

Minutes for NESSA Annual Meeting

4 November 2001

Call to Order: 10:33 AM by President Roger Rawlings

Attendance (46):

Regular Members (28): New Members (15): Barnstable HS – Jim Terkelsen, BB&N - Tom Moscarillo, Belmont Hill – Chris Zamore, Bishop Stang – Dick Hitchcock, Branford HS - Margie Murray & Hap Storer, Brewster Academy - Dave Jeffers, Brunswick School - Paul Steinborn, Chatham HS – Greg Kelly, Darien HS – Barry Baldwin, Dartmouth HS – Warren Hathaway, Duxbury HS – Chad Demarest, Falmouth HS – Andy Ellis, East Lyme HS - Jim Anderson, Greenwich Academy – Linda Lovelace, Greenwich HS - Rita Baker, Harwich HS – John Dickson, Hingham HS – Stan Campbell & Kim Doble, Hotchkiss School - Roger Rawlings, Loyalton Hall – Susan Gilchrist & Ted Lelek, Lincoln-Sudbury RHS - Mark Sobkowicz, Martha's Vineyard RHS – Doug Heil, Milton Academy - Dennis Glynn & Anna Longstaff, Moses Brown - Pam Matson, Nauset HS – Warren Silver, North Kingston HS – Doug Nannig, Portsmouth Abbey - Aroline Seibert, Rocky Hill – Victoria Guck, Rogers HS - Matt Largess & Karen Neri, Sandwich HS – David O'Hara, St. John's Prep - Bill Mackinson, St George's - Roy Williams, St Margaret's-McTernan - Sabin Colton, St Sebastian's - Chris Rynne, Tabor Academy - Rob Hurd & Chris Conley, Wellesley HS - Max Achtau, Williams School - Prescott Littlefield, Winsor School - Wally Gleekman.

Others (3): Community Boating Center – Andy Herlihy, Mass Bay League – Carl Zimba (President), Past President - Toby Baker

1. Secretary's Report (Rob Hurd)

a. There are 23 regular members who meet the voting requirements as stated in the by-laws. They are:

Barnstable HS, Belmont Hill School, BN&N, Branford HS, Brewster Academy, Brunswick School, Daniel Hand HS, East Lyme HS, Fairfield College Prep, Greenwich HS, Hotchkiss School, Lincoln-Sudbury RHS, Long Trail School, Milton Academy, Moses Brown School, Nantucket HS, Portsmouth Abbey, Rogers HS, St George's School, St John's Prep, St Sebastian's School, Tabor Academy, Williams School.

b. There are 13 schools are eligible to be upgrade from New Member status to Regular member status. The schools that fulfilled the requirements as stated in the by-laws are: Sandwich HS (MA), Darien HS (CT) and Martha's Vineyard Regional HS. The Secretary/Treasurer puts forward all three schools for consideration with a full endorsement.

All three were accepted as Regular Members by a unanimous vote of the membership. All three are eligible to vote at today's meeting.

c. Attendance sheet was passed around the room. There were 46 in attendance, representing 37 schools.

d. As of 2 November 2001, NESSA has 64 paid members. There are 15-20 schools from last year that are still outstanding membership. I expect we will see some re-enrollment, which should bring our projected 2002 membership to ~ 75 schools.

e. New NESSA e-mail list has been successful. Every school must have a contact on the list.

To send a message to the list: NESSA@topica.com

To subscribe, send a blank email to: NESSA-subscribe@topica.com

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to: NESSA-unsubscribe@topica.com

2. Treasurer's Report (Rob Hurd)

- f. Balance in the account as of 1 August 2001 = \$4930.00
- g. Last Year - income exceeded expenses by + \$ 744.38
- h. The Treasurer recommends continuing the policy of charging a small regatta fee for the O'Day regatta.
- i. 2002 Budget. (Income: \$7920.00 Expenses: \$7825.00)

3. Vice-President's Report (Jim Terkelsen)

A. 2001 Review

After a long cold winter, sailors across New England took to the waters in 2001 to once again test their skill and their will. For some schools, Mother Nature proved to be too much as Northern Schools and lake schools had to wait for thick layers of ice to melt away. All across NESSA, people are continually working together to provide high school sailors with great events at great venues. An increasing amount of "new" volunteers came forward in 2001 and NESSA tapped into several "new" venues. With the growing popularity of this sport in high school, we encourage schools to open their doors for events, as it is a great way of promoting your team and our sport. As you look forward to 2002, our volunteer base should continue to grow, as events will once again be packed with sailors.

