

**2021 Annual Meeting**  
**Friends of Baxter State Park**  
Wednesday, April 7, 2021  
via Zoom Webinar

- 6:00 pm Welcome, Call to Order, and President's Report – *Ellen Baum, President*
- 6:05 pm Business Meeting
- Overview of Zoom tools for voting and participation – *Aaron Megquier, Executive Director*
  - Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting  
\*\* Vote conducted via live poll during meeting \*\*
  - Committee Reports
    - Finance Committee – *Nate Tefft, Treasurer and Chair*
    - Membership & Member Engagement Committee – *Aaron Megquier, Executive Director*
    - Public Relations Committee – *Jerry Bley, Chair*
    - Policy Committee – *Alec Giffen, Co-chair*
  - Nominating Committee Report, Election of Directors, and Recognition of Outgoing Director –  
*Josie Quintrell, Vice President*  
\*\* Vote conducted via live poll during meeting \*\*
- 6:30 pm 2021 State of the Park Report, followed by Q & A – *Eben Sypitkowski, Director of Baxter State Park*
- 7:00 pm Program Updates – *Aaron Megquier, Executive Director*
- 7:10 pm Members' Forum – *Moderated by Aaron Megquier, Executive Director*
- 7:20 pm Adjourn

**Friends of Baxter State Park  
Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting  
October 22, 2020  
Zoom video conference**

**DRAFT FOR APPROVAL BY MEMBERS ON 4/7/2021**

Votes are recorded in this order: Favor-oppose-abstaining

**1. Opening Remarks**

At 6:00 pm, President Ellen Baum welcomed all participants and said she hoped everyone was able to visit the Park this year despite these challenging times. Being outside in nature is one of the best things we can do during this COVID-19 pandemic. She pointed out that the documents for the meeting are posted on the Friends of Baxter State Park website and a link was posted in the chat.

**2. 2019 Annual Meeting minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2019, Annual Meeting was made by Matt DeLaney and seconded Jerry Bley. Using the Zoom polling tool, participants voted 53-0-0 to approve the motion.

**3. Committee reports**

**3.1 Finance Committee.** Nathan Tefft, Treasurer and committee chair, explained that Friends of Baxter State Park ended 2019 in good shape and entered 2020 in a healthy financial position. Income from memberships was down somewhat but grants have been steady. The endowment has grown modestly, and the organization increased staffing with 2 new hires. A loan from the Paycheck Protection Program hopefully will be forgiven and converted to a grant.

**3.2 Development Committee.** Executive Director Aaron Megquier said Friends has weathered the COVID-19 pandemic well. No programs had to be canceled, though some were modified. Grants have brought in \$92,000 so far this year. He is optimistic the goal of \$110,000 can be reached before the end of the year. Memberships have held steady at about 1,200, but membership income was down by 20% (\$10,000) compared to this time last year. More than a dozen business supporters, notably Bissell Brothers Brewing and Katahdin Trust, contributed about \$6,000.

**3.3 Membership & Member Activities Committee.** Matt DeLaney, committee chair, noted that membership revenue was down but has been picking up again recently. Friends has been encouraging lapsed members to renew. There are more than 900 member households. Due to COVID, memberships can be extended by a year if people are unable to pay due to financial hardship. A recruitment mailing to 32,000 Park visitors will be sent in November. Walks in the Park were canceled in 2020 due to COVID and are uncertain for the 2021 season. Instead Friends is developing a series of online webinars for members called "How to Baxter." After initial viewing by members only, they will be released to the general public on YouTube. That should drive traffic to our Facebook page and website and result in more memberships.

**3.4 Public Relations.** Jerry Bley, committee chair, reported that Friends has continued to publish and distribute the quarterly *Forever Wild* newsletter, a monthly e-letter, and now has about 7,000 Facebook followers. Friends helped the Park develop materials to communicate with visitors about COVID-related guidelines, organized a Zoom Q&A session with Park Director Eben Sypitkowski, and earned good news coverage for the youth programs. The annual auction of retired Park signs is scheduled to begin in early November.

