



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 6:30pm

Board Members

Peter Capek
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~~

Staff Members

Manna Jo Greene
Amali Knobloch
Erin Macchiaroli

Meg Mayo
Nick Rogers
Matt Salton

Members

Victoria Christof
Betty Harkins
Maryellen Healy

Alan Thomas
Roy Volpe

Neil began the meeting with a sea shanty.

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Greg had sent email with a request to expand the description of his comments in the minutes of the May 11 meeting. These were discussed briefly and the minutes were accepted as amended as he requested, moved by Peter and seconded by Neil. Arthur and Samantha abstained, no one objecting.

Steve gave the (acting) Executive Director's report. The sloop has been sailing, with Amali acting as on-board educator. We have planned for 7 educational, 14 public and 3 corporate/family sails. We are now contracting for summer sailing, and Steve encouraged the Board to promote these opportunities, especially public sails. The Education and Development departments have teamed up to apply for a \$40K grant from the NYS DEC Estuary Education program to update Clearwater's online "fish key", add videos and make it a resource for online teaching, with links

to other resources. The rate of usage for the site is greater in 2021 than it was in 2020. Hunter Mathis has been hired as onboard educator. Steve again encouraged the Board to promote CW's public sails.

On May 26th Clearwater hosted a successful web session about Indian Point called "What's Next?", which about 70 people attended. Breakout sessions followed which were organized by geographic areas. A recording is available on our web site.

There'll be a roundtable hosted by Scenic Hudson to discuss Danskammer on June 23; check the eNewsletter for details. A flotilla of kayaks and other craft is being planned for late July or early August to include a press briefing and to drive home the opposition and the reasons for it.

Manna Jo discussed the end-of-session activities in the Albany legislature. The main bills of interest to us is the CCIA, the Climate and Community Investment Act, and the Clean Futures Act. Matt posted in the meeting chat links to allow people to express their opinions about these bills; Henry pointed out that session ends the day after this meeting, so time is of the essence.

Steve spoke about a process to search for a new ED, with the goal of having someone in place by November. The search process would have to start, at the latest, in early September. Steve emphasized that he is happy to serve, but emphasized that CW would be better served by having an ED who is not also the President. Greg observed that we had in the past chosen an ED who did not end up serving, and that this was very unfortunate and to be avoided; Steve said he was very familiar with that history and agreed. Ben Kaminsky pointed out that we would need to be hiring a Festival Director around the same time if we're to have a successful Revival next year.

Neil gave a treasurer's report but much of the detail was contained in an email he sent to the Board earlier in the day. We continue to have a couple of payrolls in the bank on a rolling basis. We're sailing and have meaningful revenues from that. Some progress on the 990, but it is slow in coming; Anita is working on it and Roger D'Aquino is helping. Neil said he'd gone through the policies with a view to cleaning them up and updating them.

Meg Mayo summarized the development activity. She began by showing a set of funding goals for the Clearwater Century Fund, which is planned to encourage major donations, initially from Foundations and later from individuals. The goal is to raise \$250,000 with leadership gifts, \$100,000 from individual donations, and reimbursement from NY for past work on the sloop. \$150,000 from the recent Jean Eckert bequest will be included in The Century Fund. The goal is to have about \$266,000 in the Century Fund following completion of this winter's work and reimbursements. Fundraising for the upcoming virtual Revival is going well, and some expenses are coming in lower than budgeted. So far about \$42,373 has been raised, most of it from Patron Fish. The auction is live, and everyone is encouraged to have a look!

An anonymous donor has proposed a novel model to encourage planned giving. That donor would give \$10K to match a second donation to be obtained by Clearwater. Clearwater would also need to secure 20 planned giving pledges for any amount.

The NY State grants gateway is presently in pre-qualified status. We are qualified until October 15, by which date we must submit 2019 and 2020 audits and a 2020 Form 990 to remain in compliance (and thus eligible for NY State grants). Relatedly, work continues on preparing the application for reimbursement for past work on the sloop from OPRHP. Meg continued with a summary of our grant status. We have 3 grants presently funded, 3 which are being considered for proceeding with applications or implementation, and 2 which are applied for but for which we are waiting for responses. Lastly, Meg went through a list of Board and staff activity which benefited Clearwater in a substantial way.

Mitzi reminded us of the relationship which she initiated with Teatown Lake Reservation in which we provided a sail to be offered at their silent auction and they hosted us for a Board retreat, and suggested this could be done again.

Rosemary talked about the development committee. Her committee met with Adam Green of Rocking the Boat about a fund-raiser run by that organization. They also talking about an event they run called Rocking Manhattan. The committee is exploring ideas for an event this fall based on these ideas. Greg mentioned a paper written by Samantha Hicks comparing Clearwater and Rocking the Boat and other organizations.

Ben Kaminsky summarized the work being done to prepare for the upcoming virtual Revival, including some of the technical activities which simplify uploading and editing of videos. He played a short video prepared by and featuring Sloan Wainwright.

Mitzi spoke in favor of the idea of putting the profits from the virtual Revival and using it as funding for a live Revival in 2022. Arthur advised caution. There was brief discussion of the idea, but no consensus.

Steve very briefly summarized the activity of the strategic planning effort. He hopes to be sharing a document summarizing the activity very shortly.

Arthur talked about the Nominating Committee, and expressed disappointment that the membership had not provided any nominations. A slate of nominee will be presented to the Board shortly after the July meeting. There is also much discussion about the election process and By-Law interpretation and possible changes concerning Board size and related issues. Arthur was interested in opinions from the Board about these issues. Henry commented that perhaps the Nominating Committee should focus less on nominations and more about how the Board can become better, more effective and strengthen Clearwater.

Rosemary summarized the Planning and Governance committee. It is working on standards of conduct and hope to have something to present at the July meeting. They are also reviewing the committees and their roles. Finally, Rosemary commented about the election process, and especially the rules for write-in candidates, and said discussion is ongoing.

Henry, discussing the EA committee, expressed disappointment in the activity and effectiveness of the committee. He praised the work done by Manna Jo and Matt, and the contacts and presence which Manna Jo has among the environmental community. He bemoaned our lack of a way to capitalize on and involve our members to work toward and perhaps achieve similar results, or at least assist. He encouraged the Board to think about ways for us and our members to be more aggressive and assertive and ultimately more effective, as we were many years ago when the bottle deposit bill was passed.

Donna summarized the activities of the sloop clubs, which are actively making videos. Ferry Sloop and North River (<https://bit.ly/3CDhJoj>) have both made excellent videos describing their activities, planned either to be shown during the virtual Revival or mentioned during it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Capek