

Minutes of the Clearwater Board of Directors Meeting – April 18, 2018

Attendance:

Board Members

Bob Alpern	Mitzi Elkes	Beth Levine	Don Raskopf
Peter Capek	Betsy Garthwaite	Aaron Mair (phone)	Robi Schlaff
Nancy Cincotta	Joan Caylord	Henry Neale	Donna Stein
Seth Davis	Neil Gordon	Anne Osborn	Sarah Underhill
Jeffrey Domanski	Ross Gould	Kyle Rabin	Taylor Vogt
	Allen Gutkin	Jeremy Rainer	

Staff

Hal Cohen	Manna Jo Greene	Wren Longno
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Guests

Samuel Ferri	Betty Harkins	Tinya Seeger
Vincent Ferri	Marty Korn	

CALL TO ORDER

Betsy called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Peter noted that the meeting is being recorded to help with minutes.

Don Raskopf mentioned a new book for children based on Pete Seeger's life called The Golden Thread.

There was a motion by Betsy to defer approving the March 20th minutes until next month, since they had been distributed only earlier today with insufficient time to review them. Approved unanimously. There was a brief discussion initiated by Henry Neale on the importance of getting the minutes out in a timely fashion.

Staff reports had been distributed, but, again, most of the Board had not had time to read them prior to the meeting. Wren said that funds showing up seem to be lagging behind last year following a mailing (10K this year vs. 25K last year), but that she will have a better idea next month. The gala committee needs more members, will coordinate with the 50/100 committee.

Thanks for the staff who worked on the NOAA grant application; we don't expect to hear until September.

Manna gave a status report on Environmental Action. She distributed a flyer for a sail event on May 25 to raise money for the Article 78 activity (We are acting to counter a PSC action which effectively taxes electricity consumers in NY to subsidize nuclear power plants). We are getting good cooperation from Linda Puglisi (Town of Cortlandt Supervisor) on the Indian Point Citizen Oversight Board. Manna will be working with Maija and other organizations (Riverkeeper, Watershed Alliance) to do a "state of the Hudson" report on the dock in Cold Spring on June 9, which is the Saturday following World Oceans Day. It will include the presentation of a "Cargo of Concerns" to representatives from our Congressional legislators. Manna expressed unhappiness with the way

some of our legislators have failed to support the bill which would fund consolidated interim storage of nuclear waste and revitalize the Yucca Mountain storage project.

The Algonquin Pipeline risk assessment, which we and others have been trying to get released for a while, is close to release in redacted form, according to the head of the NY Public Service Commission. Strong encouragement from Manna to the Board to read Paul Hawken's "Drawdown" and/or visit the drawdown.org web site. Climate Solutions will be the EA theme for Revival, and "Drawdown" is an excellent source for that theme. Manna also solicited volunteers for the environmental action committee.

There was a brief discussion of efforts to ban plastic bags. Taylor Vogt is involved with an effort to reduce plastics bag use in Croton-on-Hudson, but said that requiring a fee for them is not effective because it is too small to affect behavior. The strategy has shifted to encouraging businesses to provide reusable bags and using the participation of small retailers to motivate the behavior of large stores.

Mitzi mentioned during Manna's comments that there will be an event on April 25 to raise awareness and provide information about the problem of chemicals and fertilizers on lawns. It was also noted that John Bowermaster's recent film "Restoring the Clearwater" is beautifully done.

Seth Davis described the situation with the nuclear subsidy mentioned earlier and summarized it by saying that it's a difficult case to win. The surcharge was justified by the PSC based on data which has not been made public and is claimed to be proprietary. (The PSC refused even to give the data to the judge considering the case.) It's a long slog.

Education Committee - Don Raskopf: There will be a sail on May 15 at 12:45pm from Beacon for Board and Staff. We are asking each Board member to book a sail. Opportunities include school classes, book clubs (come and talk about the book that inspired Pete to build the sloop). Clearwater is also providing continuing education for teachers - presently at schools; teachers get credit, and it is profitable for Clearwater. Can be done any time of year, generally on teacher recess day. Uses equipment on board to measure water turbidity, salinity, temperature. Eli Schloss has a completely full schedule for the spring, and the sloop schedule is so full that there is little room for rescheduling needed due to weather. The Mystic Whaler is for sale, either as a bareboat or with the programs. The current season will be its last with Clearwater. Neil encouraged Board members to sponsor a sail on the sloop.

There is a new brochure - membership application - to be given to each child sailing on the sloop with a school group, good for a free 1yr family membership. There appears to be a problem with the online sailing reservation calendar in that it indicates that many dates in August are booked, when in fact the calendar for those days has not been generated yet. Don agreed that this needs to be, and will be, fixed.

Hal and Mitzi gave an update on Chef's: Wine Enthusiast is a new sponsor. The event will be Sunday, October 14 from 4pm to 8pm. at the Culinary Institute. Taylor mentioned that his father, Glenn, had donated the food for the Pocantico River Watershed Committee Lawn Care panel discussion on April 25th (Manna had been one of the panelists), and had joined the committee. Will meet next week with a potential underwriter. The web site, ChefsforClearwater.org, has been redesigned.

Neil spoke about finance: There is some unhappiness in the committee and some board members with the information and the level of detail being provided by the staff, although staff limitations are acknowledged. There is a problem with the timing of cash flow, which we have solved by borrowing, but this is not the best way to operate. There was a discussion of changes, mostly involving the Revival, which have contributed to the situation. Although the Revival has been profitable in the last 10 years, it is variable and subject to the vagaries of weather

predictions and other variables. Mitzi described a proposal to have Board members be at the ticket sales booth and advocate becoming Clearwater members to those buying tickets.

Steve Lurie couldn't be present but sent a report - please read. Volunteers for Revival and advance sales of tickets are down compared with prior years.

Taylor described his work with another environmental organization which has compiled a list of over 80 campus environmental organizations in NY and described how it could be used to let interested students know about Clearwater and also to recruit volunteers.

Hal asked the status of the (Executive Director) Search Committee. Mitzi said that 42 applications had been received and filtered to about 10 candidates to interview, which process is about to start. Hal commented that staff members presently are lacking a way to resolve questions.

Peter Capek gave an update on the activities so far of the 50/100 Celebration Committee. He summarized the goals of the activities during 2019 to be to increase awareness of Pete's life and work, and also of Clearwater; to boost Clearwater's membership, diversity, and support; to fund-raise for Clearwater; and to generate awareness and support for Clearwater environmental agenda. A number of activities, including concerts in the Hudson Valley as well as in NYC, exhibits, are under consideration. Don Raskopf said that there had been an open mic night at the Towne Crier in Beacon on Pete's 99th birthday, May 3, and that it's available on YouTube. (Search for Seeger and 99th.)

Samuel Ferri addressed the Board to express concerns about volunteer fees at Revival and about the circumstances surrounding the removal of his father, Vincent Ferri, as a festival volunteer. Vincent Ferri also spoke briefly in support of Samuel's comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Capek