**3.5 Policy Committee.** Alec Giffen, committee co-chair, explained that Friends successfully opposed LD 1574, a legislative bill that would have allowed float planes at Katahdin Lake. Friends continued to be engaged in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument management planning. When Hydro-Quebec ran ads implying that Baxter State Park supported a controversial high-voltage transmission line corridor, President Ellen Baum wrote an op-ed to correct to record. The Policy Committee continues to monitor Appalachian Trail thru-hiker issues in the Park, actions by the Land Use Planning Commission affecting development of lands adjoining the Park, a proposal for a large

mine on Pickett Mountain in Mount Chase near Patten, and the impacts of accelerating climate change on Baxter State Park.

**3.6 Nominating Committee.** Josie Quintrell, committee chair, said the board was honoring three retiring directors – Henry Beeuwkes, Bob Johnston, and Dick Klain – as well as Jill Ippoliti who retired in 2019 but was unable to attend the annual meeting last year. This year’s retiring directors will receive a canvas print in appreciation of their service. Josie then reviewed the biographies and qualifications of the five nominees, and presented the slate for election to the Board of Directors: Bill Green (new), Brian Threlkeld (new), Ryan Linehan (new), Kim Bailey-Shaw (incumbent) and Matt DeLaney (incumbent), all for three-year terms. Motion was made by Peter Millard, seconded by Jeff Guesman, to approve the slate of nominees. Using the Zoom polling tool, the motion passed unanimously 68-0-0.

**4. Proposed revisions to bylaws.** Vice President Josie Quintrell outlined proposed changes to the Friends of Baxter State Park Bylaws, including (1) clarifying terms for board directors, (2) permitting member meetings to be by means of conference call or similar communications technology, and (3) removing the requirement for specific committees, other than Nominating, to provide flexibility by authorizing the board to appoint committees as needed to best serve the mission of Friends. Motion was made by Matt DeLaney, seconded by Jeff Guesman, to approve the proposed bylaws changes. Using the Zoom polling tool, the motion passed unanimously.

**5. State of the Park.** Baxter State Park Director Eben Sypitkowski thanked Friends for support on policy, getting local youth into the Park through the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps and Conservation Fellows, and messaging around the COVID restrictions and guidelines. He noted that a Baxter Youth Conservation Corps alum, Dawson McKenney, was hired by the Park. Eben expressed hope there will be more hires through the pipeline of Friends’ youth programs.

2020 was a busy year, despite COVID. Camping reservations were up by 10%. More people went to the remote northern end of the Park. The number of Appalachian Trail thru-hikers was down, but they still presented challenges. Even with a 40%-50% reduction in Day Use Passes to control for social distancing, overall visitation was down only 7% compared to last year. There were more Mainers than out-of-state users (usually 40% from Maine, this year 50%), which is understandable considering travel restrictions. In the early months it was almost 100% Mainers.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted everything in the Park this year, including closing Park HQ; requiring socially distanced staff meetings outdoors; installing plexiglass at all ranger stations, visitor centers, and gatehouses; converting outhouses to “one-holers” and providing staff with full PPE to clean them; installing signage with COVID guidelines for visitors; and limiting parking and accommodations. Thanks to these measures there were no coronavirus outbreaks reported among Park visitors or staff.

In early May, the Park experienced the largest fire since 1977 which burned a bridge and about 40 acres of woods. A few weeks later a severe storm caused flooding that washed out roads and bridges near South Branch Pond. Later in the summer extreme heat and a drought took hold, drying out the waterways and threatening the health of fragile ecosystems. Tragedy struck in early October with two deaths within 24 hours on Katahdin. Eben expressed his sympathies to the families and his gratitude for the professionalism and skill of the search and rescue crews.

