

## CHESAPEAKE SHORTHAND SAILING SOCIETY (CHESST) MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: January 14, 2017

Minutes prepared by: Jeff Halpern, CHESST Secretary

Commodore: Rich Acuti - Present

Vice Commodore: Garner Bennett- Present

Secretary: Jeff Halpern- Present

Treasurer: Joe Gillis- Present

Members at Large: Ed Tracy- Not in Attendance

Chuck Schaeffer- Not in attendance

CHESST Member: Bob Dunigan- Present for beginning of meeting

The meeting was called into to order at 12:45 p.m., January 14, 2017. There were 4 board members and five general members in attendance.

1. Opening Comments:

Rich Acuti made opening comments, welcoming and welcoming everyone for attending. He also thanked WRSC for hosting CHESST. Rich outlined the following agenda for the meeting:

1. Opening Comments
2. Review of the previous year
3. Treasurer's report
4. Goals for year ahead
  - a. Ways to increase member involvement in racing
  - b. Outreach to Spinsheet, Capital, etc.
5. Webpage and Facebook Page
6. Cruising class
7. Discussion on incorporation, dues, insurance, and becoming a CBYRA sanctioned.
8. Review of possible CHESST rules
9. CHESST Challenge
10. Push for commitment for CBYRA races before coordination meeting
11. International interest
12. Specific CHESST oriented races
13. Increasing energy level of board
14. New Business

2. Previous years accomplishments:

Rich noted that CHESSS had good turnout in a seven races. The WRSC was the most popular with 14 boats on the line. Rich noted that CHESSS Treasure Joe Gillis made the century club with a 100 days on the water including a single-handed voyage to the southern end of the Chesapeake. He talked about how the Vende Globe was shining a worldwide light on single-handed sailing. And while talking about international sailing mentioned the French double-handed sailors who have shown an interest in racing with CHESSS.

3. Treasurer's Report

Joe Gillis gave a brief treasurers report. There was approximately \$130 collected at the previous membership meeting and that money is being held intact by Rich Acuti. Joe comments that there are expenses associated with the webpage and that the money should be used for that purpose. A motion was made by Joe Gillis to use the current funds money for the webpage which was seconded by Jeff Halpern and approved by a voice vote with no opposition.

4. Goals for the year ahead:

There was a discussion of ways to increase membership and participation in racing. There was a sense that CHESSS had failed to get the word out and to create a buzz. There was a discussion that the organization does not 'feel' cohesive and there needs to be a better outreach.

The initial suggestions on outreach included creating an email broadcast method, doing more with the webpage, perhaps including how to articles on the webpage, placing articles in Spinsheet, the Capital and other local papers. There was a suggestion of creating a forum or discussion thread on SailNet.

It was agreed that there was a need to create Spinsheet monthly/bimonthly news articles. There was a discussion of Chuck Schaeffer's offer to handle outreach. Chuck had agreed to write CHESSS articles for Spinsheet. It was suggested that these should also be circulated to the Capital as well.

It was also suggested that CHESSS contact local yacht clubs and let them know of our existence and events.

5. Discussion of communications including the webpage, Facebook, Google Groups, and direct email.

There was a general agreement that the webpage was not really successful in reaching our current members and was not working as well as it might as it could. The discussion concluded that there should be simplified log-ins for the forums. It was agreed that that the Google Group page did a better job of broadcasting and fomenting more lively discussion with the membership.

There was also an agreement that the Facebook page was a good medium to reach some members. As a result it was agreed that that all three would be updated with announcements and on-going information.

There was also agreement that there should be a way to email broadcast news and drum up interest for potential races. There was a sense that Google Groups had worked well to facilitate communication, but that an email broadcast method needed to be developed. Rich said that the webpage included a broadcast function and that he would investigate using that in conjunction with Google Groups.

6. Cruising Class:

There was a brief discussion about the Cruising Class which seems to be having some success in building itself into something with a lot of people racing in it. There was some concern that it was trying to be too many things to too many people and that it was overlapping with CHESSS in some ways. It was also discussed that they are scoring under ORC which probably does not make sense for CHESSS's goals.