B. NESSA Fleet Racing Championship (O'Day Trophy):

1. Qualifying Round: Over the years, NESSA has seen the increase in the number of teams registering for this event. More teams are catching on across New England and more teams are growing in size, thus the O'Day is expanding in the number of qualifying sites available. In an effort to keep traveling to a minimum and bring teams to different areas of New England, we responded by placing the qualifiers throughout the region. The 5 sites were, The Hotchkiss School, St. George's School, Dartmouth High School, Brewster Academy and Duxbury Bay Maritime School. Of these 5 sites, 3 of the sites were first time venue selections and the volunteers who ran the events "got their feet wet" in running a small NESSA event. Mother Nature would not cooperate with us as she left 16" of ice in Wolfboro Bay and forced us to only use 4 venues. Once again, the member schools in NESSA responded to a slight problem in the cancellation of this venue, and picked up the slack by allowing us the use of more boats than expected at the four remaining venues. Thank you to Roger Rawlings, Roy Williams, Warren Hathaway, David Jeffers and Chad Demarest and each of the schools hosting for providing the sailors with an excellent qualifying round. Schools wishing to host a 2002 qualifier should contact Jim Terkelsen to express their interest. Selections will be made in December/January.

2. Championship Round: The 2001 O'Day was hosted by Portsmouth Abbey School and chaired by Katie Butlin. It was the second time Portsmouth Abbey has held the event in conjunction with Bristol YC. Once again, the O'Day was well managed and good sailing was the order of the day. Schools were also treated to a look at the Herreshoff Museum located just across the street from the viewing area. Sailing had to be abandoned after only 5 races in each division as wind conditions became unmanageable. Congratulations to Milton Academy for winning the 2001 O'Day Trophy. Thank you to Katie Butlin, Bristol YC, the Bristol YC Race Committee and the Herreshoff Museum for putting together a great event.

C. NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy)

The 2001 Mark Trophy was hosted by Tabor Academy. With the advent of a new course and the backdrop of the vessel Tabor Boy, the event was held without a hitch. Day 1 racing was completed ahead of schedule and the Championship round was begun on Day 1. Day 2 was a quick day of racing and sailors were home early. Racing was outstanding on both days and the sportsmanship displayed by all was in good order. Congratulations to The William's School on winning their first Mark Trophy. Thank you to Rob Hurd, Tabor Academy and the crew of Tabor Boy who did a masterful job in running this event and followed it with an outstanding Baker Trophy the following weekend.

D. NESSA Women's Invite (Herreshoff Trophy)

The 2001 Women's Invite continues to be a well-attended event. As high school sailing grows in popularity, so do the number of female sailors. This year's event was held at Coast Guard Academy and was chaired by Amy Gross, who is a big advocate for female sailors. Amy did a super job working with the Coast Guard Academy to provide NESSA sailors with a quality regatta on a holiday weekend. Registrations filled quickly and early and the event was again another success. In the future, we would like to go back to holding this event at two venues to allow more females to enjoy the competition. Any school wishing to host the Women's Invite should contact Jim Terkelsen.

E. NESSA Single-handed Championship (Healy Trophy)

The 2002 Healy was brought back to Sail Newport under the efforts of Matt Largess and Rogers High School. Matt spent extensive hours contacting and working with the Laser guru's of Newport to get this regatta off the ground and underway. Registration was down this year as compared to years past, but the sailing was still very competitive and the day was perfect. Light winds gave way to a feeble afternoon sea breeze and racing was concluded on time. Thank you to Matt Largess, Roger's High School, Race Committee Chair Dan Neri and the volunteers who helped to run this event. The move to making this a BYOB event has proved to be a good move, as racing is tight, more people are involved and more venues are available for this event to be held at. Any school wishing to host the 2003 Healy in late September of 2002 should contact Jim Terkelsen.

F. NESSA Fall Funfest (Gleekman Trophy)

For the first time in a long time, Wally Gleekman was not available to run the Fall Funfest. Due to the tragic events, which unfolded on September 11, 2001, Wally needed time to spend with his family in the New York City area. Wally was greatly missed at the event and in his absence, Carl Zimba and Charlie Zechel took over as co-chairs of the event. Not only is this event the Fall Funfest but it also serves as the qualifier for the new ISSA event called the Great Oaks Regatta. Both events are run at the same time, but teams eligible for the Great Oaks Regatta are only scored in A Division, while the Funfest results are based on both A and B Division. Thank you to Carl, Charlie, CBI and the other coaches on the water in running this event in Wally's absence.

