

**2022 Annual Meeting**  
**Friends of Baxter State Park**  
Thursday, April 7, 2022  
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 2021 Annual Meeting  
\*\* Vote conducted via live poll during meeting \*\*
  - Committee Reports
    - Finance Committee – *Nate Tefft, Treasurer and Chair*
    - Youth Programs – *Ryan Linehan, Chair*
    - Policy Committee – *Alec Giffen, Co-chair*
    - Strategic Planning – *Carla Ritchie*
  - Nominating Committee Report and Election of Directors – *Josie Quintrell, Vice President*  
\*\* Vote conducted via live poll during meeting \*\*
- 6:30 pm 2022 State of the Park Report, followed by Q & A – *Dan Rinard, Interim Director of Baxter State Park*
- 6:45pm Panel Discussion on Scientific Research in the Park – *Don Hudson, President Emeritus, Chewonki, and Justin Schlaewin, Ecologist, Maine Natural Areas Program.*
- 7:15 pm Program Updates & Members Forum – *Aaron Megquier, Executive Director*
- 7:30 pm Adjourn

**Friends of Baxter State Park  
Minutes of Annual Meeting  
April 7, 2021  
Zoom video conference  
\*DRAFT\***

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

**Board directors in attendance:** (12) Ellen Baum (President), Josie Quintrell (Vice President), Nathan Tefft (Treasurer), Jym St. Pierre (Secretary), Jerry Bley, Alec Giffen, Bill Green, Ryan Linehan, Peter Millard, Jim Mroch, Steuart Thomsen, Brian Threlkeld. A quorum was present.

**Board directors not in attendance:** (2) Kim Bailey-Shaw, Matt DeLaney.

**FBSP staff in attendance:** Aaron Megquier (Executive Director), Mary Weitzman (Deputy Director), Sarah Holland (Membership Coordinator).

### **1. Opening Remarks**

At 6:03 pm, President Ellen Baum welcomed all the participants. She said that, after the disruption of the COVID pandemic, FBSP wanted to get back on schedule holding the annual meeting in April. She noted that while the programs were modified or on hold, Friends used the time to make operational improvements including welcoming a new Deputy Director. She thanked the staff, board directors, and members for persevering. She noted this was the largest Annual meeting at over 100 participants.

### **2. 2020 Annual Meeting minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2020, Annual Meeting was made by Peter Millard and seconded by Josie Quintrell. Using the Zoom polling tool, participants voted 74-0-0 to approve the motion.

### **3. Committee reports**

**3.1 Finance Committee.** Nathan Tefft, Treasurer and Finance committee chair, explained that despite the fundraising challenges created by the pandemic, Friends of Baxter State Park ended 2020 in a solid financial position. Grant income was higher and expenses were lower than budgeted. Friends anticipates that will be a more normal year.

**3.2 Membership & Member Activities Committee.** Executive Director Aaron Megquier explained that membership renewals dropped off by 30% in early 2020 due to economic setbacks from the pandemic. Memberships were extended for any who could not afford to pay them. Many renewed later in the year and at higher levels of giving. In October 2020, 30,000 letters were mailed to Baxter State Park visitors. More than 360 new members joined during the year bringing total membership to a record high of more than 1,450. Friends is developing a series of online videos entitled "How to Baxter." A preview of the first video in the series, narrated by Bill Green, was streamed. It will be live on the Friends' YouTube channel soon and posted to our website.

**3.3 Public Relations.** Jerry Bley, committee chair, reported that Friends has continued to publish and distribute the quarterly newsletter and a monthly e-newsletter. Friends assisted the Park in developing materials to communicate with visitors about COVID-related guidelines, and worked with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy on posters to educate AT thru-hikers about the Park. The number of social media followers increased 20%. There was considerable print and broadcast media coverage of Friends' youth programs. The annual auction of retired Park signs attracted 145 bidders and raised over \$14,000, which is split between FBSP and the Park.

**3.4 Policy Committee.** Alec Giffen, committee co-chair, said there were no new legislative bills that would impact the Park. Friends continued to engage in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument management planning, urging that part of the Loop Road be moved to provide a better buffer for the Park. The Policy Committee continues to monitor actions by the Land Use Planning Commission affecting development of lands adjoining the Park and a proposal for a large mine at Pickett Mountain near Patten.

