



Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
October 3, 2021, at 9:30am

Present:

Board Members:

Peter Capek
Seth Davis (departing)
~~Jeff Domanski~~
Mitzi Elkes
Joan Gaylord
Neil Gordon
~~Scott Greathead~~
Allen Gutkin

Samantha Hicks
Gareth Hougham
Arthur Jones
Aaron Mair
~~Janine Napierkowski~~
Henry Neale
Jeremy Rainer
~~Gregory Simpson~~

Steve Stanne
Donna Stein
Rosemary Thomas
Sarah Underhill
Greg Williams
Thomasina Winslow

Board Candidates:

~~Sarah Armour~~
~~Jennifer Memilian~~

Dan Riesel
Larry Rothbart

Staff and Members:

Jeremy Baron
Scott Berwick
Betty Boomer
Beatrice Boyajian
Debbie Cohen
James Creighton
Vincent Ferri
Sue Gamache
Betsy Garthwaite
Manna Jo Green
Ruthie Gold
Allan Goldhammer
Humberto Grueiro
Lisa Gutkin
Maryellen Healy

Ben Kaminsky
Joette Kane
Sarah Kelsey
Amali Knobloch
Jim Kricker
Noel Kropf
Aerika Lucy
Meg Mayo
Eric Marshall
Ann Mellor
Norma Moshman
Kim Mooers
Melissa Ortquist
Nora Porter
Gigi Rapetti

Nicole Riche
Trenteny Reed
Nick Rogers
Bob Schloss
Eli Schloss
Ajax Stavis
Alan Thomas
Anita Vargas
Roy Volpe

ANNUAL MEETING

Call to Order:

Steve called the meeting to order at 9:30.

Thomasina Winslow opened with a song, 'I Don't Want to be Lost in a Storm'.

Steve welcomed everyone to Clearwater's 2021 Annual Meeting, held on zoom. He asked folks to use 'chat' to enter questions for the Q&A session and said the meeting was being recorded.

Steve introduced the current Board members.

Joan introduced the Clearwater staff by providing clues and letting the audience guess the person described.

Ruthie reminded the folks that the ballot closes at 11AM.

Staff Reports

Ruthie Gold, Program Director, spoke on 'Partnership: Connection in a time of continued separation', detailing how, despite challenges (Covid restrictions, abbreviated sailing season, 1 captain and smaller than usual crew, weather), we delivered a robust season of programming (20 ed sails, 20 public sails, 10 charter sails, 7 tideline programs, 20 virtual programs) plus an unprecedented social media presence and presence at community events along the Hudson (City of Water Day in NYC, Beacon Sloop Club's Corn Festival, and Hudson's Waterfront Days). Ruthie also spoke to the amazing quality of our programs and the feedback received on what people learned. We are connecting participants to the river and communities with the Hudson, with the sloop, and with Clearwater. An example of our TikTok content was shown. Ruthie shared the theme of the year is Partnership and gave a brief overview of both internal (interdepartmental) and external partnership and highlights. An overview of ongoing and new grants was given. Despite challenges, through collaborations and partnerships we have delivered for the river throughout the Hudson River Valley.

Amali reminded folks ballots close at 11am.

Aerika, Digital Media Manager, covered the 'Expanding Role of Social Media in Clearwater's Overall Marketing and Communication Strategy', reviewing the role of social media in all aspects of marketing and communication, helping connect people to the river and build/foster our community relations. Aerika gave an example of social media at work, using the ORCU campaign from summer 2020, which was a virtual community building effort, in collaboration with Sinclair Social. Crew based content seemed to have the most impact, and we built on that. The Community Resources tab on our website lets people stay inspired while at home. Aerika highlighted Mark Weiner's 'Lil'Clearwater' collaboration with Environmental Action Department and also how we have repurposed some content. We have also expanded to YouTube, Twitter and TikTok, in addition to Facebook and Instagram, widening our overall reach, with more sustained content and continued positive feedback. A video was shown at the break.

