



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 7:00pm

Board Members

Sarah Armour
Peter Capek
Mitzi Elkes, Executive Committee At Large
~~Joan Gaylor~~
Neil Gordon, Treasurer
Scott Greathead
Allen Gutkin
Samantha Hicks, Vice-President
Gareth Hougham
~~Arthur Jones~~, Executive Committee At Large
Steve Kielar
Aaron Mair
~~Jennifer McMillan~~

Tom Murphy
Henry Neale, Executive Committee At Large
Jeremy Rainer
Dan Riesel
Larry Rothbart
Steve Stanne, President, Chair
Donna Stein
Rosemary Thomas, Secretary
Sarah Underhill
Greg Williams
~~Julia Wilson~~
(~~strike through~~ indicates absence)

Staff Members

Ruthie Gold
Manna Jo Greene
Amali Knobloch

Meg Mayo
David Toman, Executive Director

Members

Galaxy A52 5G

Alan Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm
Mission Song sung by Steve, "The Music of Healing"

Approval of Minutes

The 03/09/23 Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Executive Director's Report

David said sloop up-rigging is on schedule for a first sail, and launch event, 4/16 in Kingston. Both education sail and Tideline program bookings continue to run well ahead of projections and are nearing capacity. To date, the spring calendar has 10 public sails and 7 charter slots available. Please help promote.

There will be a Patron Fish Sail on May 12th, the night prior to the Kingston Earth Fair & Clearwater Concert. There are also 3 slots available on education sails for when we need to get people out to see our programs.

David said activities are planned on Earth Day at Waryas Park in Poughkeepsie, with a public sail that evening with music. David spoke to Clearwater's impact being demonstrated by four of last year's Young Women at the Helm participants pursuing re-engagement with Clearwater and by the Little Loaf Bakeshop in Poughkeepsie looking to help support the Queerwater program.

Ruthie demonstrated booking a charter sail using the online Fare Harbor system, clicking on the calendar to show available options, including location and timing, and highlighting the clearly laid out prompts and directions. Ruthie said that, if you don't see an option you like, the old standard inquiry form remains available but suggested using the Fare Harbor calendar to figure out where the sloop is on the river and taking that into account. For example, if the sloop is in NYC, it cannot be in Hudson the next day. Ruthie said the booking process has worked very well with education sails and hopes it can be useful with charters as well.

Mitzi said the new system is a huge improvement and asked about drop down menus for location or dock options. Ruthie replied we have not found that capability with the Fare Harbor platform, but it's not too many clicks to figure it out. Donna asked about scheduling sloop club sails. Ruthie said the summer schedule is being finalized now and much of August will be taken up with youth empowerment programs. David said if anyone has questions, reach out to him, Ruthie or Amali during business hours.

Sarah A. gave a sloop update, recapping Sloop Committee members, the goals of winter '22-'23 work, and detailing the big progress in March. She covered a list of 12 items completed in the past 4-5 weeks, along with corresponding photos (for example, hawse pipe hole cut, knightheads installed, new topside planks caulked and painted), explaining each item clearly and answering questions. Sarah said the sloop is on schedule for 4/16 start and ready for a full season. Looking ahead, Sarah highlighted a sizable wood purchase this summer for winter of '24/'25 work and a USCG required haul out in November.

Mitzi commended a very compelling presentation and suggested using it for fundraising purposes, perhaps posting it on the web with a donate button. Sarah said people do want to hear this story as it is interesting and shows the work that goes into it stewarding the sloop. Ruthie and Meg will discuss ways to put these things front and center.

Sarah shared Rory's words that every single part of the sloop is a program (for example, the volunteer program or the crew training program) as well as skill development and career development. Larry remembered the experience of cutting wood several year ago, an experience people could volunteer for.

Moving on to EA highlights, David said Manna, with Jen's help, has prepared a "Clean Water Act Symposium: Drinkable, Swimmable, Fishable: Clearwater celebrates 50+ year of the Clean Water Act" for Friday, April 14th, 9am-1pm, at Kaplan Hall, SUNY Orange, covering progress made and challenges remaining. The event is free and registration is online. Moving on to Indian Point decommissioning, David said staff is preparing a report on Holtec's plan to discharge fuel pool water (radioactive) into the Hudson and will present it to the EA Committee for review. The Town of Cortlandt is planning a 'Rally to Save the River' on May 6th to raise awareness about this planned discharge; Manna will attend and speak. Lastly, Manna will present environmental action at the May Board meeting, so be sure to attend.

