

Minutes of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club

October 31, 2009

Munson Room, Blunt White Building, Mystic Seaport
Mystic, CT

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held in Mystic, CT at Mystic Seaport on October 31, 2009. Commodore William A. Loweth presided.

The following members were present: Commodore William Loweth, Vice Commodore Stephen Purdy, Rear Commodore David Dickerson, Treasurer Harlan Fredericksen, Race Committee Chairman Charles Chorlton, Race Secretary Walter Pratt, Measurer Paul Jennings, Protest Committee James Francis, Entertainment Committee Robert Austin-LaFrance, Historian Jack Washburn, Membership Committee/Webmaster Gerry Keeler, Scoring Committee Greg Gilmartin, Past Commodore Frank Bohlen, Past Commodore Neal S. O'Connell, Past Commodore Bob Geary, Board of Governor Sarah Porter, and Secretary Kathy Nauber.

The meeting was called to order at 0900 by Commodore Loweth. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the April 4, 2009 meeting were approved.

Treasurer Harlan Fredericksen distributed his report and reviewed the changes he made to how the report is written. The balances in our three accounts with Bank of America are: total starting balances - \$26,760.60, year to date income - \$55,796.18, interest - \$450.34, year to date expenses - \$52,694.71 and the ending balance - \$30,312.41. The spring and fall race budgets will be about \$2,000.00 short due to lower attendance. There are still a few bills to come in. It was moved and voted to accept the Treasurer's financial report.

Commodore Loweth led a Moment of Silence for Eileen Ames. Her Estate is sending \$5,000.00 for future videos to be produced. The Fast's represented OSC at the Dyer Dhow Derby this year. Commodore Loweth corresponded with Henry Morgan and sent him a 50 year plaque. Jamie Mills was unable to attend but he asked that the Board be informed that he is looking for a larger tent for the Greenport Fall party.

Vice Commodore Purdy reported that a deposit has been paid for the annual dinner. In the past there were planned tours before the annual dinner. Some members have requested that this be reinstated. Steve will look into this and it will need to be advertised in advance.

Rear Commodore Dickerson reported certificates were made up to accompany the order forms for the spring award recipients. Award winners were able to choose from several prize items with most selecting clothing which was the cheaper item. Only the finish place or boat name was listed on the award item and people wanted the event also listed. David reported that the Gifted items were sent out very late. In the fall he went with glassware from the company Prize Possessions who were easy to work with. There was discussion about the possibility of offering OSC glassware to the membership for purchase. Under the charter we are not to own anything or have an inventory. If this is something OSC wishes to pursue thought needs to be given to possibly pre-ordering, having a link on the website, and finding someone to handle this. Possibly Ted Zuse could take care of this. David said that we give out about 48 perpetual trophy plaques at the annual meeting at a cost of about \$4,000.00. He asked if OSC wishes to continue this and that Gifted was the company we used in the past. The consensus of the Board was to continue to do this. Frank Bohlen said he would talk to Penny from Gifted about

past problems. David will also speak/meet with Gifted and possibly look for a different vendor for these plaques. There was also a discussion about OSC glasses that Ted Zuse has and should be selling at the events.

The Clerk Brian Gibbs was not present; however he contacted Rear Commodore Dickerson and reported that he would have our paperwork filed with Massachusetts by the time of this meeting. Harlan will follow up with Brian.

Secretary Kathy Nauber asked that Board/Committee members who have changes in address, phone, or email let her know so she can keep the contact information sheets updated.

Race Secretary Pratt distributed his report. He wants to extend an invitation to the Nonsuch class to race in 2010. Board voted to approve this. Walter would like to make them a permanent class with perpetual trophies. There has been discussion about people downloading the notice of race themselves to save money. This would work for some but there are older members who are not computer literate. The notice of race will continue to be mailed because it is a legal document that we sail under. In the spring there was some confusion with the race courses so changes were made to the way courses were written in the notice of race. To save money the entry forms will be printed in black and white. There was a question about mailing the notice of race to all members. Some older members enjoy reading these mailings since it is the only connection they have with the club. After discussion it was decided that the notice of race will go to all members along with the yearbook and the Commodore letter. The race instructions will only be sent to people who actually enter the race. Walter discussed his procedure for dealing with members who sign up to race but are not current with their dues.

RC Chairman Chorlton reported that the NOR'EASTER dinghy motor repair issue has been taken care of.

Measurer Jennings reported that a couple of classes (C4 especially) are getting to small so there needs to be some changes to the classes or we will lose some boats that race in these classes. He is looking for suggestions about combining some classes or to moving some boats to a different class. Movement between classes affects the perpetual trophies. It would need to be made clear to the members how the perpetual trophies would be awarded in classes that are changed in some way. There was a question about whether we had any feedback about the roller furling credit being changed from 6 seconds to 3 seconds. Paul has not heard anything negative so the Board voted to stay with the 3 second credit. There was a discussion about boats coming from areas outside of the ECSA area and having OSC adjust their ratings to match the rest of the fleet.