Steve highlighted a Board challenge, pledging up to \$6,500 to match donations received by midnight. (Post meeting update: Challenge met! Thank you everyone!!!)

Amali, Community Outreach and Engagement Manager, presented 'Strides in Community Outreach, Re-establishing Positive Relationships with River Towns and Staying Connected in a Virtual World'. We no longer have the pull we once had with local governments, impacting ability to get docks rebuilt as needed. Just before October 2020, Amali, Nick and Amy started going to different town hall meetings up and down river to develop our relationships and move us forward. Positive progress has been demonstrated, for example at the ribbon cutting for Pier at Milton Landing new dock on 9/7. The Shipyard Marina in Hoboken is another dock on the west side and ties well into Aerika's presentation as this marina reached out to us on Instagram having seen our content and

thinking we would be a good addition to their area for environmental education. A very enthusiastic girl scout group was taken out from this marina and one 16 year old subsequently joined us as a deck hand. Having more crew members that look like the towns is good. Amali shared that we are being recognized by other organizations for our social medial presence (virtual events at Hudson River Maritime Museum, Hudson book release webinar series, virtual Gala 2021, webinar on Sea Sailor Sea Stories) which expose us to new people and bolsters our engagement. We also had virtual Revival. Amali noted that Erin, Arthur, Neil, Eli and Joan do a great job of supporting our social media presence, with 'comments', 'shares', and 'saves'. For clarity, on Instagram, 'save' is the strongest you can do. On other platforms, 'share' is the strongest.

Eli Schloss, Tideline Program Director, spoke on 'Hudson River Fish Advisory', giving an overview on the multi-year fish advisory grant work and accomplishments. Our work on contaminants in fish goes back to 1993, as one of first organizations to work with anglers to understand their habits. We found a fair amount of subsistence fishing. Mercury, cadmium, heavy metals continue to be an issue. In the next round of funding, we will be doing a survey on where the fish advisory warning signs should be posted. Take a look at your local waterfront and if you don't see these signs, please reach out.

Manna Jo Greene, EA Director, gave CW's Environmental Action Report, speaking on watershed protection (oil barge anchorages permanently banned; working with Newburgh Clean Water Project & others on PFOS contaminant clean-up), Indian Point (closure on 4/30/21, creation of decommissioning oversight board, nuclear waste strategic planning, congressional briefings), stop Danskammer campaign, focus on environmental and climate justice problems and solutions, and the regional renewable energy working group. Matt went on to point out an environmental rights amendment to NYS Constitution is on the ballot, to etch into that document the simple words that we have the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment. On November 2nd, NYS voters will have the opportunity to support this, by voting YES on Proposition 2.

Meg Mayo, Development Director, gave an update from the development team, which works to ensure we have the funds needed to do the work. Meg covered Development revenue for fiscal year 2021, fourth quarter fundraising plans, a high level snapshot of the 2021 fundraising and donor bases, and special projects for 2021 and beyond such as the Century Fund (long tem sloop support) and a Legacy Giving initiative. She reemphasized the Board match challenge, and gave a save the date for the Spirit of the Hudson Gala on April 3, 2022.

Steve covered work on the Strategic Plan. The central piece is a set of seven priorities, based on input from a survey of over 450 members, interviews of 2 dozen individuals who have played a role in Hudson River and Clearwater decision making over the years, and retreats with Board/Staff /Revival folks. The work is now focused on achievable goals for each of these priorities, and finally a set of actions for each goal. Steve illustrated this with an example. The plan is expected to be finished and presented to the Board for adoption, with metrics, in the next month or so. It will be a set of goals we will attempt to achieve.

Donna Stein spoke on Sloop Clubs. Ann Mellor will mail the annual sloop club charters to each sloop club. Donna spoke about meetings of the Sloop Club Committee and the Sloop Club Congress which meets twice yearly for sharing progress and ongoing activities, as well as activities of some of the Sloop Clubs (BSC, NYC FC, NJ FC, NR FC, Riverlovers, Brooklyn) and Walkabout Clearwater Chorus and unchartered sloop clubs (Ferry Sloops, Kingston).