David reported progress of the EA Director search, and said the timing of second round interviews is pending the budget discussion.

DT spoke to the continued financial challenges and that while the leadership team has revised the budget with newer knowledge and information, a major gap remains and will be covered in executive session. David said solving these challenges is critical for the organization, showed the areas being worked and ways to help, and encouraged people to contact him or Meg on the best way to help. David asked that anyone with suggestions on new ways to generate contributions, fee based revenue, or grant revenue share them with him. Other ways to help include helping make connections, suggesting revenue initiatives to explore, supporting thank you efforts (emails, phone calls, letters), being a Legacy Society Ambassador, volunteer to lead or support one of the revenue initiatives, or make calls to prospects provided by Development staff.

Mitzi asked about grants and the timing of 2020/2021 audits, which are needed for government grants. David is hoping to see the 2020 audit in May and projects the 2021 audit in July/August. He said we are looking at all grant options and help in this area would be great.

Gareth highlighted the option of working with another non-profit so that grant pre-qualification goes through them and grant delivery goes through Clearwater. Steve gave an example of constructing a grant with Clearwater as the contractor, providing sails to another organization.

Mitzi asked about corporate sponsors for programs like Youth at the Helm. David replied if there is an opportunity to make a connection or if you have a connection to share, he can do the reach out. If it's a close enough personal connection, we could take advantage of the slots on sails to engage people and promote support.

Neil presented a RESOLUTION concerning disposition of \$80,000 bequest from the Eckert Estate. The text of the resolution is attached as Appendix A. Neil moved the resolution. Peter seconded. The resolution PASSED unanimously.

Development Report

Meg said year-to-date revenue is up 7% compared to last year, and includes Gala. Net Gala revenue, with the sale of the donated Tiffany necklace, will exceed our projection. Meg thanked everyone for helping make Gala 2023 a success and said Gala 2024 planning begins April 13th!

Year-to-date 2023 membership revenue is below projection. Three membership engagement events are planned – a sailing season opener on 4/16 in Kingston, the Kingston Earth Fair on 5/13, and a member social at Two Way Brewing in Beacon on 6/24. Meg thanked Amalie and Amber for the creative effort behind these events. Meg noted that help with outreach would be appreciated.

Greg said downstate members ask about transportation to Kingston. Meg responded someone could take that on and Greg volunteered to see what he can do. Neil asked how do we decide if someone is a member. Meg responded and this led to a short discussion with the key points that membership is a discrete choice, different age demographics are interested in interacting with Clearwater in different ways, and this topic is something where the Membership Committee could be very helpful. Meg also noted that Amali has been doing outreach to educators who get access to the online video library.

Looking ahead, Meg spoke to the upcoming Development Committee meeting on 4/7, the Patron Fish appeal (with a Patron Fish sail 5/12 from Kingston), Gala 2024 planning kickoff, legacy society outreach, and fall fundraiser planning.

Rosemary said Development Committee focus has moved to fall event planning, mid-level donor cultivation, and legacy society outreach.

Nominating Committee

Sarah U. reminded Board members that their annual Board self assessments are due.

Music & Celebration Committee

Steve said planning for the Earth Fair in Kingston is going very well. We have a dozen acts on two stages, in addition to what city of Kingston has planned, with an excellent lineup. Steve commended Amber for the press release that went out yesterday. David thanked Steve and the volunteers on this committee, commenting that it's an example of how we can get something done.

New Business

No new business.

Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:40

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Thomas, Secretary

APPENDIX A

A resolution concerning disposition of \$80,000 bequest from the Eckert Estate

Resolved, that funds received from the so-called “Eckert Bequest” be allocated at follows:

25% to operations per policy	\$20,000
Payback Board member loan	\$16,500
Fund 2020 audit & 990	\$20,000
Fund 2021 audit & 990	\$20,000
Deposit to Century Fund	\$ 3,500
Total	\$80,000

Dated: April 4, 2023