Aside from responding to an historic fire, flood, drought, fatal tragedies, and pandemic the regular work of the Park continued. The Park made upgrades to culverts, water crossings and bridges to better withstand future flooding events, finished relocating and opened the Dudley Trail on Katahdin in September, and created a “beaver deceiver” to thwart the animals from washing out roads. In addition to welcoming a new baby into his family, in August Eben joined Friends to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Percival Baxter’s first climb of Katahdin. He marveled at how much the view had changed since Baxter observed it, from clearcuts, fires, and lumber mills to wilderness — as Governor Baxter had envisioned it would be.

**6. Program updates.** Aaron Megquier summarized highlights of the past year. Two new staff were hired: Mary Weitzman, Deputy Director, and Cathy Brown, Outreach and Communications

Coordinator. He explained the history of the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program (MYWLP) and Baxter Youth Conservation Corps (BYCC). Although very successful and fully funded, these programs could not proceed normally this year because of COVID restrictions. Students who had already been selected for the MYWLP were given the option to participate in 2021. Friends was able to pivot and offer local youth an alternative to the BYCC. Our BYCC 2020 Conservation Fellows program offered paid, full-time summer jobs to eight youth from the Katahdin Region, all of whom were veterans of our BYCC trail crews from previous years. Each participant worked on photography, writing, and other work for FBSP, spent at least two days per week exploring in the Park, and completed an independent study. Topics included photography, fisheries biology, mycology, history, and botany. At the end, each gave a presentation about their projects to Friends' members via Zoom.

**7. Members' Forum.** During the Members' Forum there were questions and answers about how Friends can further help the Park inform visitors, coordination with Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, winter season camping, and the future of Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps. Former Park Director Jenson Bissell expressed appreciation for Eben Sypitkowski's leadership in facing all the challenges this year. No Park Director has ever had to manage the Park during a global pandemic. He applauded both the Park and Friends of Baxter State Park for successfully handling this situation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jym St. Pierre, Secretary.

