

Rock Hall Yacht Club, Inc.
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Board Meeting Minutes December 13, 2006

Commodore Chip Lieber called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. The following board members were present: JoAnn Fairchild, George Hardy, Dyer Harris, Ron Mansfield, Peter Metcalf, Pat O'Connell, Chuck Parry. Board members absent: Jennifer Lieber, Sally Powell, Jim Trammell, Fred Welsh. The following Club members were present: Jacqui Johnson (Club Manager), John Macielag, Linda Parry, Jeff Robinson.

Minutes

Chuck Parry made a motion to accept the November 8, 2006 minutes as presented. Ron Mansfield made a second motion and it passed unanimously. The minutes of October 11, 2006 were tabled until January.

Old Business

Commodore Lieber reported that Mike Dickinson will demolish and rebuild the back steps to the club.

Commodore Lieber said a letter was sent to CREP requesting the removal of 1.2 acres from the parcel of land we have under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The remainder of the land will remain under CREP.

Linda Parry inquired, Has there been further discussion about purchasing a defibrillator? Pat O'Connell said he would look into obtaining an actual cost estimate and added that his daughter, who is certified through the State of Maryland, may be available to offer instruction classes.

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Peter Metcalf made a motion to approve Fred Welsh's written report as presented. Chuck Parry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The treasurer's report is made part of these minutes.

Finance – Peter Metcalf said the finance committee had identified the following areas for immediate attention: 1.) the upcoming audit, 2.) a feasibility study to determine what the Club's capital requirements may be and how to finance them, 3.) accounting of the bar inventory and help with bar service.

Strategic Planning – George Hardy proposed a change to our agreement with Bob Harrison (Chesapeake Hospitality Group) to reflect that Harrison no longer wants to rent the RHYC kitchen as a satellite catering operation. Harrison is still interested in continuing to cater the food service needs of the club by using the kitchen at his restaurant as his base of operations. Discussion ensued on the quality of Harrison’s food and catering service, and the appropriate amount of money the club should charge for Harrison’s service. Linda Parry expressed concern about the Club’s profit margin or at least its ability to break even under any arrangement. Hardy recommended we continue with Harrison as our basic food provider for Club events and we take 15% of the meal gross to pay taxes, miscellaneous service staff, kitchen utilities and other needs. He said the revised contract would be cancelable with 14 days notice if either party underperforms. Chuck Parry noted that recent events have been understaffed and we would need to “pick up the slack” if Harrison does not have adequate staff. Jeff Robinson said the food has gone from bad to worse. Commodore Lieber agreed that we should have had better service at a recent cocktail party. Fairchild said it’s ultimately the Club’s reputation and brand identity on the line no matter who caters an event on Club premises. Parry recommended we take an inventory of the Club’s kitchen equipment. Hardy made a motion that the Commodore, Rear Commodore, and Treasurer review the contract with Chesapeake Hospitality Group and get things in writing by December 3. Fairchild seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commodore Lieber asked the Strategic Planning and Waterfront committees to work together on bulkhead issues. In light of recent storms, dock repairs and replacement costs need to be addressed. It would be good to have an engineer look at the pier and what it would cost to replace it.

Regattas and Club Racing – Dyer Harris posted the summer 2007 regatta schedule and there are no significant changes. He invited everyone to attend a US Sailing Race Management Seminar at RHYC on February 24, 2007. Topics include race committee responsibilities, jobs, equipment, mark boat operations, setting the course, starting, finishing and scoring. Fees are \$35 for US Sailing members and \$50 for non-members. The public is invited. A promotional article will appear in our January newsletter. Fellow yacht clubs will be notified and more information is available at www.ussailing.org. Jeff Robinson said he appreciated the advance notice about upcoming events and he will open the bar on that day. Harris said the Frostbiting series is successfully underway and he is looking into the issue of heating the bathhouse for the Frostbiters.

Junior Sailing – Chuck Parry said he is assessing interest in planning a Green Fleet regatta and a junior regatta at RHYC in 2007.

Membership – On Jim Trammell’s behalf, Commodore Lieber reported that four new members have applied to the Club and we have already received dues from three of them.

Social – no report.

Communications – Chuck Parry noted that Linda has done the January newsletter and it is already in the mail.

Waterfront – Ron Mansfield said he would gladly look at long-term bulkhead and pier issues in collaboration with the Strategic Planning committee. All board members agreed we need a professional engineering study, and we need to find a way to pay for the study and any capital improvements. Chuck Parry suggested Danny Bramble may be able to refer someone. George Hardy asked, Is the floating dock is part of this larger discussion? Commodore Lieber said our permit application for the floating dock is already in process. Mansfield said the January newsletter will feature a blurb about storage and mooring rates remaining the same for 2007; however, starting in January 2007, anything stored or moored at the club must have a RHYC sticker. “If kids are camping on club grounds, they need a sticker,” Mansfield said jokingly. Support for the new sticker policy was unanimous.

Clubhouse – Pat O’Connell said he will contact Bayside Gas to set up an annual maintenance for cleaning and service of the Club’s heating system.

Pool – Pat O’Connell reported that the pool has been winterized. He said the retractable cover, which had been sent out for repair, has been returned but unfortunately it is broken again and will be repaired again. He reported that the waterline going to the dock will be redesigned and repaired in the spring. O’Connell thanked the sailing school for putting fresh stone on the driveway and parking area. He acknowledged Jeff Robinson for coordinating the planting of 1500 bulbs at the entrance to the club, adding that we’re all looking forward to a colorful spring.

New Business – Commodore Lieber recommended that the Club and bar be open on Sundays to accommodate the Frostbiters. He reported that social chair Sally Powell recommends we purchase a big screen TV. Powell estimates the cost of the TV to be approximately \$1,200 and believes there are people who would contribute money for a new TV. Discussion ensued on the merits of having a bigger television, cable costs, best location for placement, how much money the Club should invest and the likelihood of raising matching funds through private donations. Commodore Lieber made a motion for the Club to approve the purchase of a big screen TV and invest up to \$500 towards the purchase, with reasonable monthly rates for cable service to be determined. JoAnn Fairchild seconded the motion and it passed, with Chuck Parry and George Hardy opposing.

There being no further business, old or new, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Fairchild
Secretary

1/4/07