



DRAFT Minutes from the Saltspring Island Sailing Club Annual General Meeting

November 24, 2015 at 1900 hours

Held at Lions Club of Salt Spring Island, 103 Bonnet Avenue

Call to Order 1905 hours by Commodore Paul McManus.

A quorum of 43 voting members were present, with over 65 individuals in attendance.

1. Opening Remarks.

Commodore Paul McManus opened the meeting by welcoming members to the AGM and outlining some of the year's many achievements by the committees: a membership which is stable if not even growing slightly, and most of those new members have already been assigned slips; the major maintenance projects undertaken on the docks, most recently new flotation to stabilize F-Dock, new signage and safety ladders; comfortable new chairs for the Clubhouse, new berms and improved drainage for the driveway and parking areas; even higher numbers of enthusiastic new sailors taught at the summer sailing school; the annual Round Salt Spring Race a huge success, blessed as it was with great weather and organization; a brand new, state-of-the-art computer system and data base and last but not least we may even have solved the pigeon problem!

Special thanks to those officers leaving the Board: to RC Derek Emmerson for all the great work accomplished on the docks; to FCR Kevin Vine for nurturing the competitiveness and camaraderie of the racing group; to Communications Director Silk Questo, for the big half of the portfolio she is passing on and for agreeing to stay on the Board for the other half; to Secretary Deb McGovern for all her support to the new kid on the Board and of course special thanks to Chris Gadsby for stepping in as Interim Vice Commodore at a moment's notice and getting so much done in a few short months.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved: Silk Quest Seconded: Roy Marlatt.

That the Agenda be adopted with the Secretary's addition of Nomination for an Honorary Life Membership.

Carried: ID#2015.11.24.01

3. Approval of the Minutes of the General Meeting of September 29, 2015

Moved: Eric van Soeren. Seconded: Hugh Greenwood That the Minutes of the General Meeting of September 29, 2015 be adopted as presented.

Carried: ID#2015.11.24.02

4. Treasurer's report: Norbert Schlenker

For the complete document and spreadsheets see attached Treasurer's report

Results of operations to date:

- Year-end projections are excellent, approximately \$45,000 better than anticipated (Net cash flow was close to \$100,000 vs. the estimate of \$60,000). This is largely due to almost a doubling of slip assignment fees, thanks to Rod's creativity in creating new and better using existing spaces, and to the Round Saltspring Race improved income and lower expenses. Re-zoning costs should remain lower than anticipated.
- Interest income was lower than projected and the essential dock maintenance exceeded budget. Income from reciprocals and showers was also lower.
- Dues and moorage: around \$200,000 received but some members are still outstanding.
- A final set of financials will go to the next General Meeting. The Board approved the F2016 Budget Projections.

Appointment of Financial Reviewer

That Jean Elwell be appointed to review the financial statements ending October 31, 2015.

Moved: Norbert Schlenker Seconded: Michael Clark

Club Bylaws require that the members at the AGM appoint a Financial Reviewer for the coming year.

Carried: ID#2015.11.24.03

F2016 Budget Issues: Norbert apprised the membership of some serious financial risks facing the Club this year, and responded to several related questions from members:

- Tax Assessment increase: The Club has received a much higher valuation from BC Assessment for the docks. All marinas on the south coast were reassessed and the club has been treated the same as a commercial marina, increasing the valuation from \$500,000 to over \$2 million, which will result in a potential doubling of the tax bill. Several other clubs were also impacted. They have deemed income from the marina to be equivalent to \$9 per foot, or \$600,000 annual income vs. the actual income of \$200,000. Initial attempts by Norbert to argue the club's case have fallen on deaf ears, and it is likely we will have to try the Review Committee, but may fail.
- Foreshore Lease: Norbert has still not received confirmation from BC Lands regarding the 2/3 forbearance currently received on the foreshore lease fee. New staff are in place and may not be as open to negotiation, plus their decision is final and there is no review committee to appeal to.
- The combined budget impact of these two tax increases could be \$30,000.
- Loans: The Club's mortgage stands at \$500,000 and operating line of credit at \$200,000. Norbert is looking into the possible re-structuring of the loans, which are up for renewal next year and are currently held by Island Savings Credit Union. They have indicated an unwillingness to continue with the current operating line, which increases as the club pays its costs through the year until dues are received each November. A

higher interest rate or a second mortgage may be necessary. Initial negotiations have been entered into with Bank of Montreal as a backup position.

