

Maine Chess Association Executive Board Meeting

10/28/19

Minutes

A meeting of the Maine Chess Association Executive Board took place over the internet (physical location was John Bapst Memorial High School) on Monday, October 28th, 2019. The meeting was open to any MECA member.

The meeting was attended by Michael Dudley (President), Dan Deluca (Vice-President), Wyatt Hendrix (Secretary), Shannon Levesque (Treasurer), Oisin O'Searcoid (EB member), and Elizabeth Mock (EB member).

These minutes were written by Wyatt Hendrix, the Secretary of the Maine Chess Association.

Key:

- A circled number (ex. ①) means that the meeting has moved onto that corresponding item on the agenda.
- MECA stands for the Maine Chess Association (a 501c(3) non-profit organization, that also serves as the official Maine State Chapter of US Chess).
- EB stands for Executive Board (the governing body of the Maine Chess Association).
- Simply the board, also is meant to indicate the Executive Board.

Agenda for this meeting:

1) Call to order;

Motions to vote on the following:

- 2) To hold the 2020 Maine State Championship and subsequent Championships as open championships;
- 3) To adopt an investment strategy at a level of risk amenable to the board;
- 3) Setting dues and benefits for MECA member clubs (inspired by a conversation with Isaac Thomas of Waterville and brought forward by Wyatt Hendrix);
- 4) Adopting the Maine Chess Journal as an official MECA printed publication;
- 5) To establish the Roger J. Morin Scholarship Fund and Committee;
- 6) To adopt a new membership purchase structure (put forward by Wyatt Hendrix);
- 7) To establish a MECA Volunteer of the Year Award, and call a committee to discuss its criteria, name, and nomination process;
- 8) An update on the status of the New England Open bid.

C. 6:50 - Attendees start to enter the meeting.

7:07 ① - The meeting was called to order with 6 people in attendance.

The board decided that spending roughly 10 minutes or less on each item would be fair. It was also understood that some longer items might go over this time limit, though we would try to keep that to a minimum.

7:10 ② - The board discussed the possibility of running a state championship open to out-of-state participants, with the title going to the highest scoring Maine resident. The board had discussed this at previous meetings and the consensus was that we should take a vote at this meeting.

7:13 - The floor was opened up for debate.

Wyatt shared some feedback he had gotten from the Maine Chess community via emails. Multiple long-time members of the Maine Chess Community responded, including multiple former Maine State Champions. The general consensus from those who responded was that the Maine State Championship should be moved to an open format. No one was strongly opposed to this change. One player suggested the idea of holding an invitational round-robin as well (in

addition to the normal Maine State Championship). It was not decided if this would give the title or would just be a stand alone event. This proposal was not considered at the meeting but is currently being looked into.

The board considered this feedback and

The board considered possible drawbacks of running an open state championship. This included the possibility of a strong out-of-state player participating and seriously affecting the overall standings. The board decided that there was not a significant risk of this, but decided it would be something that would be considered after the 2020 state championship if it were opened up.

The board moved to a vote.

The proposal to open the 2020 Maine State Championship to out-of-state participants passed 6-0.

It is important to note that this proposal was with regards to the 2020 Maine State Championship, and not to open up the Maine State Championship indefinitely. After the 2020 Maine State Championship, the board will reevaluate and make a decision from there.

The board also decided that the location of the championship would be decided based on the needs of Maine players (for 2020 this means the state championship will stay in Waterville).

C. 7:32 - It was brought up that the Constitution called for a closed state championship. Therefore Wyatt Hendrix made a proposal to [remove Article XI section 3 of the constitution, which stated so. This resolution passed 6-0.](#)

Any change to the constitution requires a two-thirds majority vote of the active Executive Board (not just those present and voting), meaning we needed at least 6 EB members present (and voting yes). This requirement was met and therefore the constitution was amended.

7:32 ③ - The board moved to discussion about MECA finances.

The MECA account has a total of \$3230, \$512 of which is set aside for the Roger Joseph Morin Memorial Scholarship fund, meaning the general fund has about \$2710. This represents a marked increase over the last year.

The board decided that a low-risk investment portfolio would be in MECA's best interests. MECA has not previously invested money, but has kept it in an account that has earned no interest. It was decided that a few of the MECA officers would collaborate on the details of this.

7:42 ④ - The Board discussed club affiliation with MECA.

The board decided to highlight the ability of clubs to affiliate with MECA. This is something that the constitution stipulated but had not been done in recent years.

The board discussed the possible benefits of club membership.

The board decided that club affiliation would be free until further notice.

8:12 ⑤ - The board discussed the Maine Chess Journal.

The MCJ is a publication compiled by Wyatt Hendrix. It has an expected release date of 12-23-19 for the first edition. As of right now it will be released as a digital copy.

The board was interested in making the MCJ the official publication for Maine Chess. Oisin made this proposal which passed 5-0-1 (Wyatt abstained from the vote).

Note that this does not change how the publication is produced or managed.

8:27 ⑥ - The board voted to establish the Roger Joseph Morin Memorial Scholarship Fund.

This passed 6-0.

The board discussed the details of the scholarship. It was unanimously agreed that we would work closely with Lois Morin to satisfy her wishes for the scholarship.

The board was appreciative of Lois for her generosity in helping to set up the scholarship and we grieve at the loss of Roger J Morin.

8:39 ⑦ - The board discussed the possibility of a volunteer-of-the-year award. This idea was made by a MECA member who does not currently sit on the EB. The board thanks this member for their commitment to being involved in Maine Chess.

The board discussed and the idea was raised that multiple volunteers could be recognized in a section of the MCJ. It was discussed that anyone could write in to the editor to recognize someone they feel deserves it. Wyatt agreed to this and we decided that this would be the best way to proceed as it recognizes the most amount of people for their service.

The MECA member who made the proposal also submitted the name of a nominee. The board decided that that name could be recognized in the journal as stated above. The board also decided that they would send an official letter to the nominee, thanking them for their volunteer work.

Item 8 was skipped due to time constraints. It was decided that this could be discussed over email. [Note: after discussion over email the EB has decided to pull MECA's bid to the New England Chess Association for holding the 2020 New England Open].

8:59 - The meeting was adjourned.

Proposals made at this meeting

Proposal	Yes	No	Abstained	Stipulations
Change the 2020 MSCC to an open format	6	0	0	For 2020 only (not indefinite) Location based on the needs of Maine Players
Invest a small portion of MECA finances	6	0	0	A low-risk strategy would be adopted
Make the Maine Chess Journal an official publication for Maine Chess	5	0	1	
Establish the Roger Joseph Morin Memorial Scholarship	6	0	0	

Respectfully Submitted,

Wyatt Hendrix

Maine Chess Association Secretary