



Notes taken by: JC  
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Approved on:

## OARS Annual Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2020 Meeting

**Attendees: Board:** Allan Fierce, Paul Fitzgerald, Lisa Vernegaard, Ingeborg Hegemann, Jeff Collins, Pam Rockwell, Kirk Doggett, Susan MacArthur

**Staff:** Alison Field-Juma, Julia Khorana, Ben Wetherill

**Members:** Approx. 60 Members attended via Zoom

**Welcome:** Allan Fierce, President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm; held online using Zoom.

**Approval of Minutes:** Draft Annual Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2019 were approved by a unanimous vote of members present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul Fitzgerald, Treasurer, reported that OARS came through Fiscal Year 2019 with total revenue of \$223,106 and total expenses of \$249,639. He asked members to continue to support OARS as we close FY20 and enter FY21 with some trepidation as the pandemic continues.

**Board of Directors Election:** Allan Fierce introduced the slate of board members up for election. While terms are typically 3 years, several names on this slate are nominated to fill shorter terms due to retirement of some board members.

- Bob Donelan, Concord – one year
- Paul Goldman, Marlborough – one year
- Pam Rockwell, Concord – two years
- Ingeborg Hegemann, Stow – three years
- Jeff Collins, Concord – three years
- Kirk Doggett, Acton – three years
- Susan MacArthur, Framingham – three years

Allan asked if there were any other nomination from members; there were none. The slate was approved by a unanimous vote of members present.

**2019-20 Years In Review:** Alison Field-Juma, OARS Executive Director, thanked the dedicated and hard-working board for supporting staff; the staff team for their flexibility and creativity during the pandemic; and members, friends, and supporters for providing more than half of OARS' income.

Despite the need to redesign their approaches to getting work done since March 2020, staff continued to carry out OARS important mission, pivoting to virtual programming and trainings, coordinating single-household volunteer teams, and designing field protocols within public health guidelines. OARS continued to advocate for funding to support water quality monitoring and the Wild & Scenic Rivers program; submitted comments on wastewater treatment plant permits; spoke to local media on the water-related effects of climate change; and co-hosted a Legislative Breakfast with SVT and a Watershed Roundtable. Staff coordinated the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual River Cleanup in 2020 with household groups to "Team Up – Clean Up!", the virtual Wild & Scenic Film Festival which attracted an estimated 600+ viewers, and an adapted RiverFest featuring self-guided tours, pre-recorded presentations, and virtual programs.

**Presentation by Ben Wetherill: OARS Water Quality Scientist: What Did We Find in Our Rivers?**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.