## Friends of Baxter State Park Balance Sheet

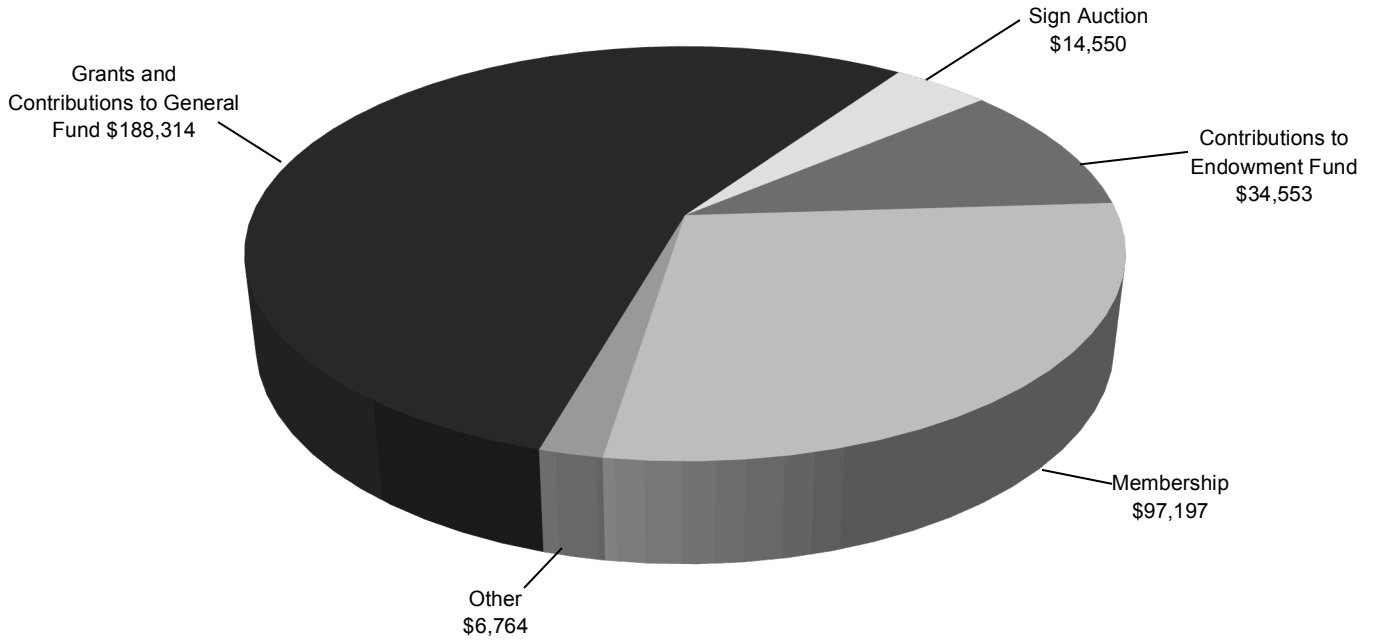
	<u>Dec 31, 2020</u> General Fund	<u>Dec 31, 2020</u> Endowment Fund	<u>Dec 31, 2020</u> Combined	<u>Dec 31, 2019</u> Combined
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
<b>Cash</b>				
Checking - BSB	187,792	0	187,792	146,164
PayPal Account - BSB	1,198	0	1,198	5,507
Event Change Fund	50	0	50	50
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>189,040</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>189,040</u>	<u>151,721</u>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>				
Misc. Receivables	0	0	0	0
Due from PayPal & ProPay	6,517	0	6,517	1,997
Prepaid Expenses	850	0	850	944
Inventory	3,344	0	3,344	8,277
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>10,711</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,711</u>	<u>11,218</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>199,751</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>199,751</u>	<u>162,939</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>				
18000 - Investment Account	0	158,125	158,125	107,984
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>158,125</u>	<u>158,125</u>	<u>107,984</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>199,751</u></u>	<u><u>158,125</u></u>	<u><u>357,876</u></u>	<u><u>270,923</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	3,491	0	3,491	1,048
Sales Tax Payable	275	0	275	307
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>3,766</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,766</u>	<u>1,355</u>
Reserve for Legal Defense Fund	10,000	0	10,000	10,000
<b>Total Long-term Liabilities</b>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>13,766</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13,766</u>	<u>11,355</u>
<b>Equity</b>				
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - BYCC	32,933	0	32,933	31,758
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - MYWLP	16,023	0	16,023	10,494
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - Endowment	0	85,203	85,203	50,650
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - Fundraising	500	0	500	0
Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	0	27,609	27,609	14,652
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	136,529	45,313	181,842	152,014
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>185,985</u>	<u>158,125</u>	<u>344,110</u>	<u>259,568</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>199,751</u></u>	<u><u>158,125</u></u>	<u><u>357,876</u></u>	<u><u>270,923</u></u>

