

# RI Sailing Events Commission

## Public Session

Monday, March 10, 2014

RI Commerce Corp  
315 Iron Horse Way, Providence, RI

**Members in Attendance:** Mr. Michael Keyworth (Chair), Mr. Paul Harden, Mr. Bill Plumb, Ms. Janet Coit, Mr. Jay Gowell, Mr. Karl Olsen, Ms. Sheila McCurdy, Ms. Jody Sullivan, Mr. Evan Smith, Mr. Dyer Jones

**Guests:** Dr. Robin Wallace, Mr. Allen Megarry, Mr. Chip Hawkins, Ms. Cindy Alten-Delotto, Mr. Tom Delotto, Ms. Vivian Spencer, Ms. Hilary Kotoun, Mr. Joe Dias,

### Opening Remarks

Mr. Keyworth opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed; a motion was made by Mr. Plumb and seconded by Ms. Coit to approve the minutes as drafted. The minutes were unanimously approved by the Commission.

### Volvo Ocean Race

Mr. Megarry from Sail Newport updated the commission on the Volvo Ocean Race (VOR) Stopover scheduled for next May in Newport. Currently there are 6 boats committed to the event. A team from SailNewport is planning to attend a conference with the other stopover ports in Alicante, Spain, in early April.

Mr. Peter Ansel from VOR was in Newport recently meeting with the team to discuss the Host Venue Agreement (HVA) and Newport's organizational structure.

### 35<sup>th</sup> America's Cup

Rhode Island has been approached by America's Cup Events Authority (ACEA) to respond to the RFP as a possible site for an America's Cup event in 2017.

## Funding Requests

The following funding requests were approved:

- Newport- Bermuda Race \$10K
- Newport Yacht Club- Solo Twin/ Offshore 160/ Newport-Bermuda 1-2 \$5K
- Jester Challenge 2014 \$2K

## By-laws

The Chair distributed a draft of the proposed by-laws that were drafted by Mr. Gowell. Mr. Gowell discussed the history of that State Yachting Committee. After review and discussion, Mr. Plumb made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Harden.

There is a small amount of monies left in the State Yachting Commission bank account. It was recommended that the remaining funds be given to the State Sailing Foundation to support future events. Mr. Olsen made the motion, seconded by Ms. McCurdy.

## Appointment of Officers

The Chair recommended that officers be elected for the Commission. The Chair asked for volunteers; Ms. McCurdy volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair, Mr. Plumb as Treasurer, and Mr. Harden as Secretary.

## Other Events

Dr. Wallace told the Commission that the NY Yacht Club (NYYC) is planning to hold a J-boat event in May-June of 2015 with 5 to 6 of the original J-Boats. There was also discussion about the Clipper around the World Race and the possibility of a sprint race from New York City to Newport.

## Ft. Adams

Mr. Dias provided an update on the new pier construction with work scheduled to begin in March/April of this year. Ms. Coit also discussed the significant investment that the state is making to upgrade Ft. Adams State Park.

Mr. Olsen asked about the need for a master plan for Ft. Adams State park which both Mr. Dais and Ms. Coit commented on. They also made the point that the message needs to be communicated that sailing events have a state-wide economic benefit to help ensure continued investment in both events and the park.

Also mentioned was the creation of a Ft. Adams Foundation that was spear-headed by Senator Pavia Weed.

Ms. McCurdy commented that sailing events help continue to build Newport's reputation as a sailing events capital.

Mr. Hawkins will follow-up with Port Charlotte about the possibility of a sailing event that will alternate between Port Charlotte and Narragansett Bay. One concern that was raised is how tight the summer sailing schedule has become and the limited availability of weekends for events.

#### Other Items

There was also a brief presentation by Ms. Hilary Kotoun from Sailors for the Sea outlining their mission and how it helps sailing regattas minimize the impact on the environment.

Ms. McCurdy informed the Commission members that Roger Williams University is building a new sailing center. She also mentioned that the restored whaling ship Charles W. Morgan will be stopping in Newport in mid-June this summer.

Mr. Olsen said he would work on a website with a calendar for sailing events; he will reach out to Mr. Dyer Jones on this matter.

#### Closing

Next meeting will be scheduled for mid-May in the Newport area.

At 3:05 p.m. Mr. Plumb made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Coit.