



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 7:00pm

Board Members

~~Sarah Armour~~

Peter Capek

~~Joshua Clyburn~~

Stuart Findlay

Joan Gaylord, Executive Comm. At Large

~~Peter Gregory~~

~~Neil Gordon, Executive Comm. At Large~~

Samantha Hicks, President

Gareth Hougham

~~Arthur Jones, Vice-President~~

Aaron Mair

Jillian Maresco

Jennifer McMillan

Tom Murphy, Treasurer

Liam Purvis

~~Jeremy Rainer~~

Dan Riesel

Larry Rothbart

Gabrielle Spielberg

Steve Stanne, Executive Comm. At Large

Adenike Bamgboye, Secretary

Sarah Underhill

Julia Wilson

(strike through indicates absence)

Staff Members

Jen Benson

Erin Macchiaroli

Emily Marcet

Meg Mayo

David Toman, Executive Director

Members

Jeremy Baron

Alan Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Samantha shared her experience attending a Barenaked Ladies concert at Tanglewood, where she lost her voice, and instead read a poem by Robert Frost to open the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The 05/08/25 Board meeting minutes were approved by a show of hands by Samantha confirming a quorum, seconded by Steve and Joan and approved by a vote of 9 in favor, 2 abstentions, 1 no.

Participant List Translation Error

Samantha explained that there was a loss in translation of a participant list, resulting in some members being accidentally dropped, including Larry and Peter. She mentioned that she had learned how to create groups in Gmail and would follow up to ensure the correct list was finalized. The secretary expressed concern about missing some people from the list, and Samantha confirmed that she had double-checked the current participants.

Captain's License and Sailing Updates

The group discussed weather conditions and sailing activities, with Samantha noting her grace period for a captain's license due to COVID-19, which requires retaking tests. Samantha reported that Arthur would be absent due to a work conflict, while Liam mentioned he would leave early. The meeting was primarily informational, with no votes planned, and Samantha indicated she might postpone voting on previous meeting minutes if there were insufficient quorum.

Executive Director's Report

Operations

Paddle Fundraising Initiative Update

David highlighted the second year of the "Paddle for Our Hudson" fundraising initiative and encouraged participants to reach out to their networks for support. He also mentioned preparing a slideshow but noted that the rudder was missing from the boat in the displayed image, which he planned to discuss further.

Staffing Changes and Budget Updates

David provided staffing updates, noting the termination of two positions due to budget constraints and the delay in funding streams. He mentioned the hiring of two new positions, a Donor Relations Coordinator to replace Jacob B. who is leaving for graduate school, and a Sales and Booking Coordinator to replace Joao in the Sloop Scheduling role. David emphasized the importance of these new hires in generating funding and increasing the use of the sloop. He also mentioned the arrival of delayed federal employee retention credit payments, totaling \$147,507, and their distribution to help clear loans from Clearwater.

Addressing Financial Challenges

David discussed the organization's financial situation, noting that they filed and now received ERTC requests for seven quarters between 2020 and 2021 and have one remaining unpaid quarter with a potential payment of around \$17,000. He mentioned that healthcare benefit costs were not paid for some quarters and that the organization will write off any remaining employee retention credit receivable by November 30. David confirmed they had paid the firm that helped obtain the ERC, with payments limited to the principal received (not the interest paid by the government).

David emphasized the importance of regularly reviewing financial statements and using quantitative data to make decisions, highlighting the need to address the organization's low cash balance of \$13,000.

There is a decrease in individual giving compared to the previous year, which is concerning and below budget. Total income is 148,000 below last year's year-to-date, while expenses are at 40% of the budget. David emphasized the importance of balancing contraction with a plan to expand and reinvest resources, pending an increase in income. He also clarified accounting concepts, such as the right-of-use asset and the significance of the net change in the balance sheet.

David presented a new financial report format, showing an operating deficit of only \$22,000, which Tom praised as an improvement from previous numbers. David attributed the improvement to the team's hard work, particularly the collaboration between Sharon, Erin, and Jacob in refining financial procedures and data collection.

Upcoming events/participation:

Folk Picnic – September 6th, noon to 6p.m. Share with friends and family, need supporters.

Educational Programs – Haul out cancelled: 1 charter, 5 sailing classrooms, 8 public sails, 2 community programs. PortSide cancelled: 6 sailing classrooms. All others weather related.

Charters Upcoming – NY/NJ Jail Conference, Religious Organizations Along the River (ROAR), Myrna Ross Birthday Charter and NJ Architects.

Maximize sloop utilization and onshore programming.

Camp Mudlark – August 24th-29th at Long Dock Park. Program for 16 kids, \$300/kid.

New Docking – docking a fair amount in the summer and fall. Will be docking at Bear Mountain. Getting this back after 15-16 years (Samantha).

Projects of Change –

1. Build relationships with Hudson River Delegation and explore funding mechanisms available through Senate and Assembly offices. Jen is working on details.
2. Environmental action and community engagement – Jen has been working on the NYC dock side.
3. Leverage Media – Jen: continues to see quality and increasing on press coverage. There is progress with partnering with local press and social media; strong Facebook followership of 22,000 people.
4. Ways to support highway advocacy and communications.

Development

Membership – Meg provided updates on current financials; 58% increase in dollar amount and recommends a way to track.

Government Grants – Increase and growth recorded with elected officials.

Gifts – 5 large gifts in the works

Donor Retention – Current retention rate is down from same period last year (51% from 57%)

Retaining 66% of revenue,

Revenue – bump in reactivated donors. Meg will continue to watch. Retaining 66% of current revenue; revenue per donor is increasing over same period last year.

Grants Pipeline – 6 new funders and submitted ones. 11 are led by Choice Words, 9 are new grants.

Stewarding Ed Programs – 51 new registrations.

Staff annual meeting planning will begin end of summer

Committee Updates

Annual meeting scheduled for October 5th at Beacon.

Nominating Committee – Potential nominees. There are 4 slots currently. Two incumbents running again, 25 board member max, 23 currently.

Board sail rescheduled for August 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adenike Bamgboye, Secretary