5. Officers' Reports.

The 2015 Board of Officers each presented their reports:

Outgoing Interim Vice Commodore, Chris Gadsby.

- Chris thanked his amazing House & Grounds team's work this year, special thanks to Wayne Tepper our outgoing Coordinator House and Grounds for organizing and to all who attended the excellent work party on October 24th.
- In addition to the raking, ditch cleaning, pruning and general clean up , the Pigeon Control project in and under the gatehouse was efficiently completed. Thanks to Rob Denny and Derek Sowden for their collaboration and ingenious solution.
- Jeremy Milsom and Arlene Dashwood cleaned the windows, Zsolt Sarkany fixed the outdoor lights and moved a fixture in the shed and once again Norm Elliott provided his truck and driver Pat to help take away the debris.
- Other priority projects recently completed include: A new railing was built on the back steps. (thanks to Roy Marlatt and Peter Brouwer for an excellent job). The driveways were repaired by Vancouver Island Paving coordinated by the writer and Casey de Jong , our Coordinator House and Grounds .A "Drive Slowly" sign was created and installed near our exit to assist in the rezoning process. A new tap for the galley was selected by Betsy Johnson , installed by Rod Macdonald.
- Tree trimming as part of the House and Grounds Long Term Plan and other items will be discussed and planned at the next House and Grounds meeting on November 16th .
- We are currently planning to install 4 Handicapped Parking signs and 5 bicycle racks as part of further Rezoning application suggestions from the Island Trust .
- The Clubhouse Booking Coordinator Candace Brochman will be leaving her post and our club at the end of this month. On behalf of all members, Candace deserves a huge thank you for all of her efforts over the past few years.
- Chis thanked Casey de Jong, Coordinator House and Grounds, for all of his assistance completing a very busy schedule this Fall and stated it has been a pleasure to assist our new Commodore and the club by assuming these responsibilities and plans to continue as a House as a House and Grounds Committee member and work closely with his successor.

Outgoing Rear Commodore, Derek Emmerson.

- Derek expressed how much he has enjoyed the experience of the past year thanks to the incredible support of a fabulous team of dedicated guys under David Questo's leadership and others who were willing to put their hands to the pump at both Work Parties and on other occasions.
- As a result of these efforts, 36 projects, minor and major ,have been dealt with.
- The major task ahead is the rectification of problems with North F dock, in particular the loss of buoyancy as well as detachment risk of the inner wave fence and bull rail. The latter problem was dealt with a week ago by the addition of 30 support brackets to the deck.

- With the onset of wild weather and the visible sagging of the dock, a decision was made that the addition of temporary flotation was required immediately in advance of a complete restoration of the flotation elements next spring. This work should be taking place in the next couple of weeks. Flotation deterioration is an on-going issue which will probably also require attention to the dinghy and sailing school docks in the short term.
- In closing Derek thanked everyone for their support and stated he still intends to be around the docks getting his hands dirty now and then.

Outgoing Fleet Captain Racing, Kevin Vine.

