



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 9:45am – Annual Meeting

Board Members

Bob Alpern
Peter Capek
~~Nancy Cincotta~~
Seth Davis
~~Jeff Domanski~~
Mitzi Elkes
~~Joan Gaylord~~
Neil Gordon
Allen Gutkin
Samantha Hicks
Arthur Jones
~~Ashley Knox~~
~~Aaron Mair~~
Janine Napierkowski
Henry Neale

~~Kyle Rabin~~
Jeremy Rainer
~~Gregory Simpson~~
Steve Stanne
Donna Stein
Rosemary Thomas
Sarah Underhill

Board Member Candidates

Scott Greathead
Gareth Hougham
Thomasina Winslow

Steve opened the Annual Meeting by welcoming everyone to Clearwater's first virtual annual meeting. He notified those present that the meeting was **being recorded**, including chat messages, and possibly including private chats. (It was subsequently confirmed that private chat messages are recorded.) He asked that everyone stay muted except when speaking, and reminded everyone who had not already voted that the election for the new Board would end promptly at 11am.

Reggie Harris, a long-time friend of Clearwater, was introduced by Steve by recalling Reggie's first visit to the sloop, many years ago. He sang a rousing song he'd written shortly after Pete died, "High Over the Hudson."

The Clearwater staff was introduced to the audience by providing for each person an obscure fact and letting the audience guess which person was described.

The new candidates for Board membership were introduced, and each said a few words of introduction. They are Scott Greathead, Gareth Hougham (pronounced huff-em), and Thomasina Winslow. The seven returning candidates were listed but not introduced. Steve mentioned that Joan Gaylord was unable to be present today due to a death in her family.

Steve went on to describe the program to create teaching and video material on the sloop using the video taken during a transit sail from Albany to New York City on board the sloop and on shore, including interviews with notable people along the trip. This will be released under the name Our River Connects Us on social media. We hired a video producer and videographer to assure the quality of the result, and additional footage was taken by the crew. The result was a lot of footage, which took a while to edit and organize into a useful form. The resulting media will be used in a

social media campaign led by Amali Knobloch starting next Monday, with the overall goal of increasing our social media presence.

Amy, one of the two Clearwater Captains, gave a report on the state of the sloop. The year started with us half way through our hull inspection, which had been started before the haul-out last fall. During the winter, we continued to do the usual maintenance, replace planks and other things. The crew sheltered in place during the beginning of the Covid period and worked as volunteers, and the hull inspection was successfully completed with the sloop back in the water on May 5. The crew worked hard to figure out what kind of outreach and media made sense and could be effective, resulting in the release of various footage and also in the program mentioned above. We're not able to sail, even now, with the public aboard, though we are able to have deck tours, and are visiting various ports trying to stay visible and relevant under the difficult circumstances. At present, the sloop is in Yonkers, tied up to the Science Barge. Hiring a new crew gave us the opportunity to target crew with new skills, more related to our social media goals, and the crew has been releasing content 3 times a week on social media.

Amali joined the meeting and described how Nick and Eli had been interviewing notable people in the Hudson Valley in a direct effort by Clearwater to respond to and be relevant to both the Covid and social unrest that was and remains abroad, and to provide a platform on which people who would not normally have representation but had been affected could be heard. Amali played the first video of the series in which the crew is introduced, and thanked the Captains and the crew for their effort in making these videos happen. She asked all present, Board and members, to share these and help us broaden the visibility and increase awareness of Clearwater and its mission.

Meg Mayo, Clearwater's new Development Director was introduced and gave a brief presentation. She has been with us since July, having previously worked with small businesses and non-profits. She said she was most happy when she was working with mission-driven people and had a strong interest in waterways. After introducing her department, she commented that our fund-raising had decreased year-year by 7%, and fee income which was absent due to Covid roughly doubled that. Our fall appeal has launched and will continue through October, via both US Mail and e-mail. We are looking for ways to replace in-person fund-raising and events with virtual ones, and are hopeful that some of the ideas will be effective. The 4th quarter is the most intensive period of fund-raising for Clearwater and we have thrown out the old playbook for how to approach it. Meg's goal – admittedly a tall one – is to be ready for the sloop to sail in the spring. She went on to say that fund-raising in a pandemic had to focus on donor retention, compassion and creativity, and new ways to share the Clearwater story. We need to connect Clearwater to a new generation of donors and supporters, and people who support our goals, making everyone able to help with fund-raising.

Steve continued by mentioning two important initiatives. First, Mitzi Elkes had challenged the Board to raise \$5000 in just a few days prior to the annual meeting with the commitment to match that amount if the Board was successful – and it has been more than met, resulting in a donation from the Board of about \$13,500! A second challenge, this time to the membership by an anonymous member, was issued to raise \$5000 or more in the week following the meeting, again to be matched up to that amount. Beyond that, if the goal is achieved by Thursday evening, September 17, an additional \$2000 will be donated to initiate an endowment for future support of the sloop. (This goal, too, was achieved!)

