

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 04/13/21

Minutes recorded by L. Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

Present: A. Moodenbaugh, J. Baum, R. Clark, D. Cox, L. Fishbone, A & V Ghosh, L. Hanson, M. Israel, B. Kinsey, L. Kouchinsky, J. Lemley, B. Lin, L. Miller, M. Rowe, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, E. Sperry, G. Williams

Officers 2020-2022: President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Lillian Kouchinsky, Secretary: Laura Miller, Treasurer: Les Fishbone, Membership Secretary: Beth Lin, Newsletter Editor: Mona Rowe

1. Call to order. Arnie Moodenbaugh.

- 1:01 pm

2. Minutes. The minutes of the March meeting were recorded by Laura Miller. Minutes were revised, approved by a majority of BREA officers and sent for publication on the BREA website. The Treasurer noticed an error after that.

- March minutes were revised to remove Action Item for Treasurer because an earlier sentence had stated that action had already been completed.
- March minutes were approved at today's meeting
- **Action:** Laura will send the minutes from the February and March minutes to Renee Warner for posting

3. Treasurer Report. Les Fishbone

- Les gave a monthly update of the accounts. There is a total of \$29019.16 in all the accounts.
- The bank requested a filing from Arnie, Lil, and Les declaring they are joint owners of account. That filing was sent.
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made and accepted unanimously.

4. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin. Prod lapsed members for renewal.

- We currently have 278 paid/current members and 249 members with email. Since the March meeting, we have received 6 membership dues. On 3/21 Beth mailed five checks, with a total of \$140, to Les.
- Motion made to accept Beth's report, seconded, passed unanimously.
 - Outreach to lapsed members: Beth has been getting a trickle of renewals and thinks approximately 20 have lapsed.
 - **Action:** Arnie will email Beth about this topic.

5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe will report on items to be included in the May/June BREA News.

- Top 10 BNL science and technology achievements of the year.
- Les Fishbone's election as a Fellow of the Institute for Nuclear Materials Management
- Arnie's section: Newsletter for May is underway. Arnie sent draft of his section. Mona has photos of the stack removal, including Q&As from Mark Israel (photos are also available on-line).
- Bill Studier's T7 work, including photos: Today, an article by Karen McNulty Walsh was posted on BNL's website. It includes photos and information regarding the research and results of his work ([The Science Behind the Shot: Biotech Tools Developed at Brookhaven Lab Fundamental to Making COVID-19 Vaccines | BNL Newsroom](#)). This will be added to Arnie's section.
- Marilyn McKeown's passing: Mona has her obituary and will include it on the BREA website as a link.
- If you retire at BNL but go work elsewhere, you are still considered a BNL retiree and can join BREA. If you are eligible for BNL's health benefits (age plus years of service equals 70), then you are considered a BNL retiree. Note: while you are working at BNL, you can be a member of BREA, but if you leave BNL before retiring, you cannot continue to be a member.
- **Action: Arnie will look at membership form online to see that it's correct**

6. Community Advisory Council. Mark Israel reported on CAC activity.

- There have been two meetings since BREA March meeting: March 11 and April 8.
- March meeting:
 - An environmental update from Jason Remien touched on deer management. The Lab began decommissioning and decontaminating of Bldg. 650. Lab representatives revisited the status of HFBR stack demolition and decommissioning. Monitoring of wells – Lab staff are trying to characterize how to treat 1,4-dioxane – there is not as much of that, but they do have monitoring wells that they've set up.
- April 8:
 - BNL has demolished building 650 (Jason Remien) and the project is on target. Involved personnel stripped out hazardous materials using heavy equipment and are now bagging and staging to put that material on railroad cars.
 - Muon g-2 'discovery' at Fermilab stated it confirms BNL results published in 2004 <https://www.g-2.bnl.gov/hepex0401008.pdf>. The NY Times article highlighted Fermi's involvement, not BNL's.
 - Studier's T7 replication genes were the basis for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. An account of the T7 research is available at <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=218806>
 - Environmental update: Deer management – 38 were culled the first weekend and 81 the second weekend.

- HFBR stack demolition is complete. Excavating silencer area, July - September there will be a closeout report regarding the demolition of the stack.
 - A presentation was given by Martin Schoonen who heads up the Environment, Biology, Nuclear Science & Nonproliferation (EBNN) Directorate. Strong focus on climate. He reviewed work that has been done. Future CAC meetings will feature speakers from the EBNN Directorate, breaking down the directorate into sections and detailing what each one does.
 - Next meeting is May 13, and then there will be a 3-month break.
 - We can now say in writing that Pfizer did research for its vaccine at NSLS-II.
 - **Action:** Mark will forward email to Arnie and Mona and Laura to be sent out.
 - **Action:** If anyone has a contact for Bill Studier, ask if he would be interested in giving us a presentation.
7. BNL operations continue in Phase 2, with gradual approach to normal operations. Retirees are not allowed on the BNL site, with only minor exceptions.
- No change
8. Potential talk on computer security. Arnie Moodenbaugh.
- Arnie is still looking for someone to give a talk on computer security. Tom Schlagel will not provide a talk but suggested a lead.
9. Consider luncheon in the Fall of 2021.
- C. Carter reminded Arnie that BREA activities are controlled by BERA. As long as BERA isn't meeting in person, BREA can't either, including luncheons (and meetings).
10. New Business
- Don Sievers: because of this pandemic there has been very little travel. Planes were parked out in desert. There was a ripple effect on the car rental industry, so they off-loaded their cars. Now travel is increasing quickly, people are flying and can't get a rental car. Example: if you want to go to Hawaii, set up your car rental 2-3 months ahead of time. Be prepared for the cost to be much higher than before. Mona said people there are renting U-Hauls to get around.
 - Example: Miami airport: severe storms, many flights canceled. People couldn't get out for several days, couldn't get rental cars and couldn't get hotel rooms (due to skeleton staff at hotels). Airlines had no excess capacity to reschedule for several days.
 - Election of officers: We are due for an election this fall. Think about this and how we will do it.
 - Need a Nominating committee.
 - **Action:** Arnie will talk to S. Shapiro to get advice on how to organize the nomination and election.

- BNL is participating in a food drive. BREAA can send information out when we get it, but it would be difficult to organize something that we could do as an organization.
- Newsday publishes Covid-19 numbers in Nassau and Suffolk County: discussion about whether these are cumulative or current cases. The Newsday data is in five columns. The first two are cumulative (total) cases and cases per 1000 residents. The next three columns show 7-day averages.
 - ***A. Moodenbaugh Comment on Newsday stats: The cumulative stats mean something. The 7-day average numbers for many localities are too small to mean much of anything. I don't see any decreases, so I'm guessing that the zeros are decreases. Not very informative, likely misleading.*

11. Adjournment.

- Meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm

Next meeting: May 11 at 1:00 via Zoom.