

Kathryn Commons

Board Candidate Declaration

To Members of the Corporation,

I love Community Boating! That's why I'd like to be considered as a candidate for a Board position. I joined CBI in 2015 and every year since then I have become more engaged. While I had some exposure to sailing as a child, I really learned to sail at CBI. I often sail with friends and family, with Women's Racing and sometimes with Tiller Club. My favorite volunteer activities at CBI have been teaching Mainsail classes and co-organizing Women's Racing.

Like all of you this year, I have missed the enthusiasm and wonder of the many aspiring sailors at CBI and the atmosphere of the community on the dock. Adapting to these new circumstances may be a long process we will have to continually navigate. I believe there is a way we can emerge from this challenge better, stronger and sailing faster, and we can find it by working together.

As a member of the CBI Board I would focus on the goal of evolving our organization in order to reinvigorate every program at CBI, regardless of how long current health-concerns persist. Remarkably this summer Women's Racing has had a fairly successful season. Working with the amazing CBI staff, we were very lucky to be able to problem solve and adapt. We've had a full contingent out racing, with members not only learning to race, but also learning to sail. This summer so much of CBI including the Junior Program, UAP, Windsurfers and others, faced problems that were much more difficult to solve, but I believe safe solutions can be found.

For almost 20 years I ran an independent basic research laboratory in the field of neuroscience and have authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications. Success in science demands a certain outlook: there are never roadblocks, only challenges; grants are not rejected but rather reviewers provide the opportunity to revise and resubmit. CBI is in a position now where the challenges are tough but not unsolvable. The way forward will lie in our capacity to be flexible, our willingness to rethink and nimbly adapt to the continually changing situation.

As a board member I would also have the priority of ensuring fiscal responsibility. It's possible that CBI's revenue streams will undergo an extended process of adjustment that will require a proactive approach. In addition to research and teaching, I have extensive experience in grant writing that may be applicable in this regard. I also have related experience as a member of the Corporation (now the Society) of the Marine Biological Laboratories (MBL) in Woods Hole, where I taught for several years.

Finally, as a board member I would be particularly interested in engaging the resources that members of the corporation bring to CBI. While CBI will need to exert caution with its financial resources, our more important and deeper resource is our community. We might need to be socially distant, but this is also an opportunity to come together. No one holds a monopoly on good ideas and hard work is easier when shared. While CBI has outperformed under the current circumstances, we'll continue to need an abundance of good ideas and hard work to rebuild to a better future.

Thank you for considering my candidacy – Sincerely, Kathryn Commons