**3.5 Nominating Committee.** Josie Quintrell, committee chair, thanked Jim Andrews, who retired from the board, for his service. Five directors have agreed to stand for election for another term: Ellen Baum, Jerry Bley, Peter Millard, Jym St. Pierre, and Nathan Tefft. In addition, Carla Ritchie was nominated as a new board director. Motion was made by Ellen Baum, seconded by Peter Millard, to elect the entire slate of nominees. Using the Zoom polling tool, participants voted 85-0-0 to approve the motion. Josie Quintrell encouraged members to submit names of potential directors for future board openings.

**4. State of the Park.** Baxter State Park Director Eben Sypitkowski used the theme of “emerging” to provide an update on the Park. First, we are emerging from the COVID pandemic. Although more people have been getting outside, last year there were no known cases of coronavirus contracted in the Park. The same public safety protocols will be in place this year. Second, the Park is emerging from a significant transition in staffing. A quarter of the 24 year-round staff are being hired right now. The 44 seasonal staff will start in early May. Several senior staff positions are being filled, including Ranger Supervisor, Interpretive Specialist, Natural Resources Director, and Transportation and Maintenance Supervisor. Eben asked Friends for help getting the word out about these employment opportunities as they have limited resources and abilities to advertise them. Third, the Katahdin region is emerging as a prominent recreation destination. While the Park does not advertise, it will be an increasingly important attraction in the region. A recent poll found that, while those familiar with the Park had a positive opinion, public knowledge about the Park remains low, especially concerning the fact that it is not part of the Maine State Park system and is not funded by tax dollars. The unique idea of prioritizing the needs of Wilderness over the needs of people and recreation is another area that could be a focus of Friends’ educational efforts. There are great opportunities for Friends to assist with more education.

**5. Program updates.** Aaron Megquier explained that FBSP has been part of the Katahdin Collaborative, which will be receiving a major grant to promote revitalization of the region. Friends will decide soon whether to run in July-August the normal six-week Baxter Youth Conservation Corps for local youth, or the Baxter Youth Conservation Fellowships, or a hybrid program. Friends hopes to run the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program in August, in conjunction with Chewonki, with COVID safety protocols in place.

**6. Members Forum.** Barbara DeVito Bourgoine described her new book, *Percy’s Patience*, a children’s picture biography about former Maine Governor Percival P. Baxter, illustrated by Jemelie Deering Bessette. Several members commented or asked about the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund, the Loop Road in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, improving awareness of Wabanaki history at Katahdin, and campsite reservations, trail maintenance, improving stream crossings, scientific research, and climate change impacts in the Park.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jym St. Pierre, Secretary.

