

NESSA Annual Meeting Minutes
7 November 2004

Call to Order by Acting-President Jim Terkelsen at 1030

Attendance (58 people, 46 NESSA Schools)

Regular Members (30)/ New Members (16):

Barnstable HS – Jim Terkelsen, A Nugnes, B Peck

Barrington HS – Sam Sylvester, Steve Primano

Bay View Academy – Ned Mutttho

BB&N – Jeffrey Hodess

Belmont Hill – Chris Zamore

Bishop Hendreckin – Bob Adams

Bishop Stang – Heather Sanford

Branford HS - Peter Brown, Ken Olson

Brookline HS – Wally Gleekman

Brunswick School – Byron LaMotte

Chatham HS – Greg Kelly

Commonwealth School – Wally Gleekman

Dartmouth HS – Warren Hathaway & JD Walsh

Dover-Sherborn RHS – Greg Komen

Duxbury HS – Ed Mayo

East Greenwich HS – Cindy Overton, R. Overton

East Lyme HS – Ted Sherman

Fairfield HS – Dave Dellenbaugh

Falmouth HS – Heather Sanford

Greenwich Academy – Susan Bonney

Greenwich HS – Evan Olmstead

Harwich HS – John Dickson

Hingham HS – Kim Doble

Hotchkiss School - Roger Rawlings

Joel Barlow HS - Dave Dellenbaugh

Lincoln-Sudbury RHS - Mark Sobkowicz

Martha's Vineyard RHS – Doug Heil

Moses Brown – Pam Matson

Nantucket HS – Nick Judson

New Bedford HS – Ian Duff

North Kingston HS – Matt Largess

Portsmouth Abbey - Aroline Seibert

Plymouth North HS – Matt Glauber

Rocky Hill – Amy Guccione

Rogers HS – Karen Neri

Sandwich HS – David O'Hara

Sharon HS – Bob Gaffney, Gary Warden

Sound School – Kurt Fuchs, J Buell, J Manganello

South Kingstown HS – Casuaina Hart, Ben Lessard

St George's - Roy Williams & Lisa Conway

St. John's Prep - Bill Mackinson & Charlie Newhall

St. Thomas Moore – Jason Naylor

Tabor Academy - Rob Hurd, C Conley, C. Muther

Williams School – P. Littlefield, Clemmie Everett

Winsor – Wally Gleekman

Xavier HS – Paul Hayes

Others (1):

Mass Bay League – Carl Zimba (President)

1. Secretary's Report (Rob Hurd)

- a. Minutes from the November 2003 NESSA Annual Meeting were posted on the NESSA website in December 2003. Are there any questions, comments, or corrections at this time? Move that we waive the reading of the minutes and that the minutes from November 2003 be accepted: **Accepted without reservation**
- b. There are 21 regular members who meet the voting requirements as stated in the by-laws.

The following schools are eligible to be upgrade from New Member status to Regular member status. Bishop Stang, Chatham HS, Dartmouth HS, Falmouth HS, Hingham HS, Manchester/Essex RHS, Nauset RHS, Fairfield HS, St. Thomas More School, the Sound School, Barrington HS, East Greenwich HS.

The schools that fulfilled the requirements as stated in the by-laws are: East Greenwich HS (RI), Manchester/Essex RHS, The Sound School, Hingham HS, and St Thomas More School. The Secretary/Treasurer puts these schools with his full endorsement.

No discussion. All 5 schools approved without comment and are eligible to vote at this meeting