- Kevin highlighted the successful seasonal SISC race series, which have attracted more participants than ever (averaging 10 per race), the legendary Round Saltspring and Vendee events and the unique International One-Metre regattas that the Club has again hosted. Overall 38 SISC local series races, and 6 IOM races have been run by his enthusiastic team. As well many club members have participated in the Vancouver Island Series of races.
- Ratings: the club is committed to the move from PHRF Northwest to PHRF BC, with full support from the racing group, including Roger Kibble, club handicapper.
- Round Penders Single Handed Race drama: the extreme weather conditions experienced by the racers, high winds and torrential rain, were a particular challenge for the smaller boats in the fleet, and resulted in a serious capsizing. Fortunately, no-one was hurt, however, it behooves the skippers of the race boats to remember they (not the FCR) are responsible for making the call on safety and that they have an obligation to assist others in the fleet.
- The recent Racers' Awards Night was generously hosted by Bob Jones and Dorothy Finnegan, attended by over 35 people, with excellent Pot Luck food; lots of animated and happy camaraderie. Special thanks to Lawrie Neish for having the trophies all engraved and the plaques ready to hand out.
- Kevin thanked the Board for all their support over the past 2 years which he has enjoyed and is confident that Vincent Argiro, nominated successor, will carry on the success with the racing group. In closing Kevin made a tribute to the fun aspects of our club as follows: Saltspring Island Sailing Club: Sailing Club versus Yacht Marina: **Sailing** is a verb (active); **Yacht** is a noun (passive)... we all have yachts (sail, power, model); we all engage in the activity of taking them sailing; **FUN!**

Fleet Captain Dinghy, Bruce Stenstrom .

Paul gave a brief update in Bruce's absence:

- Bruce submitted a thoughtful and thorough report on the status of the Summer Sailing School and Junior Program which was discussed at some length at the Board. This is a follow up to the Healey Report of last year and updated plans for the portfolio in light of this summer's experiences, both successes and challenges.
- As requested by the Board, Bruce submitted a follow-up report summarizing his recommendations for changes to and budget for next season's sailing school and junior program. This report will be discussed at December's meeting.

Wharfinger, Rod Mac Donald

- Rod has been an ever-present fixture on the docks this summer, thanked the many Summer Duty Wharfingers who helped out with the numerous reciprocal visitors, several of whom volunteered multiple days.
- The docks are now basically full, with just 2 max. 30 ft. slips remaining. There are 2 new members on the waiting list for slips over 40 ft.
- Rod explained that by reallocating dock space as efficiently as possible he has managed to accommodate almost all new members' vessels, with only 2 larger boats remaining on the waiting list. This has resulted in some required relocation of existing slips and Rod thanks members for their understanding of the necessity of this minor inconvenience in light of accommodating more vessels overall. He reminded members that he must be kept informed of any movement of vessels, sales, purchase, sub-lets, requests for relocation etc.
- The water main line burst on E-Dock and once it was repaired and the lines blown out the decision was made to turn off the water supply for the winter season. Thanks to Casey de Jong and Derek Emmerson for their swift response.
- Power checks: just conducted and a few excess billings have been required. Scott Cadenhaed will be helping with power checks in future.
- Dinghies: a reminder to all to turn over or prop up your dinghies before they turn into swimming pools for the otters!

Staff Captain, Betsy Johnston.

- Betsy highlighted the many successful events put on by the members of her hard-working and fun-loving team over the past very busy year. She expressed how much she has enjoyed working with the committee and all the volunteers coordinating and putting on the various social events. She said that being on the board has revealed the dedication and effort of each board member and is astounded at the organization and work that goes into running this club.
- Betsy thanked Aly Markert, Ruth Humberstone, Louise Devlin, Julie Mills, Alex Golder, Victoria Skinner, Laura Dafoe, Karen Laidlaw, Diane Lugsdin, and Nancy Borst for their support and assistance in making the social events at the club such a success. We are always so pleased by the number of members who step up the plate to help when asked by our capable volunteer coordinators, Wendy Vine and Aly Markert.
- September's Salmon Barbeque and October's pub night, which was hosted by the Dafoes and Victoria Skinner and Denis Fortin, were well attended and enjoyed by all.
- In Betsy's absence, Karen Laidlaw and Laura Dafoe organized the repast for the Fall Work Party.
- The recent Cocktails for the Commodores event, otherwise dubbed the "moveable feast", was a resounding success from all reports. 96 members attended to toast our 2 Commodores for 2015 at the Oystercatcher. Thanks to Jill Sydneysmith for suggesting the venue and to Louise Devlin, Ruth Humberstone, Nancy Borst, Julie Mills and Diane Lugsdin for helping pull it all together.