**Friends of Baxter State Park  
Budget vs. Actual  
General Fund**

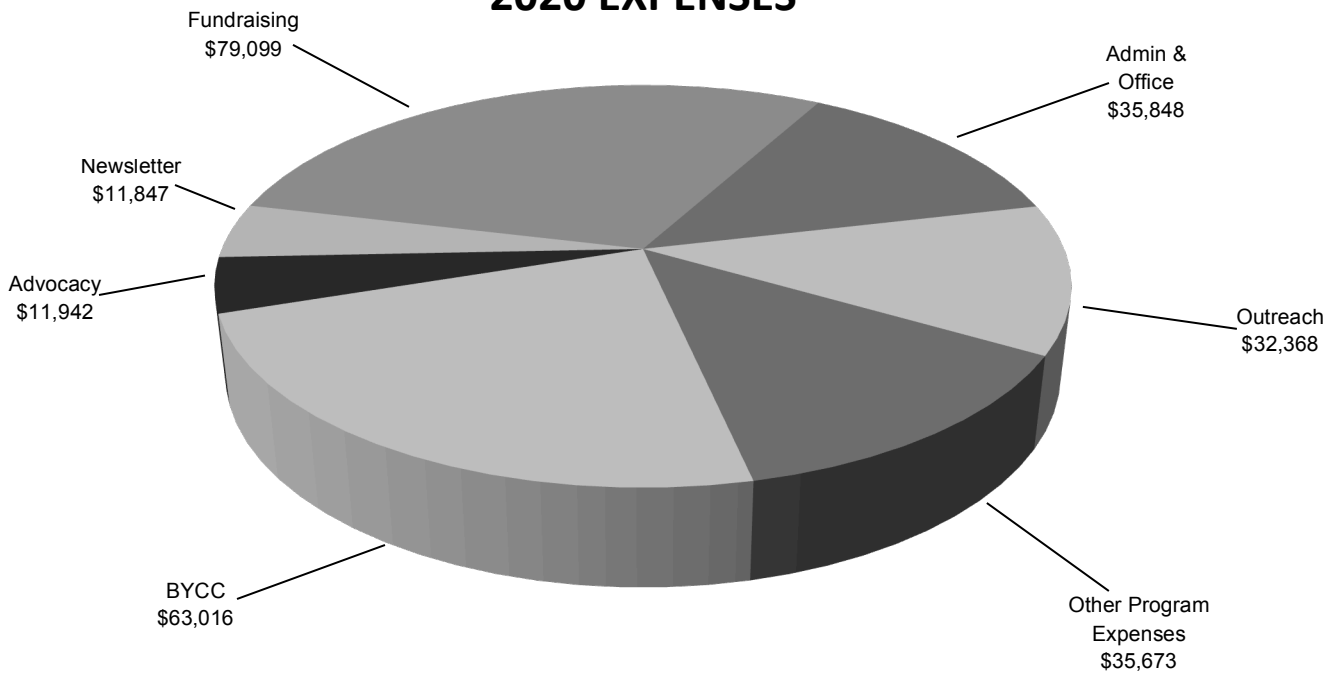
	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2020 <u>Actual</u>	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2020 <u>Budget</u>	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2020 <u>Fav (Unfav) Variance</u>
<b>Income</b>			
41350 · Grants (including 27,100 PPP)	134,600	110,000	24,600
41600 · Restricted contributions	6,360	24,000	(17,640)
42000 · Business support	7,919	6,000	1,919
42420 · Unrestricted contributions	30,810	61,000	(30,190)
42440 · Memorial contributions	6,511	0	6,511
42450 · In-Kind contributions	2,114	0	2,114
44200 · Membership Income	97,197	90,000	7,197
45000 · Royalties	94	200	(106)
48030 · Interest Income	78	430	(352)
49100 · Special Events Income	0	2,000	(2,000)
49200 · Fundraising Events	14,550	10,000	4,550
49300 · Events Income	0	500	(500)
Total 46000 · Sales	<u>5,402</u>	<u>5,118</u>	<u>284</u>
<b>Gross Income</b>	<u>305,635</u>	<u>309,248</u>	<u>(3,613)</u>
Less: Purchases (Cost of Goods Sold)	<u>2,629</u>	<u>1,937</u>	<u>(692)</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>303,006</u>	<u>307,311</u>	<u>(4,305)</u>
<b>Expense</b>			
60100 · Salaries, wages and benefits	184,402	200,673	16,271
60920 · Business fees and licenses	55	60	5
62110 · Accounting Fees	6,760	8,000	1,240
62130 · Website	147	147	0
62150 · Other contracted services	19,855	33,413	13,558
62300 · Facility fees	4,250	6,750	2,500
62400 · Electricity	527	300	(227)
65020 · Postage	9,662	12,173	2,511
65025 · Design services	1,398	1,600	202
65030 · Printing & copying	14,691	14,900	209
65040 · Supplies	2,486	5,474	2,988
65045 · Equipment	1,690	1,800	110
65050 · Telephone	1,629	1,660	31
65052 · Internet	849	842	(7)
65055 · Software	2,101	1,430	(671)
65100 · Advertising	735	300	(435)
65110 · Memberships & Subscriptions	400	740	340
65120 · Insurance	1,703	1,627	(76)
67000 · Contributions	7,032	5,100	(1,932)
68300 · Travel	1,040	6,350	5,310
68320 · Training	25	700	675
68400 · Event fees	10	600	590
68500 · Credit card fees	1,873	1,350	(523)
69000 · Other expenses	<u>5,361</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>(4,821)</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>268,681</u>	<u>306,529</u>	<u>37,848</u>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<u>34,325</u>	<u>782</u>	<u>33,543</u>

# FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK

## 2020 INCOME



## 2020 EXPENSES



**Friends of Baxter State Park**  
**Operating Budget**  
 January through December 2021

	<u>Jan - Dec 21</u>
<b>Income</b>	
41000 · Grants	130,000
41600 · Restricted contributions	25,000
42000 · Business Support	6,000
42420 · Unrestricted Contributions	60,000
42430 · Board Contributions	10,000
44200 · Membership Income	98,000
45000 · Royalties	200
46000 · Sales	5,386
48030 · Interest Income	430
49100 · Special Events Income	5,000
49200 · Fundraising Events	10,000
49300 · Other Events	500
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>350,516</u>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<u>1,937</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>348,579</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
60100 · Salaries, Wages and Benefits	241,750
60920 · Business fees and licenses	60
62110 · Accounting Fees	8,000
62130 · Website	35
62150 · Other contracted services	30,538
62300 · Facility Fees	7,279
62400 · Electricity	600
65020 · Postage	11,082
65025 · Design services	1,800
65030 · Printing & copying	18,864
65040 · Supplies	5,324
65045 · Equipment	100
65050 · Telephone	2,200
65052 · Internet	842
65055 · Software	1,874
65100 · Advertising	1,000
65110 · Memberships & Subscriptions	375
65120 · Insurance	1,627
67000 · Contributions	5,000
68300 · Travel	6,150
68320 · Training and Workshops	1,350
68400 · Event fees	600
68500 · Credit Card fees	1,440
69000 · Other expenses	540
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>348,430</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>149</u></u>



**NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Presented at the Annual Meeting, April 7, 2021**

**The Friends of Baxter State Park has fifteen positions on the Board of Directors. A standard term on the board is three years. Five positions are scheduled to expire each year. There is no limitation on the number of consecutive terms that may be served.**

**Terms are expiring this year for five Director positions. All five of the current Directors whose terms expire this year (Ellen Baum, Jerry Bley, Peter Millard, Jym St. Pierre, and Nathan Tefft) are being nominated for new three-year terms. In addition, one long-time Director resigned prior to his term expiration, creating a vacancy for the remaining year of his term. Carla Ritchie is nominated to fill this one-year term.**

**FOR ACTION BY THE MEMBERSHIP**

Nominated for three-year terms:	Ellen Baum (incumbent) Jerry Bley (incumbent) Peter Millard (incumbent) Jym St. Pierre (incumbent) Nathan Tefft (incumbent)
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Nominated for a one-year term:	Carla Ritchie
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**About the Director Nominees:**

**Ellen Baum** has served on the Board of Directors since 2015. She is the founder and President of the Climate and Health Research Network. For nearly two decades she was a senior scientist with the Clean Air Task Force. Prior to that, she worked in numerous capacities in government, profit-making and non-profit natural resource-focused companies and agencies in Maine. Ellen has served as Vice President of the Maine League of Conservation Voters, Chaired the Planning Board of the Town of Bowdoinham, and been involved with many other nonprofit organizations. She is a graduate of Antioch College and Yale University. Ellen is a member of a women's ski group that makes annual winter visits to Baxter State Park and environs. She lives in Bowdoinham.

**Jerry Bley** has served on the Board of Directors since 2015. Since 1990, he has owned and operated Creative Conservation, LLC, a land use and environmental consulting business that works with landowners, non-profit organizations, and government agencies to create positive land use models in Maine and beyond. Jerry has played a principal role in a wide variety of public and private land conservation initiatives including many in Maine's North Woods. Prior to establishing his business, Jerry worked for ten years at the Natural Resources Council of Maine where he directed the Council's land use programs. Earlier on, Jerry worked for a summer in Baxter State Park helping to run a Youth Conservation Corps Program. Jerry has served on a variety of governmental boards and special commissions including Baxter Park's Scientific Forestry Advisory Committee. He lives in Readfield and is an avid hiker, biker and cross-country skier.

**Peter Millard** is a family physician and epidemiologist, and has served on the Board of Directors since 2018. He grew up in Windham and spent many years as a faculty member in the Family Medicine Residency Program in Bangor. He worked for 8 years in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and is currently at Seaport Community Health Center in Belfast. He was educated at Amherst College, the University of Vermont, and University of North Carolina. He lives with his wife Emily in Belfast, and they have 3 grown children. He enjoys gardening, hiking, biking, swimming and cross-country skiing. He is currently on the boards of Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

### **Carla Ritchie**

Carla Ritchie grew up in central Maine and made her first journey to Baxter State Park with her father in 1974. Their failed attempt to climb Katahdin instilled a love and respect of the area that has lasted over 40 years. Carla has been a frequent visitor to the Park and has summited Katahdin, and many other peaks, multiple times. Carla served on the BSP advisory board including the role of Chair for three years. She enjoys many activities in the park during all seasons. Carla is a graduate of University of Maine and received her MBA from Husson University. She is a certified project manager and works for L.L.Bean.

**Jym St. Pierre** has served on the Board of Directors since 2009. He has visited Baxter Park scores of times since the 1960s as well as being involved in Park policy issues and additions to the Park. He participated in the organizational meetings of FBSP and is a charter member. Jym earned BA and MPS degrees at UMaine. He has held senior positions in Maine in the Dept. of Conservation, The Wilderness Society, and Sierra Club. Jym has been involved in many organizations and was founding director or chair of several including Citizens to Protect the Allagash, Maine Conservation Voters, Maine Forest Biodiversity Project, Kennebec Land Trust, and Capital Area Camera Club. Since 1995, he has been Maine Director of RESTORE: The North Woods. A Maine native, Jym is a published author, an award-winning photographer, and a poet.

**Nathan Tefft** has served on the Board of Directors since 2018. He is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Economics Department at Bates College, where his teaching and research are primarily in the areas of applied econometrics and health economics. A Maine native, Nathan has enjoyed camping, exploring, and hiking in Baxter State Park since he can remember. He first summited Katahdin at age 8, recently enjoyed his oldest daughter's first ascent, and looks forward to future trips to the Park with his wife Rachel and their three children. By following in the footsteps of his grandfather, who visited the Park on a streak of more than 50 straight years and served on the Baxter State Park Advisory Committee, and his father, who has studiously explored many corners and peaks of the Park in summer and winter, Nathan carries on a family tradition of commitment to Governor Baxter's vision and love for the beauty and vitality of the Maine wilderness. Nathan and his family, who enjoy adventures throughout Maine on foot or ski, live in Brunswick.

*Report presented by the Nominating Committee: Josie Quintrell, Jerry Bley, and Peter Millard*

## **NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION Presented at the first Board of Directors meeting after the Annual Meeting, April 7, 2021**

### **Officer Nominations**

**Officers are elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board following the Annual Meeting of members.**

### **FOR ACTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The following are nominated to serve one-year terms:

President:	Ellen Baum
Vice President:	Josie Quintrell
Treasurer:	Nathan Tefft
Secretary:	Jym St. Pierre

*Report presented by the Nominating Committee: Josie Quintrell, Jerry Bley, and Peter Millard*