



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:00pm

Board Members

Sarah Armour
Peter Capek
Mitzi Elkes, Executive Committee At Large
Joan Gaylord
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

Manna Jo Greene
Amali Knobloch

Erin Macchiaroli
David Toman, Executive Director

Members

Jeremy Baron
Roberta Goldberg
Joyce Hanson

Shelley Sams
Alex Stavis
Alan Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
Mission Song sung by Steve, "Of Time and Rivers Flowing".

Approval of Minutes

The 04/04/23 Board meeting minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Executive Director's Report

David began with a sloop and education update, noting a nice balance of experienced and new crew, with two On-Board Program Coordinators, Ella Agoos and Chloe Smith. David showed on-board education and

Tideline programs to date, and as well as public and charter sails. Demand from schools has been strong. Board members were invited to observe education sails and Tideline programs and to help promote charter and public sails for the summer season. Summer on board volunteer positions are nearly full, with opportunities remaining for the fall. David said the Catskill Watershed Corporation recently awarded us another \$10,000 for new programs. David reminded everyone that approximately \$20,000 of wood needs to be purchased this summer to dry for upcoming projects and help securing this funding, which is beyond the normal budget, is needed.

David reminded everyone that Manna Jo Greene, Clearwater's Environmental Action Director for the past 22 years, is retiring May 31st and invited people to a pot luck party on May 25th.

Manna gave the Environmental Action presentation. First, she recognized and thanked the Environmental Action Committee for their support. Manna then focused on Indian Point where, due to public pressure, Holtec has moved the date for a planned discharge of radioactive water into the Hudson from May back to late August, which allows time for legislation to be passed. Manna said a group of lawyers is determining if a legal case exists, which would be precedent setting as Indian Point is early on the list of reactors to be retired. Manna highlighted the May 6th Rally and Flotilla where Clearwater's Executive Director David Toman spoke passionately. Manna said volunteers are needing for tabling during the coming season of fairs and festivals. She said tabling, very important for outreach, is a great opportunity to be involved, with wonderful displays, printed material, and even training available. If interested, contact the office. Manna highlighted Clearwater's recent symposium: Drinkable, Swimmable, Fishable: Clearwater Celebrates 50+ Years of the Clean Water Act held on April 14th, which was a great success. Manna thanked Jen Benson who did the lion's share of the work organizing the extremely successful, well attended event, which is now posted on the website. Manna then spoke to the Clean Water Infrastructure Act, a Hudson PCB update, storm surge barriers, fish advisories, emerging contaminants, and other EA issues. Manna said some decline in PCBs is being seen in the upper Hudson, but not yet in the lower Hudson. Lastly, Manna thanked Clearwater for the opportunity to achieve her life goals in environmental action.

Steve thanked Manna on behalf of the Board and all the people she worked with over the years, and presented a RESOLUTION honoring Manna. The text of the resolution is attached as Appendix A. Henry moved the adoption of the resolution and Neil seconded. The resolution PASSED unanimously.

David commented on the Rally Saturday at the town of Cortlandt, sharing the attention was given to Clearwater by every person speaking ahead of him.

David continued with an administrative update. The Osborns have generously donated \$5k in restricted funds to pay for tickets to attend appropriate fund raising events with potential supporters. The EC and staff leadership confirmed the need to hire a new EA Director and, with our budget constraints, this means we need to raise \$50k. We have applied for Employee Retention Credit (COVID money) which typically takes 8 months to receive and David recognized Erin Macchiaroli and Anne Crowley for this work. David said the revenue crisis is ongoing and continued help is need on all fronts. Reach out to David or Meg if you are available to help. Auditors are working on both the 2020 and 2021 tax years and this is a high priority as state money is being held pending completion. David thanked the Music & Celebration Committee and all the volunteers who have done a fantastic job of pulling Clearwater's piece of the Kingston Earth Fair together.

Development Report

Rosemary gave the update in Meg's absence, and highlighted activity towards a Brooklyn cultivation event with the sloop and deck tours, the Patron Fish appeal and Festival Friday sail on 5/12, the communications consultant project which is important for broadening our fundraising reach, planned Board training on 5/18, the 2022 Annual Report roll out and an 'ask' around Clearwater's May 17th birthday.

Nominating Committee

Arthur said the committee will present the list of potential candidates at the June 6th board meeting and the

final slate at the July 13th meeting, and that any input on potential directors is needed quickly.

Arthur said both the Nominating Committee and Membership Committee now meet biweekly and a membership event will be announced next week to members. Arthur reported that Julia Wilson has joined the Membership Committee and is refining a model for recruiting, engaging and retaining members.

Kingston Earth Fair May 13th

Steve commended the Music & Celebration Committee for their work on the Earth Fair, which marks a return of Clearwater engaging communities through music. Clearwater is partnering with the City of Kingston and there will be two stages, displaying 24 foot Clearwater banners, with music from 10am to 5pm. A Festival Friday sail is planned for 5/12 and sails and deck tours will be available on 5/13.

Steve, David, and David Bernz will be on the WAMC Roundtable, an NPR station in the Albany area with a big reach, promoting the event. David said Radio Woodstock gave the fair a lot of press today. Jeremy plugged it last weekend on WFUV. Steve mentioned the Hotel Dylan discount arranged by Mitzi for those attending.

New Business

Neil issued a fund raising challenge where you reach out to your college roommate and request a donation which matches the years since graduation multiplied by \$10 (for example, if it's been 10 years, then \$100). Neil said he has done this and it both generates donations and lets you reconnect. Neil will match funds raised up to \$500.

Ajax Stavis expressed concern about membership numbers and added the first time he heard of the Kingston Earth Fair event was the Patron Fish mailing. He was particularly concerned about membership retention. Julia invited Ajax to join the Membership Committee which meets biweekly. As Ajax works full time, he will participate via email.

Steve raised the topic of in person meetings. In person meetings allow people a chance to connect and talk. Julia noted that speaking with people in person is an entirely different experience and you talk about different things, using the recent board sail to illustrate the point. As not everyone can commute to Beacon, hybrid meetings would be needed. One suggestion was periodic hybrid meetings and the rest purely on zoom, with a moderator ensuring remote participants felt welcome and heard. Another idea mentioned was keep the board meetings on zoom but have quarterly in person gatherings around other events. From the discussion, it was clear that times have changed and that the use of zoom, hybrid or otherwise, enables participation by a much broader pool of people. Steve said the EC will take this up.

Executive Session

The board went into executive session at 8:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Thomas, Secretary

APPENDIX A

A resolution honoring Manna Jo Green

Whereas Manna Jo Greene is leaving formal employment with Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, having served the organization as Environmental Action Director since July of 2000; and

Whereas over the years she has amassed comprehensive knowledge of the details of environmental issues impacting the Hudson River, of policy options for their resolution, and of individuals and institutions key to making relevant decisions; and

Whereas she has maintained Clearwater's reputation for providing accurate information and well-considered positions on environmental issues; and

Whereas she has been especially effective at working towards common goals in collaboration with her peers at other environmental organizations and with activists in the communities Clearwater serves; and

Whereas her knowledge, skills, and energy have regularly contributed to positive outcomes regarding issues in which Clearwater has engaged; and

Whereas she has consistently upheld Clearwater's ideals and demonstrated commitment to its mission over her many years of service; and

Whereas she made and has maintained many personal friendships within and will remain an important part of our Clearwater community; it is therefore

RESOLVED: that the Board of Directors expresses its utmost gratitude for all that Manna Jo has given to Clearwater and makes her a life member of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.

Dated: May 10, 2023