



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 6:30pm

Board Members

~~Sarah Armour~~

Peter Capek

~~Jeff Domanski~~

Mitzi Elkes

Joan Gaylord

Neil Gordon, Treasurer

~~Scott Greathead~~

Allen Gutkin

Samantha Hicks, Vice-President

~~Gareth Hougham~~

Arthur Jones, Executive Committee At Large

~~Aaron Mair~~

Jennifer McMillan

Henry Neale, Executive Committee At Large

Jeremy Rainer

Dan Riesel

Larry Rothbart

Steve Stanne, President, Chair

Donna Stein

Rosemary Thomas, Secretary

Sarah Underhill, Executive Committee At Large

~~Greg Williams~~

Thomasina Winslow

~~(strike through indicates absence)~~

Staff Members

Anne Crowley

Ruthie Gold

Meg Mayo

Erin Macchiaroli

David Toman, Executive Director

Members

Ben Kaminsky

Alan Thomas

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm
Mission Song sung by Sarah Underhill, "From Way Up Here"

Approval of Minutes

The 07/07/22 Board meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Director's Report

David began by stating education sails, public sails and shore programs are going well and we are seeking

opportunities to encourage charters.

We participated in: a) City of Water Day, a region-wide day to raise awareness about climate change, hosted by the Waterfront Alliance of NY-NJ Harbor and Estuary Program, collaborating with the artist, Mohonk Preserve's Education and Outreach Coordinator, and former Clearwater volunteer, Ashawna Abbott to use art to process and address climate problems and solutions; b) several programs at the Tenafly Nature Center, including a joint Tideline/Sailing Classroom Program; c) the Great Hudson River Fish Count; and d) Hudson's Waterfront Wednesdays.

We had the honor and privilege of hosting the Nicholls Treaty Renewal Ceremony onboard the Clearwater, commemorating the original signing of the treaty 350 years ago between Esopus peoples and Dutch and English settlers.

David noted the Sloop received good publicity in the Brooklyn Eagle during a recent visit.

Regarding crew, David said we are still looking for a second First Mate and a second on Board education coordinator. Leads on potential crew would be appreciated.

Administratively, Aerika Lucy, Communications Manager, has moved on to another opportunity and we will miss Aerika and her many contributions. Gigi Rapetti will return, remotely, to fill in until the communications role is filled. David also noted that annual employee self evaluations are in progress.

Fiscal Affairs

David said receipt of another OPRPH reimbursement enabled paying off the remaining invoices from the winter refit project, with some cash left. We received a \$25k grant from the Sperry Fund. Work on the 2019 audit continues, with weekly updates from Jesse Doughty, CPA. We have fulfilled all the auditors' information requests. The Quickbooks project with Tom Fucito, CPA, is started and David noted \$9k has been raised specifically to help with accounting projects / improvements.

Peter asked about funding for the education sail with the Poughkeepsie Library. Ruthie answered they secured funding through their summer youth reading program and said a lot of libraries in the valley had summer youth programs with river and water themes, which aligned with our offerings, and several libraries did programs with Eli. Peter wondered about expanding this for next summer.

Neil said if you can't swing a full charter, put together enough people in your group and see if the office can open it up for a public sail. He has found this works well for getting the sloop on the river for an extra sail. Neil also said each person should set an individual goal for fundraising and start having conversations on how to get there. Both Neil and Meg said they were happy to have that conversation with anyone.

Resolution to change meeting time

Steve read the RESOLUTION to change our regularly scheduled meeting time from 6:30-9:00pm to 7:00-9:00pm. The text of the resolution is attached as Appendix A. Peter moved and Arthur seconded. The resolution was PASSED by unanimous voice vote

Development Report

Meg said fiscal year to date development revenue is now improved to 1% under plan. A strong July was driven by Patron Fish, donations for the accounting project, and membership renewals. We continue to receive input, as well as an uptick in sustaining members, from the Member Survey. A follow-up list of names for Board volunteers to call, answer questions and just thank people is planned. Patron Fish revenues continue to come in and let Meg know if you have candidates for larger gifts, as there are a few openings on the 9/17 Patron Fish sail.

Looking forward, Meg shared the Hike for the Hudson timeline – 8/9 launch to Board and Staff, 8/15 for public launch, 9/1-9/30 for hiking, and a closing celebration on 10/2. The goal is for participants to walk or hike for 153 minutes while raising money for, and the visibility of, Clearwater. Meg explained 153 is the number of miles the Sloop sails on the Hudson – from the Battery to the Troy Dam. This fundraiser is geared toward maximizing participation. Meg said she has a Staff team committed, plus two other teams – Rockland Rowing Association Competition Team and Nyack High School Class of 2025 – and suggested an internal competition on who can get the most teams signed up!!

