



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

Minutes of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY
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October 27, 2007
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Mystic Seaport

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A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at Mystic Seaport on October 27, 2007. Commodore Robert Geary presided.

The following members were present: Commodore Robert Geary, Vice Commodore Bill Loweth, Rear Commodore Steven Purdy, Treasurer Ron Breault, Race Committee Chairman Charles Chorlton, Race Secretary Walter Pratt, Entertainment Committee Sarah Porter, Historian Jack Washburn, Membership Committee/Webmaster Gerry Keeler, Past Commodore Frank Bohlen, Past Commodore John Brooks, and Secretary Dave Dickerson.

The meeting was called to order at 0906 by Commodore Geary. The minutes of the March 31, 2007 meeting were approved.

Commodore Geary called for a moment of silence in memory of the passing of members Aborn Smith and Howard Eddy.

Treasurer Ron Breault distributed his report and summarized that we are OK financially. The balance in the Fidelity/Norcross fund was transferred to a Bank of America/Norcross account. We have received some additional donations towards the 75th anniversary video. The amount of donations committed to the video, to date, is \$1300 and these will be formally acknowledged by the Commodore.

Commodore Geary received an invitation from Doug Brown to attend the annual Order of the Moosehead meeting on 10/28/07. The Commodore and Vice Commodore plan to attend and will return the trophy we received in '06.

Commodore Geary reported that Dave Nickerson ran the Dyer Dhow Derby, held at Mystic Seaport last weekend and the OSC team finished 2nd overall.

Commodore Geary received a couple of letters regarding this years racing. One concern involved not being able to sail around Block Island in the Spring and the other involved shortening of the race for the Nonsuch class in the Fall. The Commodore provided an appropriate response and resolved these concerns.

The family of past member, Keith Walker, donated five Off Sounding photos with copy of Registry of American Yachts to OSC. These are Rosenfeld photos and Historian Jack Washburn will be working with the Seaport to have them added to their collection.

Vice Commodore Loweth reported that the annual dinner at the Lighthouse Inn was a financial success. The dinner receipts covered expenses plus almost all of the fourteen dinners for the Race Committee.

VC Loweth presented the projected income and expenses for the upcoming 75th anniversary dinner. The board discussed the pricing and menu options as well as how much of the projected expense should be subsidized by OSC. PC Brooks identified that, in past years, the Race Committee dinners would be paid for by the club. It was agreed that we would subsidize the RC dinners out of the OSC budget and not out of the ticket price. Also, it was agreed that each member attending the dinner will receive a free video and that the material cost for these free videos will be subsidized by the OSC budget. Additionally, unrelated to the dinner, VC Loweth wants to sell the video for over \$10 apiece and noted the video may be worth between \$15 and \$20. Entertainment Chairman Porter reported there are some other income producing ideas for the dinner being worked on (i.e., silent auction).

Rear Commodore Purdy reported that expenditures for the 2007 trophies were under budget. Planning is well underway for the 75th Anniversary Rendezvous at the Seaport on July 11 -13. Dyer Dhow Races are being planned for Saturday afternoon, followed by a cocktail hour at the North Dock and then dinner at the Boathouse. PC Brooks suggested that we encourage older boats to participate to show off the history of Off Soundings. Ron Breault suggested that we try to get Noreaster to attend. It was noted that if we have cocktails on the boats, we must stay on the boats. The Treasurer suggested a separate line item in the 2008 budget for the 75th Rendezvous. There will be no cost for individuals to enter the Seaport for the evening events, dinner and drinks will be pay as you go and OSC will incur a \$1000 (discounted) fee for use of the Boathouse. Ron proposed a draft subsidy of \$1500 to cover the event. Sarah Porter suggested that we look into use of a tent adjacent to the North Dock (there may be no charge for the tent if we can guarantee 75 guests and it is believed the same deal would apply for the dinner). Ron suggested we include an enclosure in the annual dues notice to stimulate interest in the 75th Anniversary events.

Clerk Gibbs was not in attendance however Commodore Geary reported that the annual filing has been completed with The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a copy of same was given to the Secretary.

Race Committee Chairman Chorlton had no report and the Commodore thanked him for a job well done (under difficult conditions) during the past season.

Measurer Jennings was not in attendance however Commodore Geary forwarded a concern regarding handicap ratings for the Nonsuch class. The Measurer recommended that the Nonsuch class need measurement certificates. VC Loweth commented that we don't want to loose the Nonsuch class by making things too difficult and suggested the class liaison resolve this issue with the

Measurer. Race Secretary Pratt will work with the Measurer and the class liaison on this item.

Historian Washburn and Race Secretary Pratt voiced a concern that OSC measurement certificates do not contain the PHRF rating number. This will be discussed with the Measurer.

