

NESSA Annual Meeting
 Sunday November 2, 2014
 The Williams School
 182 Mohegan Ave New London, CT 06320
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

School	Name
B. C. High	Farrell, Mary
Barnstable HS	Nugnes, Andrew
Barrington HS	KLOC Dennis
Bayview HS	Hackett, Mike
East Greenwich High School	Pearson, Chris
Falmouth HS ME	Robinson, Chris
Martha's Vineyard RHS	Burr, Andrew
Middletown HS	Read, Brad
Milton Academy	Broome, Patrick
Moses Brown	Crane, Chris
North Kingstown HS	Sayre, Andrew
Portland High School	Tiernan, Gerry
Portsmouth Abbey	Harley, Jonathan
Rogers HS & Middletown HS	Wilson, Kate
Sharon HS	Werden, Gary
St. George's School	Cramer, Cory
Tabor Academy	Hurd, Rob
Tabor Academy	Muther, Cindy
The Hotchkiss School	Rawlings, Roger
The Williams School	Littlefield, Prescott
Yarmouth HS, Maine	Palmer, Leigh

1. CALL TO ORDER – 1032 by NESSA President Andrew Nugnes

A short presentation from Brad Reed (Sail Newport) regarding the Volvo Ocean Race and the stop over in Newport, RI May 5-17, 2015. There will two weekend opportunities to visit the village and see the interactive display. On May 9-10, 2015, Sail Newport will be hosting a High School Keelboat event. Information about that will be posted on the NESSA website when it becomes available. And on May 16-17, every student involved in high school sailing will get the chance to be a Sail Newport volunteer which will grant them access to the village and the program. It is also a chance to earn community service hours, if your school tracks that information.

2. REPORTS:

A. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Rob Hurd (interim secretary)

Secretary's Report

- a. Minutes from the November 2013 NESSA Annual Meeting have been displayed on the NESSA website since January 2014. Motion to approve minutes passes without objection.
- b. Based upon by-laws, any Regular Member school that has paid 2014-2015 dues and is in attendance has voting privileges for this meeting.
- c. A New Member School may request a change of status from New to Regular Member if they meet the requirements as listed in Section I; Article C: Membership of the By-Laws. No school has requested such a change, and has met the requirements necessary for that change.
- d. Attendance was taken when you registered. If you did not sign in when you arrived, please make sure you do before departing.
- e. As of Saturday November 1st, NESSA membership stood as follows:
Active Members – 46
Pending Members – 6
Inactive Members – 54
Dues payments are due by the Annual Meeting. Inactive schools that plan to participate in the Spring must pay their dues now or risk being ineligible for Spring regattas.
- f. Probations:
 1. The currently list of schools on probation because of violations to Article L of the By-Laws - Swampscott HS until 4-26-16 (No show at O'Day Qualifier)
 2. The following schools have been removed from the probation list: none
 3. There are no schools with a second violation of Article L while on probation: none

Schools are reminded that they have an obligation to their competitors when registering for events, and are encouraged to review section L of the bylaws.

- g. Housekeeping:
 - All official correspondences are done via the website and the NESSA list-serves. Each school is responsible for checking the website and ensuring they are on the list-serves. Information for how to subscribe to the list-serves is on the website.
 - In order for the scoring program to work best, schools are reminded to populate their team rosters prior to competition. Furthermore, updating your school's mascot and uploading a school burgee will enhance the presence of your team in the Tech Score results.

Secretary's report approved by voice vote with no objection.

B. Treasurer's Report
2013-2014 NESSA Financial Report

Debts

Credits

Beginning Balance			\$13,014.66
2013-14 NESSA Membership	87		\$9,570.00
2013-14 Regatta Fees			\$1,580.00
3 Nessa Team Deposits			\$1,500.00
TOTAL INCOME			\$12,650.00
TOTAL CREDITS			\$25,664.66
NESSA EXPENSES			
OUTSTANDING T-SHIRT		-\$1,594.00	
LAST YEAR'S T-SHIRT		-\$1,602.00	
2014 CRESSY		-\$3,338.00	
ISSA MEMBERSHIP		-\$7,395.00	
Umpire Fees		-\$1,050.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		-\$14,979.00	
ENDING BALANCE			\$10,685.66

- There was a switch over of the account last year from Nick, to Andrew, to Kevin, and now to Roger. In the process, some of the details were lost, but the \$10,685.66 number represents the balance in the account which means that NESSA is in good financial health right now.
- A more detailed record keeping will be done this year.
- Questions: Three teams deposit from Tabor, Hothckiss, & Milton are not income for the Association, but monies on hold for 2015.

