deepen ecological awareness through nature-based learning among students, educators, and the public; to promote environmental stewardship; and to foster the wise use of the Cathance River Nature Preserve.



To: CREA Members and Board of Directors
From: Ann Gardner, Board Secretary
Date: June 29, 2023
Subj: Minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting held June 27, 2022

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Board Members in Attendance: John Shattuck, Ann Gardner, Bob Perry, David Keffer, Rick Dedek, Ron Strand, Susan Rae-Reeves, Sue Reed, Tim Paul. Also present, Exec. Director, Caroline Eliot, CREA Educator Carey Truebe, Camp Director Jenny Mueller, and approximately 25 CREA members.

CREA President Ellen Bennett was not able to attend so John Shattuck delivered welcoming remarks.

B. Approval of Minutes from 2021 annual meeting

Moved, approved, no comments. **All approved.**

C. Elections and Approvals

a. Election of Officers:

President: Ellen Bennett, two-year term
Vice President: John Shattuck, continuation second year
Secretary: Ann Gardner, two-year term
Treasure: Robert Perry, continuation second year year

b. Board Members

Approval for a three year term:

Richard Dedek
David Keffer
John Shattuck

c. Continuing Board Members:

Ellen Bennett
Ann Gardner
Alex Gates
Jan Smith
Matt Nixon
Robert Perry
Ron Strand

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Susan Rae-Reeves
Sue Reed
Tim Paul

Moved, approved, no comment. **All approved**

D. Finance Report – Bob Perry, CREA Treasurer

CREA has successfully weathered the challenges of 2020 and 2021.

- a. Both membership and donations increased in 2021. We attribute some of that increase to people seeing the amazing work we're doing through the online programs we've offered.
- b. We've increased our contracts with the local school and expanded to offer educational opportunities to Midcoast HeadStart.
- c. CREA Camp ran in 2021 and was a huge success.
- d. CREA received a PPP grant in 2021 which was very helpful.
- e. In 2021, we wrote off a \$15k uncollectable pledge.

E. Programs Update

a. Carey Truebe, CREA Educator.

Many different educational methods were tried in 2021: virtual field trips; projects on Zoom; virtual lessons for home learning days.

Our biggest efforts were to work with teachers to expose them to place-based education. For SAD 75, we designed units that are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards. We also modified units so that the students connect with local features and really come to understand the material.

b. Jenny Mueller, CREA Camp Director

CREA Camp 2021 was very successful. 2021 Registration filled within a matter of weeks. Parents and kids both were ready to be outside.

In 2022, Camp filled within 45 minutes and there's over 145 on waiting list. The first week of CREA Camp 2022 has finished and the counselors are phenomenal.

F. Executive Directors Report - Caroline Eliot, CREA Executive Director

Caroline celebrated all that CREA accomplished in 2021 and discussed the successes summarized in the Annual Report.

G. The meeting was adjourned.

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Annual Meeting

June 29, 2023

Treasurer's Report

2022 Year-end Financial Summary in brief

Income Budget = \$173,000

Expense Budget = \$173,000

<i>Income</i>		<i>Expenses</i>	
Membership	\$47,218.00	Administrative	\$8,001.76
Business	\$4,035.00	EC maintenance & depreciation	\$7,040.16
Donations (General)	\$13,129.00	Payroll	\$141,194.19
Summer Camp	\$51,559.35	Office, Supplies, print, pstg & pubs	\$9,464.02
Other Unrestricted Income	\$1,725.01	Summer Camp Expenses	\$3,367.84
Contract Revenue	13,704.50	Staff & Board Development	\$419.00
Grants – Unrestricted*	\$20,500.00	Program Supplies & Expenses	\$1,760.63
Schools	\$3,650.00	Professional Fees/Ind. Contractors	\$4,235.00
Interest & Sales	\$3,784.33	Equipment	\$312.50
Total/Unrestricted	\$159,305.19		
Grants (Restricted)*	\$40,562.67		
Total	\$199,867.86	Total	\$175,795.10

*see Notes for listing

- Through the hard work and efforts of our staff and volunteers, CREA had a successful 2022 and maintained its fiscal stability.
- CREA membership increased to 330 as of 12/31/22, up from 261 in 2021, with an increase in membership donations to a record \$47,218. We are deeply grateful to our members, businesses and other funding sources.
- * Grants – Unrestricted include \$5,000 from Alford Foundation, \$15,000 from Onion Foundation and \$500 State Farm Insurance matching grant.
- *Restricted Grants include grants of \$20,000 from Merrymeeting Bay Trust, \$7,000 from Maine Community Foundation, \$5,000 from Mancini Electric to the Angels Fund, \$5,133 for the Ed Wilson Scholarship Fund, \$1,075.84 from the Senter Fund, and \$2,353.83 from the Frances Dewing Foundation.
- Contract Revenue derives from contracts with local school districts and other entities to train future preschool workers in outdoor learning, develop NGSS-aligned science lessons and units for elementary students, and train teachers in the new units.
- Schools revenue is program fees which go toward the cost of providing nature-based science learning experiences to public school classes at the Ecology Center.
- Professional Fees / Ind Contractors are cost related to merger discussions with BTLT.
- CREA Summer Camp was an operational and fiscal success in 2022.
- Note that in addition to the expenses indicated in the summary, \$50,000 was expensed as a provision for an uncollectible pledge.