- c. Attendance sheet is being passed around the room. Please make sure you sign-in.
- d. As of 5 November 2004, NESSA has 64 paid, purchase order or pending members. There were 62 paid members one year ago. There are several schools from past years that are now inactive member. I expect we will see some re-enrollment, which should bring our projected 2005 membership to 75-80 schools.
- e. Probations:
 - a. The following schools have violated Article L of the By-Laws and are presently on probation.
 - i. St Sebastian's School (Until 4-26-05) – No show at O'Day Qualifier
 - ii. Stonington HS (Until 4-26-05) – No show at the O'Day Qualifier
 - iii. Duxbury HS (Until 10-12-05) – No show at the Fall Funfest
 - iv. Portsmouth Abbey (Until 10-12-05) – Showed without a full team at Fall Funfest.
 - v. Nantucket HS (Until 10-09-06) – late cancellation from Fall Funfest
 - vi. North Quincy HS (Until 10-09-06) – No show at the Fall Funfest
 - vii. Casco Bay HHS (Until 10-09-06) – late cancellation from Fall Funfest
 - b. The following schools have been removed from probation because they served two years without further incident.
 - Deerfield Academy (until 4-20-04) – No show at O'Day Qualifier.
 - Brooks School (Until 10-13-04) – Showed without a full team to Fall Funfest
 - George Stevens Academy (Until 10-13-04) – No Show at Fall Funfest
 - c. The following schools are not eligible for NESSA regattas for one year for a second violation of Article L while on probation.
 - Notre Dame Academy (until 4-17-05) – No Show at O'Day Qualifier for the second time in two years. (4-20-03 and 4-17-04)
- f. The 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
NESSA will no longer conduct any mailings
- g. New Website (www.NESSA-Sailing.org) is working well. Lots of good information on it. Check it out.

Secretary's report accepted by voice vote

2. Treasurer's Report (Rob Hurd)

- a. Balance in the account as of 1 July 2004 = \$4743.01
- b. Last Year – expenses exceeded income by - \$518.15
This was due to under budgeting for website expenses and unexpected judge's fees at the Women's Invite
- c. The Treasurer recommends continuing the policy of charging a small regatta fee for the O'Day regatta. (\$10 per school to be collected at the Qualifying sites) and add a non-refundable fee of \$15 for consideration for the NESSA Teams, to cover website and on-line posting
- d. 2005 Budget is projected as balanced. Those wanting copies may e-mail the Secretary/Treasurer

Treasurer's report accepted by voice vote.

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

A. 2004 Review

NESSA Fleet Racing Championship (O'Day Trophy)

5 Qualifying Sites and Chairs

Community Boating

New Bedford YC

St. George's School

Cedar Pt. YC

University of Southern Maine

Carl Zimba (Mass Bay League)

Warren Hathaway (Dartmouth HS)

Roy Williams (St. George's School)

Paul Myerson (Fairfield County League)

Steve Williams (U. of Southern Maine)

Qualifying Round – 10 teams per site with the top 3 from each site moving onto the Championship. Another successful year of using 5 sites to sail 50 schools on the same day. Mother Nature continues to cooperate and allow us to qualify on one day and hold the finals the next day.

Championship Regatta

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Jim Terkelsen (Barnstable HS)

Top 15 schools from the previous day qualification regattas. Massachusetts Maritime Academy provided the boats and facilities. Thanks to MMA and Joe Kirk for opening up their venue on Great Herring Pond to high school sailing. Winds were light, but steady, providing sailors with a tough test for consistency. The facility and proximity to the racecourse allowed for great viewing and quick rotations allowing the Race Committee to get 7 races in each division. Tabor Academy was crowned the New England Champion at the end of the day.

NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy)

Brown University

John Mollicone (Brown University)

Top 8 schools selected by resume based on criteria set forth by the NESSA Officers. Brown University in conjunction with Edgewood YC, provided boats, facilities and race management for this years Championship. John Mollicone and the Brown sailors did an outstanding job of running this year's event on a hot and humid day. With the temp in the 80's, teams battled all day long to complete the seeding round robin. A 3-team sail off decided the final top 4 teams for the Championship Round. Since John and his crew ran such a flawless seeding rotation, there was still time and daylight to complete the Championship Rounds. Over the course of the day, sailors from the top 4 schools sailed for 8 hours before racing was complete. When the dust settled, Tabor Academy was crowned the New England Champion.

