

RHODE ISLAND STATE YACHTING COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 3673

NEWPORT R.I. 02840

Minutes of the Rhode Island State Yachting Committee -

March 18, 2009

Held at the Herreshoff Museum, Bristol, RI

Dyer Jones gave a video slide presentation during lunch on the Louis Vuitton Pacific Match Race series, recently concluded in Auckland, New Zealand. He discussed that this event was an example of the type of quality event that can be held. It was run five months from concept to event.

Chairman, Robin Wallace called the meeting to order after Dyer's presentation and thanked Halsey for hosting today's meeting.

Introductions were made.

Attending: R.Wallace, W. Plumb, P.Sheehan, W.H. Dyer Jones, D. Elwell, W. Muessel, E. Hall, H. Herreshoff, J. Stevens, M. Keyworth, P. Willis, J. Gowell. G. Hoyt.

Apologies received from : Toby Field, AJ Evans, G. Pike, J. Hilton, J Magee

Robin Wallace and Mike Keyworth reviewed and discussed the Marine

Trades Symposium that was held in Providence as part of the Boat Show.

The minutes of the last meeting were read.

Questions from the last meeting:

- Robin reviewed the original Charter and mission statement as directed by the Governor after the committee was formed in 1976. (The first Executive Order was in 1980)**

Motion made and accepted. Minutes were approved.

Finances.

- Received donation to the state account, \$1000.00 RIMTA and \$1147.36 from the East Bay Economic Initiative (now terminated).**
- State funding and account is maintained in RISYC checkbook and is granted directly by the committee. There was no funding from the State in the last two years.**
- City of Newport directly funds grants based on recommendations of the Committee.**

Anticipated grant is \$25,000.00. but is subject to Newport City Council budget hearings. J. Stevens will notify Dr Wallace of date and suggests that another member should also attend. There was a general committee discussion of Newport's "Maritime" budget. Concerns expressed about line item cut from the budget and how to reinforce the Committee's position and the importance of promoting events for the economic vitality of the City.

The City of Newport fiscal year is from July 1st to June 30th of the

next year.

David Elwell brought up concerns on using funds to attract events rather than funding events as currently practiced. Jay reiterated Dave's position. General discussion followed on the best use of the limited funding currently available.

Mike Keyworth suggested approaching the State EDC and Teresa Paiva-Weed to renew the States commitment.

Halsey Herreshoff questioned as to other organizations that may give financial support.

General discussion of PR efforts and the Pro Jo.

Recommended Action Items,

- Create economic impact report.**
- Promotional Video**

Pat Sheehan suggested that there might be an economic model that has been generated for the upcoming 6 Metre Worlds- she will discuss with Bill Doyle.

General discussion on promoting events and attracting new classes to Rhode Island recommending action-create video promoting RI Sailing.

Question was raised, should we own a specific signature event that could be identified by people with Rhode Island, rather than a specific class which means nothing to most?

R. Wallace – on 1976 the Tall Ships event suggested each tourist dollar could be traced six to seven times before leaving the local economy.

Dyer Jones - the same model has been validated in several recently concluded Americas Cups. Additional conversation was held on the importance of creating an economic impact statement.

• David Elwell offered the facilities of the NYYC sailing office staff and the review of several recent events to come up with a proposed economic statement that could be used.

Reviewing the current suggested budget and grants, Dyer Jones and others questioned the priorities on events. There was discussion on the event schedule and question on whether the 6M Worlds, 12M Worlds, Classic Regatta needed Committee funding.

General support on Gary Jobson using stock video to create a promotional video for RISYC. Halsey discussed a video he created for the museum and the process.

Both Halsey and David Elwell will discuss with Gary Jobson and get a budget number for such a project.

Any grants for 2009 will be submitted to the Committee by e-mail for

approval.

Mike and Robin attended a recent USCG Marine Safety meeting.

- **Reported LNG status. New proposal for an “offshore terminal in Mount Hope Bay will be the subject of public inquiries this summer.**
 - o **"Save the Bay" still the key player in the area opposing.**
- **Mike discussed the elimination on channel restrictions in Narragansett Bay.**
- **Discussed planned dredging at BI, Salt Pond and its impact on Storm Tri-sail's BIRW.**

Robin and Mike discussed efforts of the RIMTA

- **Sales tax proposal on boats.**

Discussion on wind turbines – URI is hosting workshops and there will be opportunity for sailors to give input shortly.

Robin discussed the area event calendar of major events

- **Bermuda Race. Possible start off of Fort Adams in 2010.**
- **Volvo bid on the next Volvo (some discussion on value and cost)**
- **Newport YC is hosting the 2009 OSTAR**

In other business;

AJ Evans was nominated in absentia and elected Treasurer.

Jay discussed the establishment and role of RI Sailing Foundation.

RI Non-profit 501C3

Foundation was the host organization for the UBS Challenge and the 2007 Pre-Trials, 2008 Olympic trials and Paralympic Trials.

Meeting adjourned at 13:50 PM

Respectfully,

Ron Hopkins