Secretary, Deb McGovern.

- Deb welcomed several new members who were attending their first AGM and summarized the membership position for the year.
- After 12 new members were brought on board, and approximately a dozen resignations the Club has a total of 186 Regular Members, 16 Associate Members, a number which has

remained remarkably steady over the years. Junior numbers however, have increased dramatically from just 4 last year to 14 this, a testament to the success of the Summer Sailing School and Junior Program enhancements.

- Deb announced that the New Member's Award for outstanding contributions from a new member was awarded at the Cocktail with the Commodores event to Todd and Connie Brett for their enthusiastic hard work in the research, selection and implementation of a new data base system for the Club

Honorary Life Member Nomination "Honorary Life Members shall be persons to whom the facilities and privileges of the Club are extended for life in appreciation of important services rendered to the Club."

There are just eleven Life members. Many of these names were put forward for contributions to the very visible operations side of the club. This time the Board would like to recognize a special individual's contributions especially to the equally important social piece of the club experience:

The Board nominates Jill Sydneysmith for Honorary Life Membership, for important services rendered to the Club

Proposed: Deb McGovern ***Second:*** Eric van Soeren

Jill has been a tirelessly active club member since 1997. During these 18 years she has been an enthusiastic participant and leader in many areas of club governance and support. Jill was an active member of the Staff Captain's committee, running many social events, and she went on to be Staff Captain on the Board in 2006-7. For most of us, however, Jill is probably best known for her stalwart work on the food services for Round Saltspring Race which she has done for 15 years (both with and without David Wood), and for coordinating the food service volunteers for the club's flagship event. This huge project requires planning, shopping, food prep, cooking, set up, clean up etc: and Jill is almost always there, crewing or helming! Over 400 people are fed over the three days of this event every year. She has also been an active member of the Vice Commodore, House and Grounds Committee since 2008. Additionally Jill helps with the communications committee, keeping the various notice boards up to date, updating the framed photos of commodore and board.

A vote of hands was taken showing unanimous support for the nomination.

CARRIED: 2015-11-24

Commodore Paul and Secretary Deb presented Jill Sydneysmith with the official Honorary Life Member certificate and Jill thanked the membership for their great support and said how much she enjoyed being able to contribute to the success of her Club over so many years. Deb thanked everyone for their support over the past two years, particularly both Commodores, Membership Coordinator Susan Castle, all interviewers and sponsors, mailboy Peter Howell, minute editor extraordinaire Eric van Soeren, data managers Silk and Norbert and Rod for working so hard to find almost all new members moorage slips!.

Communications Director, Silk Questo,

- Silk has agreed to continue as a Director on the Board for another year, after 5 years as a director and an additional year as an ex officio guest attending board meetings before that.

However many of the roles she has been fulfilling will be filled by new appointees on the Communications team:

- o **Website** – Todd and Connie Brett have volunteered (as a team) to take over the website
- o **Photography** – New member Larry Melious, who is a professional photographer, has volunteered to take on the job of Photography Coordinator for 2016, shooting some club events himself, and calling on our many talented photographers in the club to take shooting assignments and contribute photos on a “freelance” basis for use in all our club communication media.
- o **Yearbook** – the long time yearbook team, Suzan and Ron Chamney, have resigned from the club. At this point no member with the requisite skills and software has volunteered for this role. 2016 yearbook production and cost will be discussed further at the board level. A new volunteer Advertising coordinator is needed: experience not required. A good role for someone who would like to get their volunteer hours in during the off season, as it’s a limited time project, 20-25 hours of work over about a two-month period early in the year. Please contact Silk if you’re interested. Another role that needs to be filled is a copy editor and organizer to help manage the yearbook.
- o **TellTales** – The Fall edition is ready to publish, and will be the last Telltales from the current board. The next “holiday” edition in late December will be the first issue from the new 2016 board. The current format is labour-intensive, and in the new year, the plan is to convert the format to an online blog, which will be more manageable and therefore can be published on a more regular schedule. It will still include the same kinds of content, and we’ll be able to link it to more photos online than we’ve been able to fit into the old-fashioned newsletter format. We’re looking for a volunteer to assist with the writing and editing for 2016.
- o **Bulletin Boards and Framing** – I’m very happy to have Jill Sydneysmith continue in this role, which she has ably looked after for the past several years.
- o Silk will also take on Round Saltspring communications.
- o **Database Coordination Planning** The new Club database, hosted on the Wild Apricot platform, is now in place and you have been receiving email blasts through this new system for a few weeks. Over time, with the help of the Bretts and Norbert Schlenker, we will be expanding the use of this database and sharing appropriate roster information online with club members in a password-protected area of the website.
- Silk is looking forward to working with and to getting to know our new Board members over the course of the year and thanked the retiring Directors for their contributions, support and friendship.