Treasurer's report approved by voice vote with no objection.

C. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Alexa Schuler

2014 REVIEW: Results posted on website - <http://nessa.hssailing.org/schedule/2013-2014>

SPRING 2014

1. NESSA Fleet Racing Championship (O'Day Trophy)

April 25 and 26, 2014

5 Qualifying Sites:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Tabor Academy | 11 schools (1no show)/ 10 races per div. |
| 2. Marblehead HS/ Pleon YC | 12 schools/ 8 races per div. |
| 3. SailMaine | 8 schools/ 5 races per div. |
| 4. The Hotchkiss School | 7 schools/ 3 races per div. |
| 5. St. Georges/ Ida Lewis YC | 11 Schools/ 7 races per div. |

Championship Regatta, April 26, 2014 – USCGA (New London, CT)

18 schools in C420s and FJs

REGATTA HIGHLIGHTS: The Sunday of racing on the Thames River began with a puffy Northerly and hopeful high school sailors hit the water at 10:00. As the morning progressed the wind gradually tapered off as the out-flowing current increased. Current management became the theme of the morning before a mid-regatta lunch break after 4A and 4B. After lunch, the majority of a seamless set was sailed before the breeze began to become uncertain. Low cumulonimbus clouds added depth before a bluebird background and brought consistent breeze when they massed above the course. The current remained prevalent as the final set began around 2:00 pm. Large holes on the race course and a 3:00 pm start deadline coupled to end the regatta after seven races sailed in each division. Congratulations to The Hotchkiss School for winning the regatta.

2. NESSA Team Racing Championships (Mark & Terk Trophies)

May 17-18, 2014

Thirty-four schools competed for berths in either the Mark Trophy (1-8) or the Terk Trophy (9-16) based upon the format (50% computer rankings, and 50% executive committee rankings) approved by the membership.

Mark Trophy: Cape Cod Academy/ Wianno YC (C420s)

(1) St George's*, (2) Cape Cod Academy*, (3) Portsmouth Abbey, (4) The Hotchkiss School, (5) Manchester-Essex HS**, (6) Martha's Vineyard RHS**, (7) Milton Academy**, (8) Brunswick School.

Terk Trophy: Barnstable HS/Hyannis YC (C420 & FJs)

(1) Tabor Academy**, (2) Duxbury HS, (3) Moses Brown, (4) Dartmouth HS, (5) Middletown HS, (6) North Kingstown HS, (7) Wayland, HS, (8) Sharon HS

* = qualified for ISSA Baker trophy ** = qualified for ISSA Founders trophy

3. NESSA Women's Championship (Herreshoff Trophy)

May 11, 2014 Barnstable HS/ Hyannis YC in C420s

REGATTA HIGHLIGHTS: 11 Teams took to the waters of Lewis Bay on a gorgeous Mother's Day. Wind conditions were shifty out of the West/South West for most of the morning into the afternoon. A strong warm sea breeze arrived just after noon and kicked up to puffs over 20knots. Hyannis Yacht Club's End "T" was the hang out rotation area for the day that made for quick exchanges and quite the view. The competition was tight all day and the ladies should be commended for their efforts and a job well done. We'll see you again in 2015! Thank you to Sarah Yuskaitis and Patrick Broome for acting in as the RC. Thanks to Alexa Schuler for setting up a wonderful season for NESSA Women. Congrats to Tabor Academy for winning the 2014 NESSA Women's Championship, The Herreshoff Trophy.

FALL 2014

Results posted on website - <http://nessa.hssailing.org/schedule/nessa14-15/schedule/nessa-s>

4. 2015 NESSA Single-handed Championship (Healy Trophy)

October 5, 2014 SailMaine

REGATTA HIGHLIGHTS: Seven Laser Full Rig and fifteen Laser Radial Rig sailors ventured out onto the waters of Casco Bay on Sunday. Mostly sunny skies and shifty wind between 8 and 15 knots greeted the sailors. Full rig sailors completed eight races to the radial fleet's six. A number of general recalls in the radial fleet led to the smaller number of races. No protests were filed by the racers and a number of penalties were resolved on the race course. Despite frequent wind shifts of 30 degrees, it was a good day of short course racing.

