

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 02/09/21

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA:

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA

Meeting Upton, NY 11973

Present: A. Moodenbaugh, R. Clark, R. Hackenbill, L. Hanson, J. Higgins, M. Israel, B. Kinsey, T. Koetzel, L. Kouchinsky, B. Leonhardt, B. Lin, B. Marley, L. Miller, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, Toni Hoffman, B. Siskind, 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

1:00 pm EST via Zoom

1. Special presentation by John Hill via ZOOM. Summary of recent research activities at BNL aimed at fighting the Covid19 pandemic. After item 1 we will begin the BREA business meeting using second ZOOM invitation.

Present: J. Hill, A. Moodenbaugh, M. Bai, R. Clark, L. Fishbone, R. Hackenbill, L. Hanson, J. Higgins, M. Israel, B. Kinsey, T. Koetzel, L. Kouchinsky, B. Lin, B. Leonhardt, B. Marley, M. Rowe, E. Seubert, S. Shapiro, J. Siskind, S. Stein, B. Suskind, G. Williams

Presentation concluded: 1:55 pm

2. **Meeting Call to order.** Arnie Moodenbaugh. 2:00 pm

3. **Minutes.** The minutes of the January meeting were recorded by Liz Seubert, substituting for Laura Miller, who had another obligation. Minutes were revised and approved by BREA officers, and sent for publication on the BREA website.

4. **Treasurer Report.** Les Fishbone sent copies of the full Treasurer's report to Arnie Moodenbaugh for backup record-keeping. January minutes suggest we did not vote to approve that report. We should vote on acceptance of January and February reports.

Les then gave the balances of the checking account, savings account, and certificates of deposit. He asked if the president had received any acknowledgment from the two charities that received donations from BREA. The president said that any correspondence from the charities would go to BSA.

Move to accept Treasurer's Reports made by Gwyn, seconded by Mark, passed unanimously by voice vote.

Action: Arnie will talk to Les after meeting about filing a nonprofit for BREA. Mark said that as one of BERA's clubs, BREA should not need to provide budget information each month.

5. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin. Beth and Arnie plan to send a 'prod' letter to members who have not yet renewed membership. Beth sent Arnie list to prod, but he hasn't generated the letter.

Current: 271, of which 242 have email. From the meeting in January to today, Beth has received two membership dues and one application for new membership. She has 9 checks that she sent to Les this morning, which total \$240. Bob Kinsey moved to accept, Ronnie seconded, passed unanimously.

Action: Arnie will create the 'prod' letter and send it for review.

Action: We will discuss better methods of reminding members to renew at another meeting.

6. Newsletter. Mona Rowe will update us on items to be reported in the Mar/Apr BREA News.

Mona has been working on a request to do an article on how the lab has handled the pandemic. The NSLS-II User Admin will report on new protocols that have been put in place for users. Peter Genzer (on COVID task force for lab) will explain lab's on-site process. Others are contributing. Most people work remotely. Retirees are not allowed on site with few exceptions. She also has information about S. Schwartz, who won an award, and she will include an article about it. Les also received an award, there will be an article about him in the next newsletter. She took notes on J. Hill's presentation and will give them to Arnie for his piece.

HFBR Stack Removal: Any pictures? There are pictures, but Mona will need to access the right office at the lab to get copies or to get access to a link of it. F&O, plant engineering were suggestions.

Action: Mark will ask at the next CAC meeting if a series of photos is available.

Action: Arnie will get link for Hill's talk and include it on BREA's website.

Action: Mona and Arnie will talk about how much room there is in this newsletter for all the suggestions.

7. Community Advisory Council. Mark Israel will report if any CAC activity.

No meeting until March.

Mark sent Arnie an email with a link that was provided to CAC members and the public of a presentation given Feb. 8 on LI Solar and offshore windmill arrays, how much power they might provide, etc. Arnie had no way of sending a BREA group email and was reluctant to ask Chris Carter to do it.

Action: Board will discuss whether or not we can find a way to send items of BREA interest out to the BREA membership without going through Chris

8. BNL operations continue in Phase 2. Retirees are not allowed on the BNL site, with only minor exceptions.

No change. No retirees are allowed on site, with the exception of those who have a PO Box, and they are escorted by security to pick up their mail.

9. Fraudulent Unemployment Insurance Claims. HR contacted Arnie Moodenbaugh to alert BREA members of the possibility that Unemployment claims may have been submitted fraudulently in their name. Unemployment claim security was loosened early during the pandemic. It was suggested that opening an on-line account at the Social Security Administration website would be a way to deter this kind of fraud on an individual's record. Also, the individual could review their credit record for signs of fraud. Specifically, HR suggests that every retiree who is in Social Security get a Social Security computer account with their own username and password and keep their information there. This may help circumvent the process of hijackers. A concern was raised that this might make a person's account *more* likely to be stolen, not less, given recent government hijacking notices.

If your account is stolen, contact the NY State Department of Labor.

Action: Mona will include this topic in an upcoming newsletter.

Action: Mona will provide a brief sample of how to set up an account, maybe in the President's section, after confirming contents with Arnie.

10. New Business.

Tax due date postponement: as far as Mark knows, no, it has not been extended beyond the April 15 deadline.

Les: We need a talk on computer security. Either someone from lab, or someone from TFCU. G. Williams suggested T. Schlagel.

Action: Arnie will look into having someone give a presentation on computer security in the upcoming months.

L. Hanson: C. Carter posted an online link to a show about appraising antiques to BNL employees. Why was it only sent only to BNL employees? Why not include BREA?

Action: Arnie will look into this.

Action: Arnie will send a note of thanks to John Hill. Arnie will consult with the officers about the content of the letter.

11. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 2:41 made by all and passed unanimously.