

# **RHODE ISLAND STATE YACHTING COMMITTEE**

**P.O. Box 3673**

**NEWPORT R.I. 02840**

## **RI State Yachting Committee Minutes**

**April 14th 2010 at Herreshoff Museum, Bristol.**

**In attendance: Jay Gowell, Chase Hogoboom, Ron Hopkins, Pat Sheehan, A.J.Evans, Toby Field, Philip Willis, Dyer Jones, James Hilton, George Pike, Tom Hazelhurst, Bill Plumb, Halsey Herreshoff, Gary Hoyt, Michael Keyworth, John Magee, Jonathan Stevens, Karl Olsen.**

**Meeting called to order by Robin Wallace, Chair.**

- Robin thanked Halsey for hosting the meeting at the Museum in Bristol**
- New members were introduced**
- Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.**

**Robin Wallace reported and began a discussion on the lack of State funding again for 2010-2011. \$25,000 has been committed from the City of Newport. Based on the success of Newport, there was a discussion among the committee about the possibility of approaching and soliciting other waterfront communities (like Bristol, specifically) that had strong boating influence about contributing funds to advance the Yachting Committee's functions. Discussion**

included utilizing the RI State Yachting Foundation (a 501C3) which was established for that purpose.

Robin discussed a letter to the US Congressional delegation regarding the Hess LNG proposal. Mike Keyworth also updated the committee on current status of the LNG issue.

Mike Keyworth discussed the CRMC special study "SAMP" on the zoning of RI waters off Block Island and the use of wind turbines as appropriate. His information indicated that the proposal would not interfere with recreational boating or interfere with sailing events.

George Pike reported that the Newport YC had exceeded expectations on the single handed transatlantic race with 89 boats entered.

The Treasurers report was discussed and approved, and disbursements based on requests for assistance were approved (City of Newport funds) for events held in Newport.

Jonathan Stevens reported on the relations with the City of Newport. The response was positive and the prospect of additional funds in support of future events was "good". He also later updated the Committee on the Armory Wharf project and additional 600' of dockage that was planned pending CRMC approval.

Dyer Jones, Mike Keyworth and Halsey Herreshoff presented a brief synopsis of the state of the America's Cup (AC34) and the discussions regarding the possibility of Rhode Island and Newport hosting the events, with a possible fall 2010 decision. They reported that an engineering firm had been contracted by EDC and the working committee was working on a budget and awaiting a RFP from the AC34 management team. They reported that there was strong public

support for hosting the events and good political support. Mike summarized the working committee has broken into 2 task committee's, one working on the event narrative and the 2nd working on facility and infrastructure. Coddington Cove had been eliminated from consideration and Quonset Point was questionable. The major focus was on improvements to Ft. Adams State Park, and improvements that the State could utilize well into the future.

There was a question on timing, and it was believed that AC34 would be in 2014, not 2013 due to infrastructure requirements.

There was preliminary information on an AC Cup visit, with site proposed of RI, NY and Washington.

There was a general discussion among the committee on boats, boat types, numbers and possible venues, including the possibility of a number of pre-AC34 events around the World leading up to the actual Cup race.

Monies were collected for lunch and the meeting was adjourned.

Notes recorded by Ron Hopkins.

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**RISYC Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday Apr 14th 2011 at Herreshoff Museum, Bristol, at 12:15 pm**

**Members Attending: Tom Hazlehurst, David Elwell, Bill Plum, Gary**

**Hoyt, Halsey Herreshoff, Pat Sheehan, Chase Hogoboom, Dyer Jones, John Magee, Karl Olsen, Jay Gowell & Chairman Robin Wallace. Apologies for absence had been received from Ron Hopkins, Michael Keyworth, Eric Hall, Jonathan Stevens, Jamie Hilton, Philip Willis & A.J. Evans.**

**Guest – Paul Harden from EDC.**

**After introductions, the Chairman called for a moment of silence in remembrance of George Pike who had represented Newport Yacht Club and its hosting of a number of Trans Atlantic singlehanded races. Members in attendance were assessed \$10 each to defray lunch costs.**

**The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were accepted.**

**Dr Wallace reported that letters expressing the Committee's concern about the proposed LNG shipping plans had been sent to the Congressional delegation and had been acknowledged.**

**A letter supporting the City of Newport plans to upgrade marine visitor facilities at the Ann Street pier had been sent to the Mayor of Newport.**

**Mr. Paul Harden from RIEDC then addressed the meeting about the development of plans to upgrade the facilities at Fort Adams in support of the America's Cup bid sent to Oracle Racing but which had been rejected.**

**He noted that Oracle Racing's goals and event style kept changing and that the anticipated RFP was never issued. Fort Adams had been selected as the site with the best development potential on the Bay**

and in the Fall EDC hired engineers for site development. Work on the plans for a pre-event were then changed to actual AC plans when San Francisco was announced as the event venue.