5. Great Oaks Qualifiers

A. Polar Bear Open - Bowdoin College	September 7, 2014	Marblehead HS Cape Elizabeth HS
B. Arnold Brown Regatta – Sail MV	September 20, 2014	Martha's Vineyard RHS
C. Casco Bay Fall Open – SailMaine	September 28, 2014	Falmouth HS (ME)

6. NESSA Fall Funfest (Gleekman Trophy)

Saturday October 11, 2014 at Sharon HS/ Lake Massapoag YC

REGATTA HIGHLIGHTS: It was cold and rained most of the time. The wind held steady at about 6 mph from the north-northeast.

SPRING 2015

Fleet Racing Championship (O'Day Trophy)

April 25-26, 2015

Qualifying Regatta's - Saturday, April 25th

1. Tabor, MA (Z420) 2. Lakeville, CT (C420) 3. Essex, CT (C420) 4. Marblehead, MA (C420)

Finals – Sunday April 26th

St George's school – C420s

Team Racing Championships (Mark & Terk Trophies)

Saturday and Sunday – May 16-17 Site: possibly at SailMaine

Women's (Herreshoff Trophy)

Saturday and Sunday May 9-10 Site: TBD

Vice President's report approved by voice vote with no objections.

C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Andrew Nunges

NESSA has seen its share of growth and changes in my ten-year as an officer. Although growth is important to our sport and NESSA promotes the addition of new start up teams each year and regattas, more and more responsibilities have fallen on the Officers voted to run this organization. I want to take this opportunity to apologize to all of you for how I have failed to maintain my duties as the NESSA President over the past Fall months. I feel like I have let a lot of teams and individuals down and have felt the stresses of the “job”. And no, this is not a resignation speech!

Many of us have amazing talents in the sport of sailing. Many of you contribute to NESSA fairly consistently and have ideas that allow all of us to do our jobs as coaches smoother. This past summer and fall I received notice that VP Alexa Schuler was moving across the pond to be with her new beau. Congrats Alexa...and she sends her best to all of you. And Kevin Dooley, newly appointed Treasurer is in between things at the moment and doesn't know his future with NESSA, but is hoping to join us again soon. So, as you can see I've been a one-man band trying to organize all of the pieces of NESSA.

For the past five years I have appointed an Executive committee, comprised of various coaches representing different leagues and different parts of New England. The EXCOMM members are kept abreast of all NESSA business, via email, mostly. They have helped the Officers make tough decisions and contributed to the team racing rankings.

I see The EXCOMM playing an even bigger role in NESSA's organization. I've realized over my ten-year that I'm good at certain things, but not as effective at others. Having more willing hands to help can only make all of our lives easier. NESSA has ben through transitions before. For example, NESSA used to register all events via snail mail, then email. Then came Google Docs and the expertise of Carl Zimba; now we register online and instantly see the results. I think that we can all agree that this has been a positive change.

Rob Hurd has been our website guy and score keeper since I can remember. Alexa was great at reaching out to venues and friends in the business and was able to find great places for our students to sail. She also was extremely precise about registration, deadlines, and logistics. Roger and Roy offer their expertise and experience because they've seen it so many times before. And there are others willing to help out. Recently, Jonathan from Portsmouth Abbey volunteered to proof reading and update all the NESSA Regatta documents. A fresh set of eyes can only help minimize mistakes and confusions.

NESSA has grown into a task that is larger than three or four officers. We all lead busy lives, although sometimes I get the impression that membership thinks this is all I do ☺. I hope a wife and family are in my future and I know when that day comes, I'm not going to be able to volunteer this much time to NESSA nor do I believe that any one or two individuals should have to devote that much time to keep up the Organization. A spread of responsibility and duty over ten people sounds like a much better way to tackle the demands of NESSA.

I have begun kicking around some ideas on changing the governance structure of NESSA and while I am not ready to unveil a plan just yet, I want us all to think about the change that must happen in the next 12 months for NESSA to remain a vibrant organization to serves the 90-school membership well.

