

RHODE ISLAND STATE YACHTING COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 3673

NEWPORT R.I. 02840

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, April 25th 2008 at The Seamen's Church Institute, 18 Market Square, Newport RI.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12.25pm.

In attendance were Jay Gowell, Thomas Hazelhurst, William Muessel, Ronald Hopkins, Tylor Field II, Phillip Willis, Garry Hoyt & John Magee.

Apologies had been received from David Elwell, Eric Hall, William Plumb, Michael Keyworth & George Pike.

Absent were Erin Carroll, Dyer Jones, Halsey Herreshoff, David De Petrillo.

New member Ronald Hopkins of East Providence was introduced.

The Committee rose for a few moments in memory of former member Chris Withers who had died in December 2007.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed were approved as written.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Robin Wallace who had received the books from the Withers family.

The AT&T Phone line had been discontinued and the current balance in the State account with Newport Federal Bank was \$2,202.45

The balance with the City of Newport was corrected to \$6132.00 which should be distributed by June 30th or it would revert in to the City's General Funds.

Chairman's report. Thee Olympic Trials for the Laser classes and the Paralympic classes had been concluded successfully and with the support of Sail Newport the budget had been adhered to.

The letter that had been circulated previously to the Committee about the pending E.P.A. grey water legislation in Washington had been acknowledged by Senators Reed and Whitehouse who had joined in to support the legislation.

Dr. Wallace reported that he had attended a House Finance Committee hearing and testified to the need for the State to continue funding the Committee's work in promoting the waters of the State for major sailing events. He had also written to the Governor to express concern about the lack of funding for the Committee and had also been in communication with Sen. Teresa Paiva-Weed on the matter. However, the reality is that the current State budget deficit is so overwhelming that it is highly unlikely that any State funding will be forthcoming in the immediate future. Thus the financial support of the City of Newport which is restricted to events in the Newport area is currently our only support. Dr. Wallace had met with the Board of the Rhode Island Marine Trade Association and it was hoped that some funds might come from them.

Those organizations which had received the larger grants in previous years had been contacted and advised about the potential lack of future funding by the Committee.

(These are the CCA for the Bermuda Race, Storm Trysail Club for BI Week, NBYA for the Junior Regatta.)

The RI Sailing Foundation would also try to increase its activities and generate funding for events.

With regard to the future of the Committee, a sub-committee consisting of Jay Gowell, Toby Field, Ron Hopkins & Robin Wallace would research the background of the Executive Orders by which the Committee was created and then try to meet with the Governor to discuss future funding of the Committee.

Grants for 2008-2009. There was a lively discussion on whether the Committee should make a number of small grants to a variety of organizations or should only make larger grants to a few organizations. No clear consensus was arrived at and further discussions will be held.

In the interim, it was voted to support the Inter-Collegiate National Championships being organized in Newport by Brown and Salve Regina Universities with a \$2500 grant; the Shake-A-Leg program with \$2500 and the balance of City funds with \$1132 to Sail Newport for the Public Sailing and Brooke Gonzalez Clinics.

Grants from July 1st 2008 to June 30th 2009 would be presented to the Committee by

E-Mail when the amount of funding from RIMTA and the City of

Newport is confirmed.

\$20 was collected from the meeting attendees to help defray the cost of the lunch and meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 2.10pm

(s) A.R.G. Wallace

Chairman