Historian Washburn has been working with Neal O'Connell on getting the OSC records at the Seaport up to date. In the near future there should be a listing of the OSC records on the Mystic Seaport website. It was noted that this does not include old photos. We can not store photos in our records therefore it was suggested that we donate the photos to the Seaport. Sarah Porter was under the impression that we had an OSC photographic archive at the Seaport. Treasurer Breault noted that one half of our annual \$1500 donation to the Seaport is designated to the film/video/archive fund. PC Bohlen suggested we talk to the Seaport to determine if the designation of our donation is still appropriate.

Race Secretary Pratt distributed his report which included the revised 2008 schedule, the proposed 2009 schedule, and race entry data for 2004 to 2007. Walt noted that we had 18 boats in the Nonsuch class for the Spring Series and 9 boats for the Fall Series. In 2007, we used Low Point scoring for all race calculations and the annual perpetual trophies. The descriptions in the yearbook for the perpetual trophies need to be modified to show the use of low point scoring vice corrected time.

Membership Chairman Keeler reported the club currently has 481 members with 17 new members added this year. There are 3 prospective members in the review process and several other applications are in progress. Additionally, 14 guest invitations were processed this year.

Race Committee Chairman Chorlton reported there are no protests pending.

Entertainment Chairman Porter reported a small committee is working on some special items for the 75th anniversary dinner (i.e., auction items, classic pictures, OSC tumblers, and classic OSC ties) the plan being the items will pay for themselves.

Webmaster Keeler suggested we have a long range plan for 2008/2009 to look at updating our website design. During the interim we need a link with Zeus for purchase of 75th Anniversary items.

Commodore Geary forwarded a report from SI liaison John Lockwood that Shelter Island Yacht Club would like to have us back. Bob communicated our thanks for this offer but explained that we have committed to go to Greenport for at least the next two years.

Past Commodore Bohlen reported two member luncheons are being planned for January/February, and the dates will be available for the December mailing.

Race Secretary Pratt reviewed the changes to the 2008 schedule. The dates for BI Race week and the 75th Rendezvous were added and the 2008 schedule was moved and approved.

Rear Commodore Purdy distributed a report on reducing OSC printing and mailing costs. Steve proposed we combine the Spring and Fall NOR, this will reduce the total page count for the year. There was discussion about combining the entry forms but it was decided to keep them separate. The Spring final notice will be mailed with the Season NOR and the Spring entry form, this will eliminate one major mailing. Additionally, the motion for these changes was amended to have the entry application placed on the OSC website. It was moved and approved to accept these changes.

Race Secretary Pratt presented the preliminary schedule for 2009. It was moved and approved to accept the 2009 schedule of events.

Treasurer Breault distributed a draft 2008 budget and made a motion that the dues remain at the same level. Following a detailed discussion of the budget it was voted to accept the dues at the same level. The Treasurer continues to work on having our Federal Tax ID # reestablished. When the old # is reinstated or if we re-file for a new #, we will have to file informational returns for some number of past years. Due to federal regulation changes in 2006 for non-profit status, we may have some tax liability for "other income" (e.g., sales of accessories). Additionally, we have non-profit status in Massachusetts and in 2006; they also changed their laws regarding non-profit organizations so we may have to file an informational return in Massachusetts.

Vice Commodore Loweth reviewed the progress of the 75th Anniversary video. Bill is excited about the excellent footage obtained in 2007 and they also plan to assemble some older material on a separate disc.

Commodore Geary discussed the status of the Club House Account. Club House is getting out of the business and has sent us the remaining OSC inventory (i.e., ties). Some other soft goods (i.e., shirts) and hard goods (i.e., pins) will be sold to Zeus. Going forward, we have a signed agreement with Ted Zeus which includes a 15% royalty and we should receive a check for \$821 from the 2007 Fall Regatta.

New Business

Rear Commodore Purdy distributed proposed revisions to the Membership Committee. Following a detailed discussion, it was decided to study the proposed changes and call for a vote at the upcoming January meeting. Additionally, we should address what we do with Membership Committee records.

Commodore Geary submitted the following names for the upcoming Nominating Committee: John Brooks as Chairman with David Peck and John Graeb as members. It was moved and approved to accept the Nominating Committee.

Past Commodore Brooks reported that Bob La France has been asked to serve as Chairman of the Entertainment Committee.

Commodore Geary proposed the following names for the Audit Committee: Bill Loweth as Chairman with Jim Francis, Walter Pratt and Andy Anderson as members. It was moved and approved for the Audit Committee to proceed with the audit.

Treasurer Breault reported there are presently six unpaid members: J. Hall, F. Harwood, N. Laskey, F. Murphy, W. Stiger, and A. Wasley. It was moved and approved to drop these people from the rolls if not paid up by December.

Membership Chairman Keeler asked that we discuss the lead time in the Guest Invitation Procedure during the next meeting.

There being no further formal business, motion duly made and approved to adjourn at 1307.

Respectfully submitted,


David G. Dickerson
Secretary