Manna Jo updated the meeting on the Environmental Action program and efforts. She began by saying there was a silver lining to the Covid pandemic in that it was leading to EA and the sloop crew to working together and getting the crew involved with EA.

One of EA's key initiatives is to get the state legislature to create a Decommissioning Oversight Board to supervise the decommissioning of nuclear reactors in NY, starting with Indian Point. While this hasn't yet happened, there is a bill in the legislature and Manna Jo was hopeful that it would come to the floor and be passed soon. Separately, we are opposing the replacement of the Danskammer power plant, presently a peaking plant that runs intermittently, with a fracked gas plant that would run continuously.

We are also working to restore the PFOS-contaminated water which has affected the city of Newburgh's water supply, as a result of run-off from Stewart Airport, where PFOS is used in fire-fighting. Clearwater is also heavily involved with the preparation of the state mandated regional renewable energy plan, and working with a similar effort on Long Island. We are discussing what position, if any, to take on a proposal to build a DC power transmission line known as Champlain Hudson Power express which would run in the Hudson Valley, and partly in the river, if allowed. EA is also exploring a possible role in the removal of small dams which generate power but block the travel of fish up small rivers.

Erik Fyfe, the Education Director, next introduced members of that department by naming them. Unfortunately, Covid has put a big dent in our education program this year, but last year we connected over 13,000 people with the river, our biggest year ever. (This despite no longer using the Mystic Whaler in 2019.) We had a full schedule planned for 2020 with over 100 education sails scheduled, and additional tideline and classroom programs beyond that. When Covid struck, we had to be resilient and change from very hands-on programs to a more demonstration based and virtual program, but it has been working very well, and Erik expressed appreciation and thanks to the staff who have risen to the challenge. Feedback from the schools indicates that these programs are working very well.

Samantha summarized the strategic planning process which is currently under way to help guide Clearwater's future. A questionnaire is presently being used to survey the membership and other "friends" of the organization. One preliminary result from the survey was illustrated with a bar graph, and that showed that the people responding to the survey were strongly skewed toward being over age 50. The planning process is divided into an inward and an outward looking group. She expected the team to be making recommendations by December.

The last item was a brief mention of the sloop clubs which support Clearwater. We are not able at this meeting to present new Sloop Club Charters as we usually do, but they will be distributed by mail shortly.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Capek, 10/2/2020



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Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 12:30pm

Organizational Meeting of "New" Board

Board Members

Bob Alpern
Peter Capek
~~Nancy Cincotta~~
Seth Davis
Jeff Domanski
Mitzi Elkes
~~Joan Gaylord~~
Neil Gordon
Scott Greathead
Allen Gutkin
Samantha Hicks
Gareth Hougham
Arthur Jones

Ashley Knox
Aaron Mair
Janine Napierkowski
Henry Neale
Jeremy Rainer
~~Gregory Simpson~~
Steve Stanne
Donna Stein
Rosemary Thomas
Sarah Underhill
Greg Williams
Thomasina Winslow

Steve Stanne, President and Acting Executive Director, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm.

First order of business: On behalf of the Board, Steve Stanne expressed thanks to outgoing Board member Kyle Rabin, whose contribution to the work of the Environmental Action committee are much appreciated. Kyle will continue to serve on the EA.

Second order of Business: Proposed slate of Officers of the Board:

Steve Stanne, President
Janine Napierkowski, Vice President
Neil Gordon, Treasurer
Sarah Underhill, Secretary

MOTION to approve the slate was made by Seth Davis, seconded by Neil Gordon and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Third order of Business: proposed slate of At Large members of the Executive Committee:

Samantha Hicks, Development Committee Chair
Arthur Jones, Nominating Committee Chair

Henry Neale, Environmental Action Committee Chair

MOTION to approve the slate was made by Donna Stein, seconded by Thomasina Winslow and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fourth order of Business: proposed members of the Nominating Committee:

Arthur Jones, Chair

Sarah Underhill

It was noted that Donna Stein has also agreed to join the committee. MOTION to approve these appointments made by Donna Stein, seconded by Neil Gordon and approved 11-1, with Greg Williams opposed.

Fifth order of Business: proposed date for next board meeting is Monday Oct 5th 6:30-9:00 pm. Dates for subsequent meetings for the coming year to be set at this meeting. Proposed date for Annual Meeting 2021 is Sat. Oct. 2 9:00 am-1:30 pm, on an online platform. MOTION to approve these dates made by Neil Gordon, 2nded by Thomasina Winslow and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. It was noted that there is precedent for alternating Annual meeting days between Saturdays and Sundays to make allowance for religious observances.

Steve Stanne expressed his thanks to Ben Kaminsky, Erin Macchiaroli and Joan Gaylord for their work in facilitating this meeting. Up to ninety people were in attendance. Thanks were also expressed to the staff and board members for their presentations.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING made by Seth Davis, seconded by Neil Gordon and APPROVED UNAMINOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Underhill, Secretary