## Friends of Baxter State Park Balance Sheet

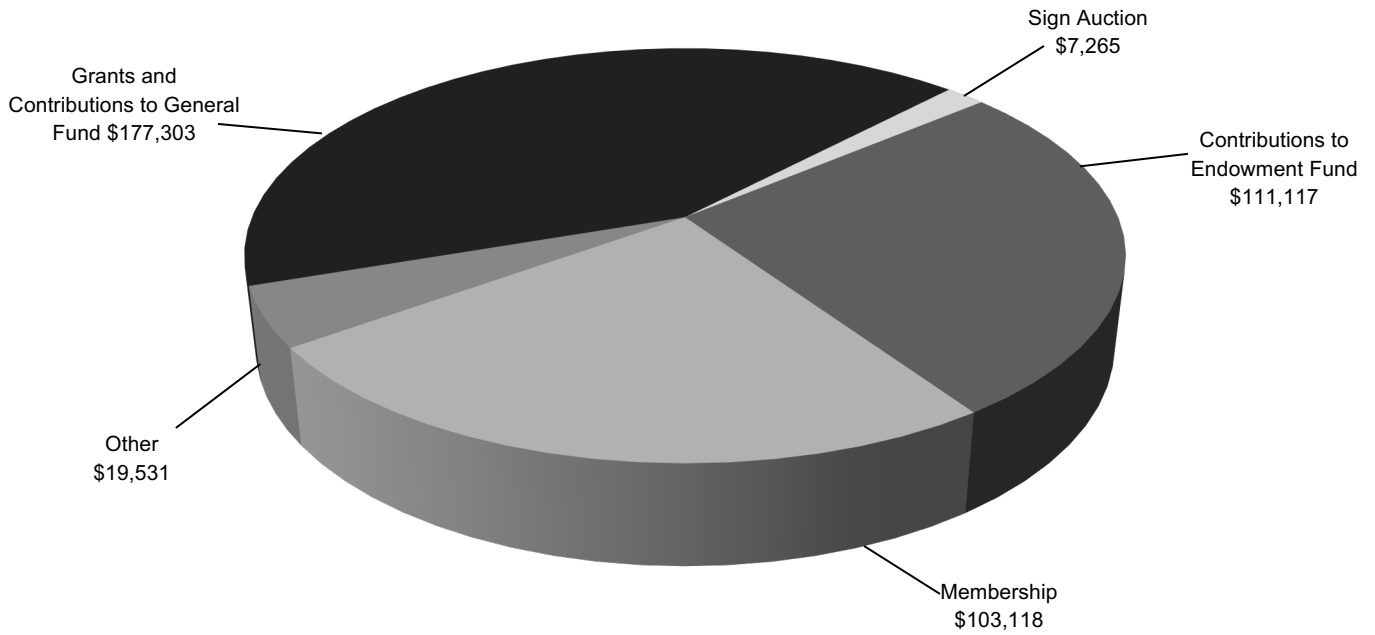
	<u>Dec 31, 2021</u> General Fund	<u>Dec 31, 2021</u> Endowment Fund	<u>Dec 31, 2021</u> Combined	<u>Dec 31, 2020</u> Combined
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
<b>Cash</b>				
Checking - BSB	152,383	0	152,383	187,792
PayPal Account - BSB	22,853	0	22,853	1,198
Event Change Fund	50	0	50	50
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>175,286</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>175,286</u>	<u>189,040</u>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>				
Misc. Receivables	101	0	101	0
Due from PayPal & ProPay	2,492	0	2,492	6,517
Prepaid Expenses	1,600	0	1,600	850
Inventory	4,050	0	4,050	3,344
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>8,243</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,243</u>	<u>10,711</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>183,529</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>183,529</u>	<u>199,751</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>				
18000 · Investment Account	0	283,015	283,015	158,125
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>283,015</u>	<u>283,015</u>	<u>158,125</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>183,529</u></u>	<u><u>283,015</u></u>	<u><u>466,544</u></u>	<u><u>357,876</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	4,497	0	4,497	3,491
Sales Tax Payable	229	0	229	275
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>4,726</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,726</u>	<u>3,766</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>14,726</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14,726</u>	<u>13,766</u>
<b>Equity</b>				
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - BYCC	30,500	0	30,500	32,933
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - MYWLP	1,500	0	1,500	16,023
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - Endowment	17,859	178,460	196,319	85,203
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - Fundraising	0	0	0	500
Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	0	35,172	35,172	27,609
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	118,944	69,383	188,327	181,842
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>168,803</u>	<u>283,015</u>	<u>451,818</u>	<u>344,110</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>183,529</u></u>	<u><u>283,015</u></u>	<u><u>466,544</u></u>	<u><u>357,876</u></u>