With the change of governors there has been some revision of the State's thoughts and thus engineers were asked to design the facility to host multiple marine events not just AC. Any improvements are planned after summer of 2011. When they received AC RFP, the cost of RFP requirement was substantial. A Proposal was submitted but Newport was not selected.

David Elwell had a different take on events: Re the December request for RI to host, Gov. Chaffee said state wouldn't fund event and that ended the discussion. The RFP for the pre-vent was not distributed to group appointed by Governor Carcieri that had been working on the project for the previous year. EDC did not talk with Newport personnel who had prior AC management experience and the proposal was not submitted in a timely manner. Event went to San Diego and California is also not putting any money into event

Paul Harden in response to question about who made the decision replied that the work on RFP was done by Dept of Admin, not EDC but the State was discussing who should respond to such proposals in future

David believes it is a philosophical decision of Gov. Chaffee not to give tax incentives to bring in business but thinks Richard Licht (Dept of Administration) does get the fact that the state has much to gain from hosting events.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

- Chase recommend document this committee's recommendations for 2012 to the Gov and Dept of Admin
- Dyer notes our Congressional delegation has asked what happened and there should be a follow up with them by the Gov
- Approach Senator Paiva Weed and continue conversation about events as a tool for economic development

Item 4. Treasurer's Report. A.J. Evans is planning to move out of State and will step down as Treasurer.

City of Newport, balance for this fiscal year – proposed awards discussed.

The provision of a portable yard arm was deleted from the budget items.

A request from Barrington to support the Sunfish Class National Championship was approved (\$2000) from the State funds left over in the checking account. In past they have returned funds after receiving seed money

See Treasurer's Report for list of proposed grants.

Motion made and approved to let Chairman finalize grants. The Chairman remarked that the grants were intended to encourage organizers to bring events in to the State and thus promote spending locally. Happy visitors tend to return!

Item 6. Newport County Chamber Of Commerce is proposing that they be approved at State level to act as coordinator of marine event planning and financial support for events on the Bay. Dr Wallace

reported that he had attended one meeting with the C of C and that a meeting with RISYC is also in the works. Funding would be derived from hotel taxes levied by the State. Concern was expressed that it would be Newport centered and that other venues might not fare well in access to funds.

Discussion as to where initiative came from as it was seen as a financial grab.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** meet with Colin Kane (RI Commodores and with the Newport County Chamber of Commerce working party to which RISYC members would be invited.

**Other business:** Gary Hoyt: shouldn't we have a simple over-riding goal of backing improvements at a facility to promote marine events. Members discussed being sensitive to entire bay, not just Newport.

**New business.** Bill Plumb gave a summary on the status of rebuild plans for Edgewood YC which had been destroyed in a fire in the New Year and asked for donations of equipment and sailing gear.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.25pm.

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**4/7/2011**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Bank Account

Opening balance 1/16/10    Deposit Paid    4,051.38

Deposit 4/19/10 lunch fees    200.00    4,251.38

Check 2723 – 4/14/10 lunch cost    235.57    4,051.81

Check 2724 - 1/17/11 PO Box    72.00    3,943.81

### Grant request

Sunfish Nationals Barrington YC    2,000.00    1,943.81 Pd

### Balance

City of Newport grants 7/1/10 to 6/30/11    Grant    25,000

STC Junior Safety at Sea seminar    500    24,500

J-80 World Championship    2,500    22,000

### Proposed grants

#Annapolis to Newport Race    4,000    18,000

#Sail to Prevail    2,500    15,500

#Newport YC – Plymouth UK to Newport race    5,500    10,000

#Sail Newport Family Sailing Festival

Advanced racing clinic

Youth Challenge    5,000    5,000

STC Junior Safety at Sea seminar at Newport (Aug)    1,000    4,000

Newport YC Single-handed events 2011-2012    1,500    2,500

**Melges 32 NA Championship/Sail Newport 2,500 -**

**Assuming that City of Newport funding from 7/1/11 remains at 25,000**

**US SAILING Youth Championships SN/ILYC/NYYC 1,000 24,000**

**# request to City Hall Newport on 4/18/2011**

**UPDATE 4/18/01**