G. Damage/Rules Check up

In the last 2 years, the NESSA leadership has stressed the importance of respecting borrowed equipment, facilities and the fundamental rule of Sportsmanship. This message has been repeatedly carried forward at the annual meeting and given to the coaches to work with each of their respective teams. I am very happy to report that no major problems have occurred to equipment or venues on loan to the sailors of NESSA. Additionally, although racing is getting tighter, the number of protests and unsportsmanlike behavior has decreased significantly. In my opinion, this is due to the efforts of each coach and the diligent job each of us is doing with these sailors. Thank you to the coaches and sailors for reaffirming NESSA's leadership in caring for equipment and sportsmanship. Let's not slip backwards; let's keep working with these kids to ensure we remain a class act at all events.

H. 2002 Season

Venue selection as of this printing is not final, but sites are in mind.

1. Date: April 20-21, 2002: The O'Day Trophy may be held at Coast Guard Academy. A decision on this venue will not be reached until January 1, 2002. Please watch your email for updates.
2. Date: May 18-19, 2002. The Mark Trophy may be held at Dartmouth College or Bowdoin College. A decision on the venue will not be reached until January 1, 2002. Please watch your email for updates.
3. Any school wishing to host an O'Day Qualifier, Women's Invite or 2003 Healy should contact Jim Terkelsen by phone or by email. Selections for these events will be made in December/January.

Date: Saturday April 20, 2002. The O'Day Qualifiers requirements: A school needs to have at least 8 equal boats in good condition, a rotation area close to the racing area as well as support boats on the water. To date, Tabor Academy, St George's, Hotchkiss, and Dartmouth HS have submitted bids to host a qualifying round.

Date: Sunday May 12, 2002. The Women's Invite is in the need for 1 or possibly 2 venues. Our intent is to host this event at one of the member schools in NESSA. To date Mount Desert Isle and Portsmouth Abbey have submitted bids to host.

2003 Healy Trophy is a long way off, but securing a site now helps in notification. This event is a BYOB event held on a Sunday in late September. It can be sailed anywhere there is beach space or a launching area. Host sites only need to provide Race Committee and support craft for about 40 lasers. To date: Dartmouth HS has submitted a bid to host this event.

4. The Fall Funfest information will follow in a September e-mail. (Usually held the first Sunday in Oct).

5. The Downeast Invite is not a NESSA event, but Jim Modisette has indicated that the event will be either May 11-12, 2002 or May 18-19, 2002 at Maine MA. NOR will be sent to the NESSA e-mail list when more information is available.

I. Registration Changes for 2002-2003

All registrations for NESSA events will now be done by email. NESSA will no longer be mailing registration forms or registering teams via fax or mail. All NOR information and registration info will come via the NESSA@topica.com site and teams are responsible for having a person in charge of obtaining this information. Additionally, registration for all NESSA sponsored events will all go to Jim Terkelsen at coachterk@hotmail.com.

4. President's Report (Roger Rawlings)

Eight years ago I was driving along the road bordering Lake Wononscopomuc in Lakeville, CT and I saw 420's on the water. I had no idea that The Hotchkiss School had a sailing team until that time. These past eight years have brought me closer to the sport that I grew up with and have given me the opportunity to meet some very special people.

I will always remember the sailors on my teams. I will recall fondly their small idiosyncrasies, their humor and their intensity. When they come back for reunions we still laugh at the same jokes and recall fondly the many van rides that we shared.

But even with those wonderful and continuing memories of my student sailors I am happiest when I think of the volunteer efforts that have kept high school sailing growing. To see coaches, teachers and parents involved at the grass roots level as well as at the championship level is very gratifying. We should be proud of ourselves for what we are providing these young people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two especially hard working individuals with the NESSA family. Four years ago Rob Hurd, Jim Terkelsen and I were elected to the Board of NESSA. Since that time NESSA has continued as the premiere district with in ISSA. Before we started our tenure NESSA boards in the past had already formulated by-laws, structured championships and encouraged growth among our public school members. We owe our success to these past boards.

In the past four years however NESSA has experienced almost two-fold growth. Applications to our team race championship have doubled. The double-handed championship has grown from a one-day event into a two-day event with up to five qualifying venues. Our single-handed championship has been moving around the district and attracting more sailors yearly.

The very large majority of this success is due solely to Rob and Jim. Rob has opened our lines of communication through the Internet. He has organized our finances so we are able to offer more and better trophies. He has suggested by-law revisions that keep our organization running smoothly. He works tirelessly on the newsletter and the membership roster. Rob's forethought and energy are boundless.

Jim has mastered the role of regatta chairman. He is constantly seeking new venues for our sailors to experience. His list of judges is long and distinguished. NESSA championship regattas are run at the highest level of expertise due to Jim's management and oversight.