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

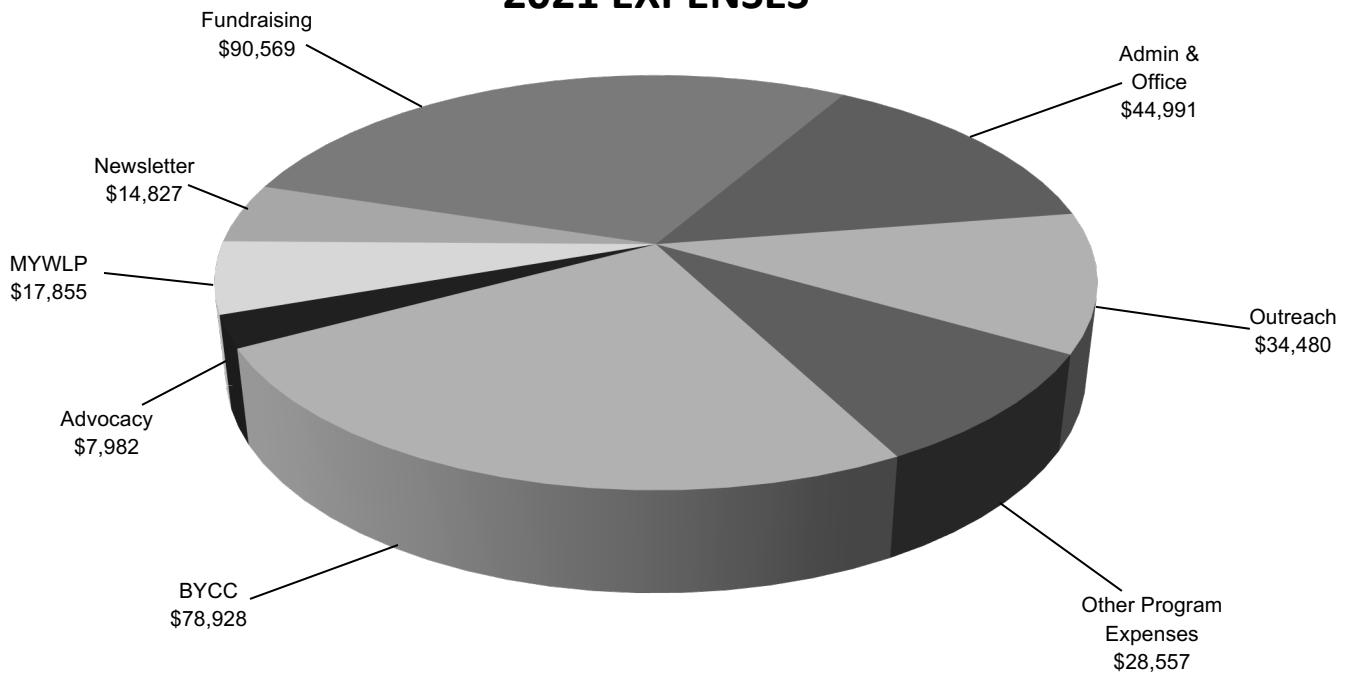
	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2021 <u>Actual</u>	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2021 <u>Budget</u>	<u>Fav (Unfav) Variance</u>
<b>Income</b>			
41350 · Grants	118,250	130,000	(11,750)
41600 · Restricted contributions	5,000	25,000	(20,000)
42000 · Business support	4,755	6,000	(1,245)
42420 · Unrestricted contributions	45,947	70,000	(24,053)
42440 · Memorial contributions	3,350	0	3,350
44200 · Membership Income	103,118	98,000	5,118
45000 · Royalties	100	200	(100)
48030 · Investment Income	333	0	333
48030 · Interest Income	85	430	(345)
49100 · Special Events Income	2,272	5,000	(2,728)
49200 · Fundraising Events	7,265	10,000	(2,735)
49300 · Events Income	0	500	(500)
Total 46000 · Sales	<u>4,477</u>	<u>5,386</u>	<u>(909)</u>
Gross Income	294,952	350,516	(55,564)
Less: Cost of Goods Sold	<u>2,110</u>	<u>1,937</u>	<u>(173)</u>
Total Income	292,842	348,579	(55,737)
<b>Expense</b>			
60100 · Salaries, wages and benefits	215,122	241,750	26,628
60920 · Business fees and licenses	96	60	(36)
62110 · Accounting Fees	6,360	8,000	1,640
62130 · Website	35	35	0
62150 · Other contracted services	30,803	28,448	(2,355)
62300 · Facility fees	5,850	7,279	1,429
62400 · Electricity	362	600	238
62840 · Repair & Maintenance	164	0	(164)
65020 · Postage	12,559	11,082	(1,477)
65025 · Design services	1,030	1,800	770
65030 · Printing & copying	22,697	18,864	(3,833)
65040 · Supplies	2,529	5,324	2,795
65045 · Equipment	240	100	(140)
65050 · Telephone	2,292	2,200	(92)
65052 · Internet	841	842	1
65055 · Software	2,344	1,874	(470)
65100 · Advertising	644	1,000	356
65110 · Memberships & Subscriptions	1,220	375	(845)
65120 · Insurance	1,997	1,627	(370)
67000 · Contributions	3,481	5,000	1,519
68300 · Travel	1,524	6,150	4,626
68315 · Refreshments	43	2,000	1,957
68320 · Training	0	1,350	1,350
68400 · Event fees	10	600	590
68500 · Credit card fees	2,361	1,440	(921)
69000 · Other expenses	<u>1,648</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>(1,018)</u>
Total Expense	316,252	348,430	32,178
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(23,410)</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>(23,559)</u>

# FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK

## 2021 INCOME

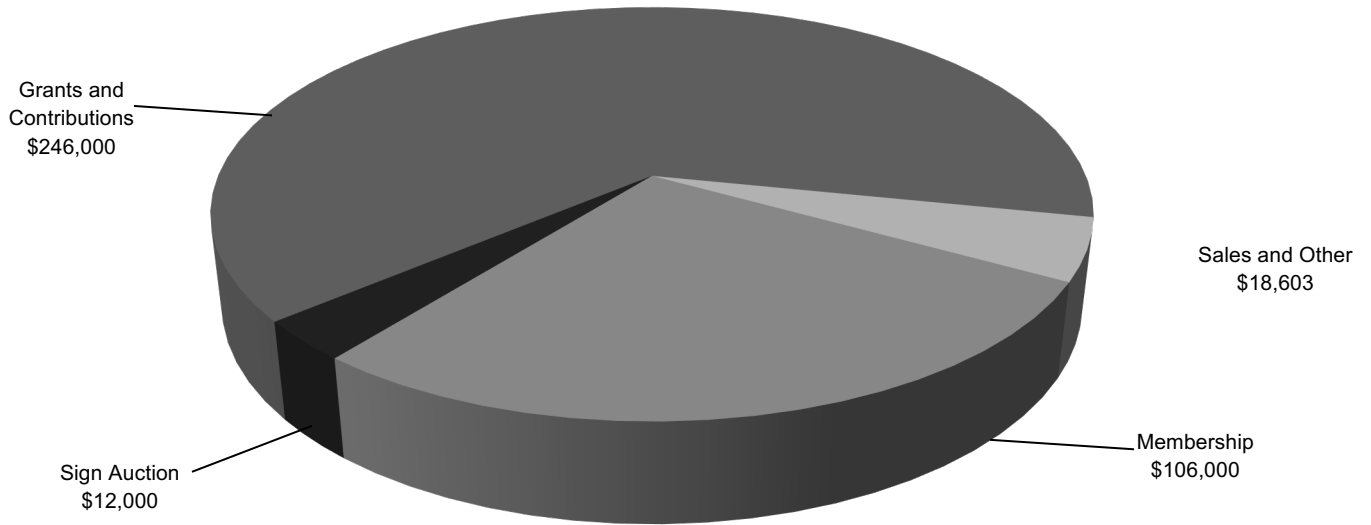


## 2021 EXPENSES

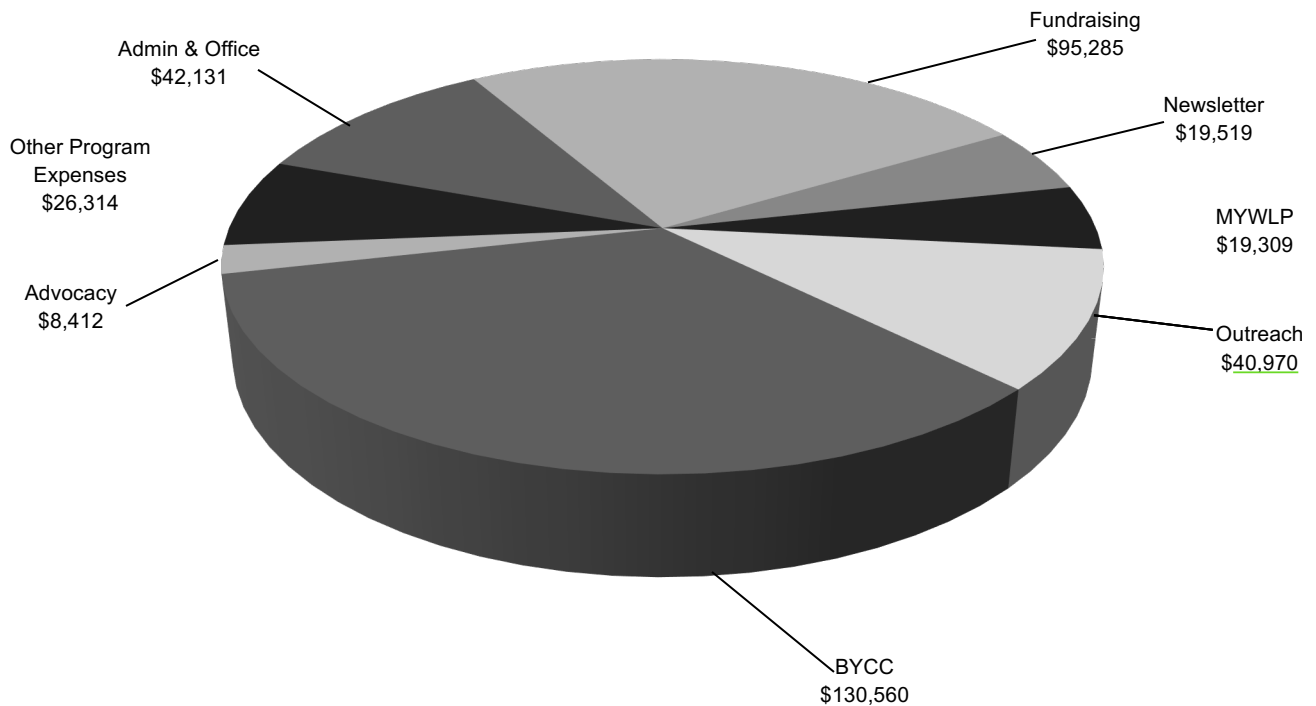


# FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK

## 2022 BUDGETED INCOME



## 2022 BUDGETED EXPENSES



## Friends of Baxter State Park Profit & Loss Budget Overview January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
41000 · Grants	143,000
41600 · Restricted contributions	27,000
42000 · Business Support	6,000
42420 · Unrestricted Contributions	60,000
42430 · Board Contributions	10,000
44200 · Membership Income	106,000
45000 · Royalties	200
46000 · Sales	5,400
48030 · Interest Income	430
48800 · Transfer from Endowment	15,000
49200 · Fundraising Events	12,000
<b>Total Income</b>	385,030
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	2,427
<b>Gross Profit</b>	382,603
<b>Expense</b>	
60100 · Salaries, Wages and Benefits	264,740
60920 · Business fees and licenses	60
62110 · Accounting Fees	8,000
62130 · Website	251
62150 · Other contracted services	40,068
62300 · Facility Fees	7,050
62400 · Electricity	600
65020 · Postage	12,164
65025 · Design services	2,000
65030 · Printing & copying	18,300
65040 · Supplies	5,116
65045 · Equipment	350
65050 · Telephone	2,400
65052 · Internet	842
65055 · Software	2,627
65100 · Advertising	700
65110 · Memberships & Subscriptions	875
65120 · Insurance	1,627
67000 · Contributions	6,000
68300 · Travel	5,150
68320 · Training and Workshops	800
68400 · Event fees	100
68500 · Credit Card fees	2,190
69000 · Other expenses	490
<b>Total Expense</b>	382,500
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	103
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>103</b>



## **NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Presented at the Annual Meeting, April 7, 2022**

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. Terms are expiring in 2022 for five Director positions, which are currently held by Alec Giffen, Josie Quintrell, Jim Mroch, Carla Ritchie, and Stuart Thomsen. In addition, two Directors (Kim Bailey-Shaw and Brian Threlkeld) resigned in 2021 prior to their term expirations, creating vacancies for the remaining year of each of their terms. One current Director (Jim Mroch) is retiring from the Board and not seeking reelection.