Steve recognized departing Board member Seth Davis, a prominent environmental lawyer, who has contributed to Clearwater for two terms. Seth's many contributions are greatly appreciated. He has been a leading voice in the Strategic Planning process and a great advisor to the Board.

Q&A session – moderated by Steve:

- a)Vince Ferri asked about other sources of water contamination in Newburgh and Manna replied.
- b)Bob Schloss asked if the Strategic Plan group considered cutting a deal with other groups so our EA would be done through them, as we may have too many priorities. Steve noted we are trying to cut back on the number of things we are trying to accomplish. We need to keep up our own EA programs. Manna noted we have partnerships.

- c) Bob asked, assuming Ballot Proposition 2 passes, will Clearwater consider co-sponsoring a panel on what this will mean for local communities. Matt said there isn't a lot that will affect average people; it's more a legal change and not sure how much use a layman would get out of it.
- d) Allen Goldhammer asked about goals under community engagement in the Strategic Plan. Steve gave an example of community based events tied to Pumpkin Sail in the past, with communities much more engaged through this event than they are now. We would like to do more events that engage the community, and make Clearwater the center of the event on the waterfront. Amali's work on opening more docks is important. The sloop clubs' local work also provides a way to tie in.
- e) Another question was why should Clearwater take a hit on loss of jobs associated with closing Indian Point. Manna replied some workers are being retained, others were retirement age, some were hired at other Entergy facilities and some went on unemployment and are still looking. While it didn't work as well as we had hoped, protecting workers rights is in our DNA. Mostly it was addressed between unions and the Department of Labor.
- f) Bob said looking at a Clearwater age distribution every January would help show whether the push on social media is creating change. Sam said that's great feedback which can be incorporated into looking at the demographic data. As a follow-up, Bob asked if Clearwater will ask his date of birth when renewing membership. Meg replied we can ask general (ie age range), not specific, questions but it must be optional and we can look at that going forward.
- g) Amali said social media has been a great tool to get people to engage but we also have to make it attractive to be a member. What does it mean other than saying you're a member? So, we need to figure out what holds true to who we are but attracts a younger audience, as a membership incentive, for a wider audience, not just younger. We need those conversations. It's not just people like our posts and so want to become members. There is a little nuance there.
- h) Meg requested email addresses for anyone still getting paper ballots, as we are trying to cut our carbon footprint and reduce paper usage. If you received a paper ballot, either we did not have an email or you requested paper previously.
- i) Mitzi asked about Youth at the Helm. Ruthie said we had a generous anonymous donor who funded it for this year and, because of Covid, rather than on overnight program, we ran it as a day program.
- j) Allan asked about supporting the proposed battery storage facility at Danskammer. Manna replied.
- k) Greg asked for clarification on funds raised for winter's sloop work. Meg said the state grant money is included.
- l) Eric Marshall asked about demand for virtual programs. Ruthie said last year was the first time we entered that space and we will try to continue.
- m) Seth added two points on what he's continuing working on. First, as member of ABA Council of Delegates he introduced and supported a resolution adopted in August to establish an ABA task force in EJ. He also spoke about an ongoing effort to get acceptance of a right to clean environment as a universal human right and urges everyone to support the Proposition 2 change covered by Matt.
- n) In response to a question on a budget, we are working on one to be ready by 12/1.

Break

Two videos, High Over the Hudson (with a new introduction by Reggie Harris and Steve Stanne) and A Peel of Banan by Marc Weiner's Lil Clearwater, were shown.

Note: Amali asked folks to please comment on the video, 'like' it, turn on 'notifications' (looks like a little bell) and 'share'. The more people who watch it the better off we will be.