These two have made NESSA what it is today. Please find them this season and thank them for their hard work, fairness and the opportunities they have provided for our student sailors. I will always remember that day seeing sailing on a small Connecticut lake, but I will cherish my friendships with my fellow coaches and board members.

5. By-Law Changes.

Proposal #1: Presently, schools sign-up for regattas and are no-shows. This practice plays havoc with the scheduling and running of NESSA events. The goal of this procedural rule is to place more responsibility on the individual schools for their scheduling commitments. The wording comes from an existing ICSA procedural rule.

Section II: Procedural Rules Article L- Penalty for Failure to Compete.

Section 1: A school, which fails to attend a NESSA Regatta for which it has been scheduled, attends with less than a full team, or departs before the conclusion of the regatta without the consent of the Event Chair, shall be placed on probation for 2 years, effective from the date of the incident. If a school fails to meet the above criteria while on probation, the school shall not be permitted to schedule or compete in any NESSA regattas for the next year.

Section 2: This penalty shall not be imposed if the NESSA Vice-president or the Event Chair is notified at least 48 hours prior to the report time of the regatta.

Section 3: This penalty may be modified or set aside for compelling reason. Request for penalty modification shall be fully documented and sent to the NESSA President, who shall send the documentation, with a recommendation for action to the NESSA Executive Committee, who shall make the final ruling.

Discussion/Questions:

1. What does probation mean? Answer: It is basically a warning. If you fail to meet your obligations while on probation, you will be ineligible for NESSA events for the next year.

2. Is this for dual meets too? Answer: This only pertains to the NESSA events as outlined in the By-laws. Presently that is the O'Day and its qualifiers, the Mark, the Healy, the Herreshoff and the Gleekman.

Proposal passed by unanimous vote of the membership.

Proposal #2: NESSA has a policy that allows a school that wins a NESSA event for which there is a trophy to hold the trophy for a year. The officers would like to continue that policy and to clearly outline the responsibilities of a trophy holder more clearly.

Section II: Procedural Rules Article M - Trophy Winner Responsibilities

Section 1: A school that wins a NESSA regatta for which there is a permanent trophy may hold that trophy until the regatta is sailed next. The winning school is responsible for engraving costs of the trophy, the trophy's safekeeping, and returning the trophy to the appropriate regatta when it is sailed next. Failure to return the trophy shall result in a DSQ in the first race in each division for that regatta if the event is a fleet race.

Section 2: In the case where more than one school is to share the trophy, each school shall have roughly equal time with the trophy. The school that holds the trophy first shall be responsible for getting it engraved properly (at a shared cost with the other school(s)). The school that holds the trophy last is responsible for returning it when the regatta is sailed next. Failure to return the trophy shall result in a DSQ in the first race in each division for that regatta.

Discussion/ Questions:

These amendments were offered.

1. Add the statement: "If the event is a team race, 1 loss will be added and 1 win will be subtracted from the school's total." To section 1 and section 2.
2. Add: "for that team" after DSQ in section 1 and section 2
3. Correct typos in section 2.

Proposal was approved by unanimous vote of the membership with the above amendments.

6. Executive Committee:

Under By-Law Section I, Article D: section 2, the President announces three additions to the Executive Committee. They are:

1. Roy Williams (St. George's) who will coordinate the NESSA Website with the Secretary/Treasurer.
2. Prescott Littlefield (Williams School) who will oversee Fall NESSA Regattas and coordinate judges for NESSA regattas with the Vice-president.
3. Warren Hathaway (Dartmouth HS) and Doug Heil (Martha's Vineyard RHS) who will coordinate NESSA's growing affiliation with "local leagues" with the President.

7. Selection Formula for the NESSA Teams (Jim Terkelsen)

A Formula (Plan F) has been created to rank teams that apply to the NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy). With so many teams interested in this championship, the officers, who are responsible for selecting the 8 schools to compete, felt it was best to establish a more objective process. The officers hope to use this plan for the next two years and re-evaluate, revamp, or redraw it if necessary. It is submitted to the membership for comment, but not as a by-law change.

Plan F:

The top 8 schools that apply by the deadline as listed in the NOR and meet the criteria for application will be selected by formula for the NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy)

Criteria. To be considered for selection to the NESSA Teams Championship (Mark Trophy), a school must race at least 7 meets against NESSA teams. A meet is defined as a dual meet in the best of three or higher format sailed in the season within which the championship is to take place. Cancelled meets shall not count towards the total of seven. A meet may be cancelled by mutual consent of both coaches otherwise it shall be considered a forfeit. For reasons of safety, the home coach may cancel a meet without penalty if the weather conditions create an unsafe environment. A visiting coach may cancel a meet without penalty if the driving conditions are unsafe. In either case, every effort shall be made to make up the meet unless there is mutual agreement not to.