The Nominating Committee nominates four incumbent Directors (Josie Quintrell, Alec Giffen, Carla Ritchie, and Stuart Thomsen) and three new Directors (Anna Bastidas, Jensen Bissell, and Hope Rowan) to fill the seven Director positions up for election in 2022, with terms as follows:

#### **FOR ACTION BY THE MEMBERSHIP**

Nominated for three-year terms:	Anna Bastidas Jensen Bissell Josie Quintrell (incumbent) Carla Ritchie (incumbent) Stuart Thomsen (incumbent)
Nominated for one-year terms:	Alec Giffen (incumbent) Hope Rowan

#### **About the Director Nominees:**

**Anna Bastidas** is an outdoor enthusiast who finds joy and community when spending time outside with others. She is the Associate Director of the Outing Club at Bowdoin College, and in this role trains student trip leaders, oversees the Orientation Trip program, and works to increase access, opportunity, and sense of belonging in the outdoors for all students. Anna graduated from Hamilton College in 2013, earned her Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2021, and also instructs for NOLS.

**Jensen Bissell** retired in 2017 from Baxter State Park after a 30-year career; 12 years as the Director and 18 years managing the forest on the north end of the park. In his retirement, Jensen works very part time for his sons in their business, Bissell Brothers Brewing Company, which has locations in Portland and Milo. Jensen serves on the Board of Trustees for two local hospitals and as regional representative on the NLH Finance Committee. He also is a board member of the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District. Jensen also serves on the Advisory Board for the Forest Society of Maine. Jensen resides in Milo and in his spare time enjoys traveling and hiking with his wife Breena, as well as fishing, reading, and gardening.

**Alec Giffen** is a Fellow with The Clean Air Task Force, focused on the role that forests can play to mitigate global warming. He is also the New England Forestry Foundation's representative in Maine. As Maine Forest Service Director Alec served on the Baxter State Park Authority. He also served as Director of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission, with the Natural Resource Planning Division of the Maine State Planning Office, and founded the consulting firm Land & Water Associates that resolved disputes over land management and facility licensing. He has a Master of Science in ecology and a Bachelor of Science in Forest Science. Alec is an avid outdoorsman, a licensed professional forester and a registered Maine guide. After years of stories of family trips to Baxter, Alec got to the Park in the early '60s on a family backpack from Katahdin Stream to South Branch and has continued trips to the Park since. In speeches he often cites Governor Baxter's achievement in creating the Park and finds it particularly remarkable that Baxter included both wildlands and scientific forestry.

**Josie Quintrell** has a BA in Biology and a Master's in environmental planning. Her work experience has focused on coastal and ocean issues, first with the Maine Coastal Program and now as the Director of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). She's been involved in the Harpswell Land Trust, Conservation Commission and the Holbrook Community Foundation. While her professional life has focused on the coast, she is passionate about the Maine woods and preserving Governor Baxter's legacy. She has lived in Cundy's Harbor for over 30 years.

**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.

**Hope Rowan** is a GIS Specialist at Community Geographics, where she creates maps of all kinds but particularly of trails, assisting trail managers across the state publicize and map their trail networks, including management of the online resource Maine Trail Finder. She has also published two hiking guides for children, *Ten Days in Acadia* and *Ten Days in the North Woods*. Hope received a B.A. in Music from Colby College, and an M.Phil. in Human Ecology from the College of the Atlantic, and has since focused her work on land preservation and providing and encouraging access to the outdoors. When not making maps, writing, or teaching piano, Hope spends as much time as possible out in the woods and ascending summits, making many trips between her beloved Maine coast and the equally loved Maine mountains, both for hiking in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. Hope resides along the down east coast with her dog Tess, in Southwest Harbor for much of the year and in Steuben during the summer.

**Steuart Thomsen** has spent his legal career at Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP in Washington, DC, where he is now Of Counsel. Steuart and his wife Linda live in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and have a house in Sullivan, Maine that has been in Steuart's family since it was built in 1799. Steuart grew up coming to Sullivan in the summer, and he and Linda are spending more time there as they both transition into retirement. Steuart first climbed Katahdin in 1965 with his father (who had first climbed it in the 1940s) and has led numerous friends and family members up mountain in the decades since then. Steuart has been a member of Friends of Baxter State Park since 2002 and has become increasingly active in Friends since then, traveling from Maryland to attend annual meetings and other events since 2013. Steuart currently serves on the Development Committee. He and Linda were involved in the 2016-17 Friends project to have new mountain models created for Baxter State Park. They are also active with the Frenchman Bay Conservancy.

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