Historian Washburn reported there is nothing new to report at this time.

Membership Chairman Keeler reported we have 14 new members, 3 Guest Members, 7 resignations and 3 members passed away. The membership count is presently 487. Of the 3 Guest members 2 responded they are going to join. There is still one unpaid member who has indicated he is going to pay. Harlan will pursue this further.

Protest Committee Chairman Francis reported there are a lot of members committing infractions yet there have not been many protests. He feels we need to be policing ourselves better. Walter believes we need to clean up the language in the instructions about being able to appeal. Jim, Walter and Steve will work on this issue. This could be why people are not protesting.

Entertainment Committee Chairman LaFrance reported on the spring and fall parties. The fall party was a little over budget mainly because the Friday race party started early due to the cancelled race. The Dark and Stormy's were popular and adjustments were made to other alcohol types because of this. His committee is currently looking into a bigger tent for Greenport. Ted Zuse indicated at one time the possibility of purchasing a tent so a dialogue with him needs to happen.

Scoring Committee Chairman Greg Gilmartin reported that most issues with the perpetual trophies have been resolved. He now has a spread sheet he is comfortable with. A new mailing needs to go out with the corrected information. Another person or a committee should be assigned to review and check the results before they are mailed out.

Rear Commodore Dickerson reported he covered the Awards Committee information earlier.

Public Relations Keeler reported that the website is up to date and is continually a work in progress.

Greenport Liaison Mills was not present but his report was given to Commodore Loweth.

Block Island Liaison Purdy reported that housing will be an issue because people do not rent for less than 1 or 2 weeks. In the past Steve had been going through a personal contact to rent a house for the race committee. This year he had to rent 6 rooms which is more expensive

Long Range Planning Chairman Bohlen reported the luncheons were popular and he would try to set something up in Branford, Shelter Island and Mystic. He would like to set something up in Rhode Island. John Reed expressed an interest in helping with Long Range Planning and Frank believes it would be good to have a committee.

The 2010 schedule is set and the Board approved to accept. The 2011 preliminary schedule was presented. Vice Commodore Purdy will check on the annual dinner date.

Old Business

The following items were discussed earlier in the meeting: Off Season Luncheons, NOR' EASTER dingy repair and the Clerk's Filing.

The Club House account is closed.

New Business

Review budget for projected 2010 dues. Treasurer Frederickson presented a budget report that showed past and present expenses and a proposed 2010 budget. He felt a 10% dues increase would cover our expenses. There was discussion about whether it would be better to raise the race entry fees and/or party tickets. Commodore Loweth's concern is that raising the ticket prices might keep people from buying them. A 10% increase (\$5.00) just brings us to the break even point. Once the dues are set we would want to keep them at that level for a number of years. After a discussion Bob Geary proposed and Steve Purdy seconded that the dues be set at \$60.00 and \$45.00 for those members who qualify for a reduced rate (65 years of age or older, membership in OSC for 25 years or more and pay on time) and the late fee remain at

\$5.00. The proposal was moved and seconded. The Board voted to approve the motion to increase the dues. In the past the benchmark for the reserve was \$30,000.00 but we are currently low. Any extra money collected by the dues can be put in the reserves. We need to maintain a reserve fund to cover the cost if we find it necessary to pay for a committee boat some time in the future. Kathy was asked to check the precedent sheet to see if this was mentioned.

There was discussion about purchasing a regatta and membership software package. Walter Pratt presented a written report about Compete *AT. Questions the Board had were about who oversees this database and who will be up to speed on it when Walter steps down, how long has the company been in business and who else is using this program. The motion was made and seconded for OSC to go with the Compete *At membership data software package with the stipulation that the following items are checked out and found to be positive by November 30, 2009: check with the Better Business Bureau and have an evaluation or credit report done by a reputable firm. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved. The Board appointed W. Loweth, W. Pratt, S. Purdy and H. Fredericksen to take on these checks and to then make the final decision, based on the results, to proceed or not.

The following people were selected to serve on the Nominating Committee: Neal O'Connell-Chairman, David Peck and Danny Spear.

The following people were selected to serve on the Audit Committee: Steve Purdy-Chairman, David Dickerson, Jamie Mills and Katie Beal-Bradford.

Bob Geary reminded the Board the ECSA Dinner is at the Coast Guard Academy on November 21, 2009.

There being no further formal business, motion duly made and approved to adjourn at 1257.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Nauber

Secretary