6. Past Commodore, Eric van Soeren

Re-zoning Project Update:

- The SISC rezoning request is still working its way through the Islands Trust process. Eric attended a meeting of the Local Trust Committee to discuss the proposed rezoning and the input from neighbours. At that meeting we received first reading of our proposed rezoning. As written the rezoning will accomplish what we need, which is the comfort of knowing we can have both a residence and a club house on our property, and can rebuild if a catastrophic event destroyed our club house. Also, as long as we don’t increase the size of the clubhouse or the marina our current number of parking spots will be deemed to be sufficient.

- However, the next planning meeting with the Trust resulted in unanticipated requirements being imposed by the Trust Planner that were not hinted at by the earlier meeting of the Advisory Planning Commission. These requirements include:
- Designation of 4 handicapped parking spaces;
- Installation of several bike racks, one to be under cover. H&G committee is already completing this.
- Application for permission for encroachment of shed on the road allowance at the lower turnaround area. Eric has applied for and just received this.
- Successful application for “green marina” environmental certification from Georgia Strait Alliance. (three anchors out of Five).As the concerns mainly entail commercial marina issues such as gas pumps and boat repair, Eric is confident the club will easily meet their standards and has already spoken with their officials.
- Potential for installation of sewage pump out station on our docks. This could be a major expense as the solutions would entail massive investment in either a specialized pump-out vessel or tanks, pumps on the docks and replacement of the whole septic system on the uplands. However, as there is a pump-out station at the government dock very close-by Eric is hopeful this will be sufficient to satisfy their demands and has asked the Harbour manager to write to support our position. Eric is working hard to build a strong case to prevent this from becoming a prohibitively expensive project.
- Policies: the new Privacy Policy regarding safeguarding member data will be re-written now the new data base system has been implemented.

7.. Election of 2015/2016 Club Officers

Eric van Soeren, Chair of the Nominating Committee commended the work of his fellow committee members and stated that five new nominees were required this term, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Fleet Captain Racing, Fleet Captain Cruising and Secretary.

Eric then said that he was pleased to be able to present the following slate of nominees for the upcoming year:

- **Commodore: Paul McManus**
- **Vice Commodore: Casey de Jong**
- **Rear Commodore: Nancy Côté**
- **Secretary: Dennis Fortin**
- **Treasurer: Norbert Schlenker**
- **Communications Director: Silk Questo**
- **Staff Captain: Betsy Johnston**
- **Fleet Captain Racing: Vincent Argiro**
- **Fleet Captain Cruising: Karen Laidlaw**
- **Fleet Captain Dinghy: Bruce Stenstrom**
- **Wharfinger: Rod MacDonald**

Eric then proceeded to ask for any nominations from the floor and that further nominees are required to be present. Hearing none, then Secretary Deb McGovern cast the single ballot on behalf of the Club and the new Officers were declared elected to serve for the ensuing year.

Commodore Paul McManus thanked all the Board officers for their many contributions to running the Club,, but in particular outgoing officers, and their dedication and their teams' stellar work in completing so many projects this year, thanked everyone for their participation at the meeting and wished the incoming board well for their term in office. He concluded the meeting by calling for a motion to adjourn which was so moved by Eric.

The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hrs.