Winter Maintenance Panel - Nick Rogers, Jim Kricker, Betsy Garthwaite, and Samantha Hicks

Captain Nick Rogers and Jim Kricker presented 'Restoring and Preserving an Icon', followed by discussion moderated by former Captains Betsy Garthwaite and Samantha Hicks. Winter work, which comes out of a long term maintenance plan in conjunction with the Coast Guard, will focus on two areas—the mast area and the transom. With the mast out, we can reach areas we haven't been able to access, for example the mast step and keelson, and we can combine Coast Guard inspections. Regarding the transom, Nick noted that 250 years ago sloops did not have motors, and that the prop wash today, especially when motoring into some harbors, can be strong and get into seams, stressing them. He described actions taken previously and gave an overview of

upcoming work. Nick also noted that the Coast Guard asked about bringing trainees to observe wooden boat inspections.

Election Results

Board members elected:

Sarah Armour (590 votes)
Mitzi Elkes (545 votes)
Allen Gutkin (519 votes)
Samantha Hicks (581 votes)
Arthur Jones (552 votes)
Jennifer McMilian (555 votes)
Dan Riesel (545 votes)
Larry Rothbart (546 votes)
Donna Stein (540 votes)

(Note: vote counts were added after the meeting. The vote range was shared at the meeting.)

Bylaw changes

Article V, Section 1 – Passed (601 in favor, 23 opposed)

Article IX, Section 2 – Passed (594 in favor, 29 opposed)

(For clarity, the threshold for passing is 2/3 of those voting.)

OCTOBER MEETING (New Board) CONVENED

Call to order

Steve called the meeting to order at 12:30. The new board was present.

Vote to approve the officers

Steve read the proposed slate for the Officers for the 2021-2022 year:

Steve Stanne – President
Janine Napierkowski – Vice-President
Rosemary Thomas – Secretary
Neil Gordon – Treasurer

A MOTION was made by Aaron Mair, and seconded by Larry, to add the proposed slate to the ballot. It was agreed to accept the entire slate of officers with a single vote. The slate passed by a vote of 10 'yes' and one 'no' vote.

Vote to elect Nominating Committee

Steve read the proposed names for the nominating committee for the new year:

Arthur Jones
Sarah Underhill

Joan made a MOTION, seconded by Aaron, to put the slate in. After discussion, Aaron Mair made a MOTION, seconded by Larry, that Greg Williams be added to the slate. The motion carried. Greg was added to the slate and a vote held to elect 2 of the 3. Arthur received 14 votes, Sarah 15 and Greg 4. Arthur and Sarah were elected.

Vote to approve Member-at-Large for Executive Committee

Steve read the proposed names for the coming year:

Samantha Hicks
Arthur Jones
Henry Neale

Neil made a MOTION to approve the slate and Aaron seconded. The slate was elected with 12 'yes' and 1 'no' votes.

Schedule for future board meetings

Steve presented the proposed calendar. A vote was held and the calendar was unanimously approved. Greg MOVED to modify the calendar to add 'virtual', indicating meetings will be virtual unless a change is approved. The motion was seconded and the change was approved unanimously.

The approved schedule is:

- Tuesday, November 9, 2021
- Wednesday, December 8, 2021
- Thursday, January 6, 2022
- Tuesday, February 8, 2022
- Wednesday, March 9, 2022
- Thursday, April 14, 2022
- Tuesday, May 10, 2022
- Wednesday, June 8, 2022
- Thursday, July 7, 2022
- Tuesday, August 9, 2022
- Wednesday, September 7, 2022
- Saturday, October 15, 2022; 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM – Annual Meeting

Larry raised question on whether actual vote tallies be publicized. Neil said the Exec Comm can take it up this week. (Subsequently, the Executive Committee approved adding the vote tallies which are now included.)

Adjourn

Lisa Gutkin shared a set of fiddle tunes and a song.
Aaron Mair moved to adjourn and it was seconded by Thomasina.
The meeting ended at 1:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Thomas, Secretary