

Clearwater Board of Directors  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting – May 21, 2019**

Board Members

<del>Bob Alpern</del>	<del>Joan Gaylord</del>	Henry Neale	Stephen Smith
Peter Capek	Bruce Ginsberg	Kyle Rabin	<del>Donna Stein</del>
<del>Nancy Cincotta</del>	<del>Neil Gordon</del>	Jeremy Rainer (ph)	Sarah Underhill
Seth Davis	Allen Gutkin	Don Raskopf	Taylor Vogt
<del>Jeffrey Domanski</del>	<del>Arthur Jones</del>	Robi Schlaff	
Mitzi Elkes	Aaron Mair (ph)		

Staff, Members and Guests

Hal Cohen	Robert Miglino	Jason Samel
Erin Macchiaroli	Cathy Page	Greg Williams (ED)

Stephen called the meeting to order at 6:35 and the group sang, led by Stephen playing guitar.

After the introduction of those present, the first hour or so of the meeting was taken up by training for the Board about Sexual Harassment as required by New York. The training was led by Robi Schlaff and Erin Macchiaroli.

The minutes of the previous meeting on March 28 as amended were passed unanimously by those attending.

Peter introduced a resolution required for our application for a grant from the Hudson Valley National Heritage Area Program which would provide \$5000 to help fund our public sails. The resolution is attached and merely acknowledges that the Board is aware of the application. Bruce moved and Robi seconded it, and it was approved unanimously.

Stephen introduced as a candidate for Board membership Cathy Page, who then described herself briefly as a resident of Croton, and a former Secretary to another Board. There was a discussion about whether there existed a seat corresponding to an unfilled term, or whether, if elected, Cathy would fill a new seat; there was no resolution. Greg supported Cathy's election, saying he had known her for perhaps 30 years, and her husband for longer still. Stephen asked for a motion from the Board which was given by Robi and seconded by Bruce, and Cathy was unanimously elected as a member of the Board.

Henry commented that the role of secretary was, in his opinion, not suitable for a new Board member, but Stephen observed that the question had not been raised.

Henry described the activity of the Property Committee which has been reviewing the lease on our building, which expires at the end of June, 2020. He said that it is not quite automatically renewable. The building had recently been inspected by an engineer and found to be basically in good shape, and no evidence of termites was found. The rent is \$1200/month, but this is waived if we make sufficient improvements to the building, which we have so far done.

Jason reported on the preparations for the Festival on June 15-16. We are very short of volunteers: as of now, we have 502, but need about 770; Peacekeeping is especially short. He encouraged members of the Board to volunteer, which several already had. There was mention of the idea that Board members should be allowed to volunteer without paying the \$62 fee (which covers food during the weekend, and a T-shirt), but there was no consensus on the question. Several people commented that the fee was not an inhibitor in any case.

Taylor suggested that nearby schools might be a source of volunteers and offered to contact the appropriate administrators to get the word out, but several of the schools have already ended the term, so this may be futile at this point.

With respect to sales of tickets, Jason said "We're doing well." While the late start of ticket sales this year (sales opened on February 28, compared with December last year), we have not caught up, but are doing quite respectably, and he was optimistic that we'd come close to last year's sales. This year, there are a substantially higher proportion of weekend (2 day) tickets being sold than last year. We have some openings in some categories of vendors (green living, marketplace), but the crucial ones, such as food court, activists and artisanal market are full or nearly so. Sponsorships are behind, probably due to the late start. Jason was optimistic based on our selling about 40% of all tickets in the 4 days immediately preceding and during the event (Th-Fri-Sat-Sun) and hoped that would be repeated. The T-shirts have been ordered. Jason later on said that he was expecting a profit, despite lower ticket sales.

Bob Miglino, a guest, showed a lawn sign that he had printed at FedEx Office with the same graphic as used for the Revival poster, and suggested this be done more broadly.

The program book is still being edited but close to being final. Nonetheless there is still an opportunity for Patron Fish listings. Greg reminded the Board that this year a Patron Fish donation is being treated as a gift to Revival, rather than to Clearwater directly.

Henry asked why the volunteer numbers were down. Jason thought it was due to the late start with people making other plans due to the uncertainty of whether the event would be held, departures as a side-effect of the "Code of Conduct" last year, and perhaps due to loyalty to the former director. It was observed that volunteerism broadly has diminished. Jason mentioned that he'd heard from Donna Stein about a program in which corporations, apparently to encourage their employees to volunteer, will pay organizations such as ours to provide opportunities to volunteer. Apple was mentioned as a specific example of such a corporation.

Mitzi commented that Board members at the event should have name tags showing that they are on the Board. Jason said it was undecided what kinds of name tags we'd be using; Greg offered to make name tags for the Board. Mitzi further commented with praise for Jason et al about how far we've come since the decision to move forward (at the end of January), and was met with applause from all.

Moving on to other business, Greg described the presentation in the legislative chamber at the Capitol in Albany of a proclamation recognizing and congratulating Clearwater on the 50th anniversary of the launching of the sloop, and also recognizing Pete Seeger's many contributions on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Commenting on the Environmental Action department, Greg mentioned an offer of a matching grant of \$5000 made by Bob Alpern to fund work on nuclear decommissioning in which Clearwater is very active specifically with regard to Indian Point. Greg said he had been asked and agreed to put together a letter to describe the offer.

Moving to the Education Department, Greg encouraged each Board member to book at least one sail this season. The utilization of the sloop this season so far has been 89%. Work on the climate change curriculum is on track.

With respect to Administration, Greg said that Anita Vargas had brought all of our accounting up to date and that we could now look forward to regular and complete financial reports.

Harking back to the Festival discussion, Mitzi asked about rain insurance. Jason said he was still waiting for a quotation before committing, but was planning to buy insurance which would pay \$100K if there was two tenths of an inch of rain at the site during the event. There was also the possibility of buying lightning insurance which would pay if there was a lightning strike within 7 miles of the event, but this is quite expensive.

Greg said that based on moneys actually committed and received for the festival on an accrual basis, we were \$23K away from breaking even as of now.

Robi asked about progress in hiring a development person and Greg responded that he was actively working on it in the next few days. Robi went on to thank Greg for his successful work to bring the organization up to a much higher standard and better situation, and there was strong agreement expressed for this by the Board.

In the last few minutes, Jason thanked the Board, staff and RPC for the support he had received from all, and said he had never felt so supported in his life.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Capek

**The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, July 25.**



WHEREAS, the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is applying to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area for a grant under the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Grant Program for a project entitled Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Public Sails to be located in the Hudson Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the governing board of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater hereby does approve and endorse the application for a grant under the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Grant Program, for a project known as Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Public Sails and located within this community.

May 21, 2019 Date of Adoption

Peter G. Capek Name of Board Secretary

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