Formula.

- a. Schools that meet the above criteria will be listed first to last in the following categories.
 - i. Winning percentage against all NESSA teams sailed.
 - ii. Winning percentage against all NESSA teams that apply, meet the criteria for the NESSA Team Racing Championship, and have a winning percentage against all NESSA teams of 0.500 or higher

iii. Winning percentage against teams that have qualified for the NESSA Team Racing championship for the past two (2) years.

a. Schools shall earn points equal to their winning percentage (to three decimal places) times 100 (i.e., winning percentage of 0.876 get 876 pts). The points from all three lists will be added to create a school's Total Score.

b. The school with the highest Total Score will be ranked first overall. The school with the second highest Total Score will be ranked second overall and so on until all teams are ranked.

c. Ties: If there is a tie between teams in Total Score, it shall be broken by

1. Head to head record between the tied teams.

2. Winning percentage against common opponent.

3. Winning percentage against all NESSA teams that apply, meet the criteria for the NESSA Team Racing Championship, and have a winning percentage against all NESSA teams of 0.500 or higher.

4. Winning percentage against teams that have qualified for the NESSA Team Racing championship for the past two (2) years.

5. Winning percentage against all NESSA teams sailed.

6. By the NESSA officers, who shall resolve the tie in the fairest manner they see fit.

Discussion/ Questions:

1. What is to prevent a school from sailing seven meets against the same school? Solution: add "7 different" in front of NESSA teams in criteria so that it reads " 7 meets against 7 different NESSA teams."

2. What happens to a school that sails 7 meets against 7 different schools and goes 4-3, but one of the wins, and only one of the wins, was against a school that applied with a better than 0.500 record and was a past participant. It is possible for a school to collect a quick 2000 points here and probably qualify for the Mark, when they may not deserve too? Answer: Good question. It might be possible and this formula may not cover that situation.

3. No matter what standard you use, it will not be perfect. Some subjectivity has to be involved in the decision process.

4. Was there a complaint about the selection method last year? Answer: No, but the so many more schools applying for the NESSA teams each year, it is tougher and tougher to rank schools visa vie each other that the officers wanted to develop a more subjective method.

5. Could we get more people involved with the ranking system? Answer: Too many people make it more difficult, but with new emphasis on local leagues, it is possible to find out from each league where the teams in those league stand visa vie each other. This might be one area that W Hathaway and D Heil as new members of the executive committee can help.

6. Some different systems were offered, some that had already been rejected by the officers (which is why plan F was submitted), some with a fresh perspective in the situation. People with other plans were encouraged to e-mail them to NESSA@Topica.com for further discussion by all involved.

7. It was resolved that the officers would use Plan F as a guideline for selection, but that a subjective component should remain in the selection process.

8. New Business:

a. 2003 Mallory: NESSA is in the beginning stages of contracting with Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH to host the 2003 Mallory. If there is another school with access to 20+ boats that is interested in hosting this event, contact NESSA President ASAP.

b. Under the new ISSA procedural rules, coaches are allowed to consult with their athletes AFTER the sailor has filed their protest with the Race Committee. Since dual meets are used for qualification for the NESSA teams, which is a qualification for the ISSA teams, the ISSA PRs play a role in dual meets. This creates a potentially sticky situation since coaches are often the ones who adjudicate protests at dual meets. The NESSA President urges all coaches NOT consult with their kids before a protest in a dual meet. At the very least, all coaches should outline the grounds rules for protest carefully and thoroughly with all the sailors during the sailor's meeting, so there is not an unfair advantage, actual or perceived, does not occur.

9. Old Business:

a. Baker Tickets: NESSA plans to purchase advanced tickets for the Baker Trophy (to be held in Detroit in May) as it did in 2000. Departure will be from Providence, RI on Friday May 24, 2002 with return either on Sunday May 26, 2002 or Monday May 27, 2002 depending on the availability of flights. More information about this purchase will be made available in the spring.

10. Nominating Committee Report: (Chris Zamore- Belmont Hill School (past NESSA president))

Slate of officers put forward by the Nominating Committee for a two-year term per the by-laws.

President – Roger Rawlings (Hotchkiss School)

Vice-President – Jim Terkelsen (Barnstable HS)

Secretary/Treasurer – Rob Hurd (Tabor Academy)

Slate approved by unanimous vote of the membership.

11. Meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM