

September 20, 2018

Dear Members of the Board,

Please consider this letter as my interest in serving on the Board of CBI.

A few years ago, when my friend and I were waiting to be ferried to one of the sonars at CBI, an older woman named Karen approached us. She said that she was a CBI member and asked whether she could go sailing with us. We gladly said yes. While sailing, Karen started to open up about herself. She told us that, due to her mental illness, she was still working to finish her college degree, and CBI offered her a sanctuary to socialize with friendly people, and she always felt exhilarated after sailing. Like Karen, hundreds and thousands of people, from diverse backgrounds, have benefited greatly from CBI's sailing-for-all programs. I am also one of those people.

Seven years ago, I was working on my PhD in Chemistry at Harvard on a tight budget. Thanks to CBI's affordable memberships, I took my first sailing lesson here. Sailing has become one of my passions ever since. I am grateful for the opportunities that CBI provides to the local communities, so during the summer last year, I volunteered as a shore school instructor about once a week. I taught the basics of sailing and shared my personal learning experience with my students.

Since graduation, I have been working as a patent agent in an international law firm, serving local and out-of-state clients specialized in biotechnology and medical devices. With the sponsorship from my firm, I am currently attending Suffolk Law School part-time (expected to graduate in 2020). Because I work in a client-facing business, I understand intimately some of the challenges that CBI is facing: how to retain current members and how to attract new ones. I believe that building an enthusiastic membership is an important solution to these challenges.

Three years ago, I served on a task force (about 10 members) for the City of Cambridge on assessing the need and feasibility for extending broadband access to disadvantaged households. Over the course of about a year, the task force held monthly meetings to define the scope of the engagement, work with external consultants, and engage in public outreach. This experience is helpful in preparing me to be an effective board member.

It would be my honor to serve on the Board. Most importantly, I hope to help CBI continue to carry out its sailing-for-all mission and bring the joy of sailing to many more people like Karen. I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration.

Best regards,



Chris Yu