Meg shared plans for a Nov. 6th benefit concert at the Rosendale Theater, from 5-7pm, with a \$25 admission and said dockside events are being planned for Pumpkin Sail season.

Meg spoke to our untapped potential and put forth a development wish list including support for business sponsorships for events, monthly giving recruitment and stewardship program, planned giving program, grant makers relationship building, networking with local business organizations, and database analysis.

Steve suggested the Member Survey follow-up calls be included in an upcoming Thank You Thursday.

Communication Report

Meg thanked Aerika Lucy, Communications Manager, who is moving on and said the job description for a Communications Coordinator would be posted soon. Meg highlighted recent positive publicity in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, when the sloop was docked in Brooklyn. Social media metrics were shown for Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook, as well as metrics for the website, channels, and email.

Hike for the Hudson

Alan Thomas gave a brief demonstration of the website. Board members are asked to test the site, provide technical feedback (anything that doesn't work / isn't clear) and help populate it prior to the 8/15 public launch.

Nominating Committee

Arthur presented the proposed slate - two directors running for re-election, Neil Gordon and Sarah Underhill, and two new candidates, Steve Kieler and Tom Murphy. Steve Kieler is the Education Director at Call of the Sea, a scientist and an educator. Tom Murphy is a Senior V.P. at M&T Bank and Newburgh native. Arthur said a third person, Scott Kellog, the Education Director at Radix Center, will be joining a committee.

A RESOLUTION to adopt the slate was moved by Rosemary and seconded by Neil. The text of the resolution is included in Appendix B. The resolution was PASSED unanimously.

Neil, Steve, and others thanked the Nominating Committee -Arthur Jones, Sarah Underhill, Ann Mellor, Amali Knobloch, and Alan Thomas - for the great amount of work that went into this. Steve asked that if you know a suitable candidate for next year, reach out to Arthur. Donna Stein was also mentioned as an informal member of the committee and thanked.

Environmental Action Committee

Henry spoke briefly on the new climate bill working its way through Congress, Clearwater's comments on the Draft Scoping Plan for Climate Action, and the challenges of Manna Jo Greene's upcoming retirement.

Steve said the Clearwater comments on the Draft Scoping Plan came in two sets – a concise list of bullet points and subsequent input which works even better as an educational document. He encouraged everyone to read that document which is available on the website.

Potential Kingston Property

Steve said Henry has been doing a lot of work on this. Henry gave an overview of the property and some of the challenges, including estimating costs, determining potential uses, creating a reasonable program idea, and understanding zoning restrictions.

Music & Celebration

Steve said Jimmy Buff of Radio Kingston has offered to help Clearwater produce a small street festival next spring and they will be meeting with the mayor. It will test our ability to do events of this nature. There is also discussion on what is needed to bring Revival back. The Music & Celebration group meets monthly.

New Business:

The Annual Meeting on 10/15 will be virtual, with a goal of returning to in-person in 2023. The Staff will focus on how work is being done in accordance with the Strategic Plan. Staff presentations are followed by the formal meeting of the new Board, where election results are shared, new Board members installed, and elections held for new officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary), Nominating Committee co-chairs, and three At-Large members of the Executive Committee. Steve shared Policy 6 guidance on this and proposed that the P/G Committee be engaged to prepare a slate.

Larry moved that the P/G Committee be designated as the committee to follow Policy 6 for preparing nominations. Neil seconded and the MOTION was PASSED unanimously.

Steve asked anyone with interest in these positions to share that interest with him and with Rosemary (Chair of the P/G Committee).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Thomas, Secretary

APPENDIX A

A resolution to change Board meeting time.

RESOLVED: that – should the agenda for the board meeting of September 7, 2022, call for a meeting lasting no more than two hours – the start time of that meeting be changed to 7:00 PM.

APPENDIX B

A resolution to approve the slate for Board directors

Be it RESOLVED, that Neil Gordon, Steve Kielar, Tom Murphy, and Sarah Underhill each be nominated to serve on the board of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. {"HRSC"}, for a term of three years, and their names be submitted to the members of HRSC in accordance with HRSC's bylaws, for election at the next annual meeting.