7. Discussion on incorporation, dues, insurance, and becoming a CBYRA sanctioned.

It was agreed that it was still premature to act on any of these items for the moment, but that the Board should seriously research and make recommendations on these items over the next year. There was a sense that there needed to be a little more growth and steadiness to CHESSS before acting on these. There was a suggested sequence (once the recommendation to proceed was agreed upon) of setting and collecting dues, filing for incorporation as a non-profit, obtaining insurance and then getting as sanctioned class under CBYRA.

8. CHESSS Rules Review:

It was decided that the CHESSS rules were working adequately well and that changes were not required at this time. That said it was agreed that the rules would be revisited if CHESSS grew over the next season.

9. CHESSS Challenge Series:

Garner Bennett agreed to take over facilitating the CHESSS Challenge Series. There was a discussion about what the Challenge Series should be. There seemed to be a consensus that the CHESSS Challenge Series should remain casual and be a way for members to develop skills and confidence. It was agreed that it should include overnight events with associated more relaxed point to point racing for those who wanted to exercise their competitive spirits. It was also agreed that there should be raft ups or gatherings ashore that will be social but also allow for the exchange of ideas.

It was suggested that the early Challenges should be kept short (less than 20 miles) so that newer short-handers can dip their toes in the water, but that longer events should be planned later in the season. It was thought that the first Challenge might even be an extended day sail.

10. Push for commitment to the CBYRA races before coordination meeting and discussion of specific CHESSE oriented races.

Rich made a plea for those in attendance to commit to CBYRA races at the meeting so that he could have a sense of preferences before attending the CBYRA coordination meeting.

11. The visiting French short-hand racing team:

Rich reported on a French short-hand racing team who were planning to sail over to the U.S. to race with CHESSE. There was some discussion of trying to get sufficient boats on the line to make their racing experiences memorable.

12. Specific CHESSE Oriented races:

It was agreed that CHESSE was not in a position to host its own races but that the most popular race on our calendar seemed to be the WRSC Short-handed Classic in the spring which was as close to a CHESSE oriented event as we had. It was recommended that ideally there should be a second CHESSE sympathetic race in the Fall. It was offered that CHESSE could potentially be offered a start in the Herrington Harbor Late summer/Fall classic in this September time frame race. This is by invitation only and would not be CBYRA sanctioned race.

13. Energizing the Board:

There was a discussion that the Board had been somnolent last year. While CHESSE had been able to field boats in a number races, there was a concern that the board needed to be much more active and try to grow and motivate the membership. It was agreed that the Board needed to set clear goals for the year ahead. It was also agreed that the Board need to hold regular meetings. It was agreed that the board would minimally have monthly conference calls on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The first of these conference calls will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Garner Bennett offered to arrange the conference call set up and send out invitations.

## 14. New Business

## a) Membership information and Email list.

It was agreed that we needed to update membership list including all email addresses for the email bulletin mentioned above. Bob Dunigan volunteered to put that together. Jeff Halpern agreed to send Bob whatever information he had and Rich Acuti said that he has the email addresses and names for the Website members and would get those to Bob as well. As a part of this discussion it was agreed that Rich would also gather information of individual members which would be forwarded to Chuck Schaeffer to be used for member profiles.

## b) CHESSS Banner.

Bob Dunigan suggested that CHESSS should have a banner that it can display at post race parties as way of increasing interest and allowing members to find each other. Bob volunteered to create the banner. Jeff Halpern agreed to forward the previously generated burgee designs.

## c) The Donut collection jar resulted in a \$111.00 being donated to support club costs such as web hosting.

## d) Membership Outreach Drive:

It was decided that one of the board's key goals for the next year needed to be to create an outreach/ membership drive.

## e) Short-handed skills seminar:

It was agreed that CHESSS would hold a round table to discuss short-handed sailing techniques.

## f) More webpage:

It was suggested that the webpage should change regularly and contain useful information that is likely to draw frequent views. The recommendation is that the web page should include useful links to wind models, weather, announcements of boat gear sales as well as articles on short-handed sailing, etc.

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

## In Attendance:

Member	Boat Name
Garner Bennett	Sea Dragon
Pope Barrow	Echo II
Joe Gillis	Trilogy
Walter Winans	Endurance
Ted Slotwinski	(Ex) Zalek
Robert Dunigan	Off the Hook
Jeff Halpern	Synergy
Rich Acuti	Festina Lente
Tom McVey	Midnight Breeze