President's report approved by voice vote with no objections and Andrew was thanks for his continued time and effort with the organization.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Report from the ISSA Annual Meeting - Rob Hurd

Highlights:

- Good meeting/phone call on Friday October 31, 2014. Minutes from that meeting will be posted on the ISSA website soon - <http://hssailing.org/resources/board-meeting>
- Board approved two changes to the ISSA PRs
 - Putting a 2 week time-table on home schooler seeking approval from District Directors and defining virtual school students as “Home Schooled student.”
 - Adopted new USCG language for PFD types.
- Board has three other issues to consider:
 - Reinstating the possibility of a sail-off to break ties in team racing regattas.
 - Mandatory Pinnies for regattas (tabled)
 - Spending up to \$7K on developing a registration system to tie into the Tech Score program (tabled for now)
- Board continues to encourage districts to run “silver division regattas” for those schools that don’t qualify for national championships. NESSA was praised for running both the Terk and the NIT in the spring. There is momentum for 1-2 Mallory type intersectional maybe starting in May 2015.
- NESSA needs to elect a second person to the board; someone who, along with the NESSA President, can participate on call and relay information back to NESSA member schools.

c. Replacement of Officers

Vice-President Chris Crane (Moses Brown)

Interim Treasurer Roger Rawlings (the Hotchkiss School)

Interim Secretary Rob Hurd (Tabor Academy)

These people are appointed by the president to serve out the term of the elected officers they replaced. No objections were raised at this meeting regarding their service

4. NEW BUSINESS

Proposed changes to by-laws are in italics

1. Proposed change to NESSA By-Law Article F: Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held during the fall term. Other meetings may be held upon petition by at least five Regular Member schools to the *NESSA President* who will determine the time and place of the meeting. *Notice of all NESSA meetings must be posted at least 10-day prior to the meeting.*

By-law change approved by voice vote with no objections.

2. Proposed change to NESSA By-Law Article H; By-law and Procedural Rules

The By-Laws and Procedural Rules may be amended by vote of the majority of the Regular Members at the Annual Meeting *or any other meeting properly held in accordance with Article F*

Motion defeated 15-3. By hand vote.

Membership likes the present format of only changing by-laws at the annual meeting.

3. Proposed change to NESSA By-Laws Article C: Membership, section 3

Section 3: To be a NESSA member, Regular or New, schools must complete an Annual Membership Form and pay school dues to be issued on a school check or a check (*or through the Association's PayPal account*) that is accompanied by a letter of authorization from the school. *Schools competing in the fall term must register and pay dues by September 1st; all other schools must register and pay dues by January 1st. Schools that do not complete their registration renewal by January 1st are not eligible for NESSA Spring regattas.* ~~by the Annual Meeting. Schools may registered after that date by following the above procedures, but thee schools may not appear in the annual official NESSA active Membership List and may not be eligible for all NESSA sponsored regattas.~~

A. After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn and a new motion was put forward as written below.

Proposed was split up into change into two parts. New By-Law proposal; part 1.

Section 3: To be a NESSA member, Regular or New, schools must complete an Annual Membership Form and pay school dues to be issued on a school check or a check (*or through the Association's PayPal account*) that is accompanied by a letter of authorization from the school by the Annual Meeting. Schools may registered after that date by following the above procedures, but thee schools may not appear in the annual official NESSA active Membership List and may not be eligible for all NESSA sponsored regattas.

Change approved by voice vote with no opposition.

B. Next a second proposed change to Article C, section 3 was made and seconded.

Proposed was split up into change into two parts. New By-Law proposal; part 1.

Section 3: To be a NESSA member, Regular or New, schools must complete an Annual Membership Form and pay school dues to be issued on a school check, a check, or through the Association's PayPal account that is accompanied by a letter of authorization from the school. *Schools competing in the fall term must register and pay dues by September 1st; all other schools must register and pay dues by January 1st. Schools that do not complete their registration renewal by January 1st are not eligible for NESSA Spring regattas.* ~~by the Annual Meeting. Schools may registered after that date by following the above procedures, but these schools may not appear in the annual official NESSA active Membership List and may not be eligible for all NESSA sponsored regattas.~~

Group discussion came to consensus to pull this portion of the proposal back.

4. Proposed change to NESSA Procedural Rules Article K: NESSA Regattas

Delete from section 2

- ~~“Teams must be accompanied by a coach or faculty advisor/adult for all events”~~ because it is redundant and repeats an ISSA PR.

Motion approved by voice vote with no objection.

5. Discussion regarding Qualifying regattas for NESSA Slots at the Larry White Regatta

Can we changing Lawrence White regatta berths to have a qualifier at Polar Bear Open, Arnold Brown Regatta or Casco Bay Open instead of being done on a lottery system.

A good discussion about the issue. It was decided that Andrew Sayre (North Kingstown HS) will talk with James Perkins (event chair) to find out if this is even possible, and report back to Andrew before June 1, 2015.