



Bearded Collie Club of Maine
Board Meeting
January 27, 2007

Attendees: Connie Balogh, Maryann Groves, Pat Maloney, Val Maloney, Karen Norteman

President Val Maloney called the meeting to order at 2:20 PM.

The minutes of the November Board meeting were accepted. Karen read the minutes of the January membership meeting.

President's Report

Val asked Board members to come up with ideas about how to attract more active members. The showing at our last party was much less than expected, plus we had a number of affirmative responses from people who didn't show up. It was agreed that we need to think more about this.

Some ideas discussed included advertising in *Dog In Sight* magazine and some of the other freebie animal publications in the region, and making business cards and brochures or one-pagers advertising the club.

She also reported receiving a call from Rae LeBlanc, who was sent an invitation to the January party but didn't receive it. Karen will contact Rae and get updated contact information. Rae also has a 6-month-old puppy returned from her last litter, and Rae is looking for a new home for the pup. The owners thought the puppy was "too much work."

Treasurer's Report

Connie reported that we will have \$530 in our bank account once fees have been reconciled with Bank of America. Our insurance policy is paid for 2007, but we will have to renew for 2008. We need to make sure we'll have funds available for that eventuality. Paw-zn-Around has been paid for the rental for the January party already, so the \$530 balance reflects our treasury after all of our immediate expenses. Connie offered to reimburse Karen for some of the contributions to the treasury, but Karen mentioned waiting until after our next round of bills have been paid.

Connie will contact Kevin about year-end taxes. He'd agreed to go over them with her if needed.

Membership Report

Pat reported that the club has two new family memberships: Anne Reiter and Michael Conley sent him a check with their application, and the Ackerly family joined at the January party. He passed out copies of the updated membership directory to the other Board members. It was suggested that the membership directory be included with copies of the newsletter. Pat would also like to ask for a photo of each member's Beardie(s).

We will need to send our reminders for dues. Renewal time is September 1 per our by-laws.

It was suggested that the membership directory include people's phone numbers as well. Pat pointed out that there was no blank on the membership form for a phone number, although email addresses were requested (Karen's omission). The membership applications will be updated to include phone numbers from now on.

Activities

Maryann brought in a Get Well card for Kathy Walsh, who is going into the hospital for surgery. All the Board members signed it, and Maryann will get it into the mail. Maryann will also send a thank-you card to Lillian Esposito for giving us such a nice mention in the last *Bulletin*.

Maryann reported that the people at Paw-zn-Around have offered use of the facility to us for free for the next time we want to use it. The price for a day's rental is the same as it is for four hours, and they felt bad that we only used the building for half a day at our January party.

There was some discussion about our next club event, which will probably be a Wellness Day, open to all breeds. (Val will also start writing a wellness column to be published on the club Web site.) Val suggested that people pay \$20 or \$25 at the door, and then be able to spend 15 minutes with each of the vendors. Some of the other vendors/offerings could include Karen Kimball and/or Carolyn Ross doing TTouch. Barbara Marshall could offer information about Homeopathy. Val could talk on a variety of topics, from herbs to Reiki. The Red Cross is now offering Pet First Aid courses, and could offer leaflets and maybe Rescue My Pet stickers. Other suggestions included the Wholistic Pet, a vet tech or groomer to do nail clipping, flower essences, Carolyn and Happy Tails and/or Sue Walsh from POC to promote training classes, chiropractic, acupuncture. Since we aren't sure how much activity we can fit into the space at Paw-zn-Around or whether they'd even allow us to have a public event, the discussion was tabled until we can look into it more.

We still would like to schedule a "Beach Bounce" at some point when the weather gets warmer. Karen suggested Fort Foster in Kittery or Long Sands in York. Maryann goes to the beach in Kennebunk. Connie mentioned that the beach in her neighborhood is isolated from the roads and private, and might make a good place for a Bounce. Parking is limited, however.

YCKC Supported Entry

Val asked about the Supported Entry at the York County Kennel Club show. We are all set for trophies and rosettes for Saturday, and we also have rosettes and some trophies for Sunday. Val wanted to make sure the entire list was complete, so she could send the towels out to Diane to be embroidered, and to pick out the tote bag for Sunday's BOB.

Pat will coordinate the lunch at Saturday's show. Val also suggested a raffle or silent auction table.

Karen mentioned that the YCKC show committee is willing to set aside room for Beardies at the show, and that we would be welcome to rent a tent or set up our own EZ-Ups, as desired. Val asked her to check into prices and to ask whether we had time to add more trophies for Sunday.

Some other ideas discussed included making Beardie silhouette cutouts for placements and advertising on bulletin boards at places like Pet Quarters.

Newsletter

Pat volunteered to publish the BCCME Newsletter (*Hair of the Dog*) and to mail it to all paid members, along with the Membership Directory. Maryann will take up the newsletter again when her other projects become less demanding. Connie suggested that members should have the option of receiving the newsletter by snail mail or email, since an email newsletter will save the club some money on postage. Karen has a large collection of dog biscuit recipes that can be added to the newsletter, and Val will “interview” one Beardie per issue. Other suggested features include: “Meet the Beardie/Owner,” a show column, birthdays, and photos.

Fundraising Report

Our next raffle will run through February, and will include the sweater donated by Pam McGarvey, the two autographed “Mabel” books, sheep time at Maryann's, a Reiki or animal communication session with Val, and an offer of Web site design from Karen. Connie suggested donating old *Beardie Bulletins* for auction, since they seem to go for respectable prices on eBay. Karen has a whole box of *Bulletins* she inherited from the Workmans when they last moved, and the box has never been opened.

Secretary's Report

Karen mentioned a “Meet the Breeds” event taking place on March 25 at the Saco Armory. Since we have wanted to do a Meet-and-Greet with our Beardies anyway, it was agreed that we should put up a booth at the event. There will be a contest for Best Booth, so we need to think about what we'd like to have for decorations. The event hosts will provide tables and chairs, but it's up to us to bring the rest. The next meeting for the group holding the event is Thursday, 2/8. Karen agreed to attend and fill out the required forms.

Karen also mentioned advertising in the YCKC show catalog, and the idea was generally accepted. Pat said that since the club has been so gracious in helping us with our supported entry, that we could contribute in return. Connie wrote Karen a check to be delivered to the YCKC advertising chair. Karen will contact the advertising chair and create the ad. The deadline is March 1.

The IRS bounced back our application, requesting more information and the addition of a different form. Kevin has offered to help out with this, but Karen maintains that the questions the IRS asked were more easily answered by a club member (for example, “How do you plan to attract and keep members?”). Karen will finish this, and will call Kevin if she gets stuck.

Old Business

Hospitality Chair: Hilary Sangster has agreed that she might like to do the job. Val will keep in touch.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Norteman
BCCME Secretary