NESSA Women's Invite (Hereshoff Trophy)

The Hotchkiss School

Roger Rawlings (Hotchkiss School)

Ten schools traveled to The Hotchkiss School on cool, cloudy day in Connecticut. Sailing was extremely tough as the light breeze slowly faded as the day progressed. In the end, Roger Rawlings and his crew managed to squeeze in 3 races in each division to complete the event. Great job by the Race Committee to get the event completed. Congratulations to Hotchkiss School for pulling out the 1-point victory on their home waters.

NESSA Single-handed Championship (Healy Trophy) – 2005

Pettipaug YC

Paul Hayes (Xavier HS)

Once again the Healy Trophy was held at a new and unique venue. Pettipaug YC in conjunction with Xavier HS put together a fantastic and challenging Healy Trophy. Conditions and wind varied all day long on this tidal river. As the day went on, the current in the river and the dying breeze forced sailors to really focus in and concentrate on keeping boat speed. Paul Hayes and his race committee worked hard to tweak the racecourse and managed to get in 7 races in the Full Rig and 6 races in the Radial Rig Divisions. Winning the Full Rig Division was Brunswick School, while Tabor Academy took line honors in the Radial Rig Division.

NESSA Fall Funfest (Gleckman Trophy)

Community Boating

Carl Zimba (Mass Bay League)

CBI has become the home for this super fall event. Carl Zimba and the Mass Bay League continue to attract many schools from New England and give high school sailors a different taste by sailing Cape Cod Mercuries. The light winds on the

Charles River didn't stop the Race Committee from getting in 8 races in each division. A solid performance by Xavier HS led them to the top of the leader board and a team victory at this year's Fun Fest.

B. 2005 Season

Any school wishing to host an event or volunteer to Chair events should contact Jim Terkelsen. New Regatta Chairs and venues are always encouraged and welcomed. **Venues for the O'Day Qualifiers and the Healy Trophy for next fall are in need.**

2005 Fleet Racing Championship (O'Day Trophy)

Qualifying Regatta's - Saturday, April 23, 2005

5 venues with 10 boats or more needed

1. Southern Maine – Steve Williams
2. St George's School – Roy Williams
3. The Hotchkiss School – Roger Rawlings
4. East Lyme/ Williams – Ted Sherman

1 more venues needed. If you are interested, e-mail Doug Heil ASAP (dougheil22@hotmail.com)

Championship Regatta – Sunday, April 24, 2005

Tabor Academy, Marion, MA.

Regatta Chair – Rob Hurd

2005 Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy)

Saturday and Sunday – May 21-22, 2005

Sail Martha's Vineyard, Martha's Vineyard, MA (Vineyard Haven YC)

Regatta Chair – Doug Heil

MVRHS is working on the travel to make it as easy as possible for the teams that qualify.

2005 Women's Invite (Herreshoff Trophy)

Sunday – May 7, 2005

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

Regatta Chair – Tom Sitzmann

2006 Single-handed Championship (Healy Trophy)

Sunday – September 25, 2005

Location to be determined. Those interested should e-mail Doug Heil ASAP

In anticipation of next year's Healy Trophy drawing increased interest, NESSA will be working hard to best serve the schools in New England. Our plan is to secure a venue as early as possible and move the registration deadline to September 1, 2005. By having an early jump on the venue and having registration close at a sooner date, schools wishing to compete in the Healy will need to be very diligent on choosing their Healy sailors.

The plan:

1. NESSA will accept a sailor in each division from schools wishing to compete in the Healy, per the NESSA by-laws.
2. Due to the anticipated interest in the Healy Trophy, NESSA does not anticipate accepting resume sailors for the 2006 Healy Trophy.
3. Should that interest not materialize then NESSA will reconsider this position.
4. Schools and coaches should decide early this spring how they will be choosing their sailors for this event.

2005 Fall Funfest (Gleekman Trophy)

Sunday – October 9, 2005

Location to be determined. Most likely MBL and CBI again.

Notices of Race for Spring NESSA Regattas have been posted on the NESSA website

VP report accepted without reservation.

4. President's Report (Roger Rawlings)

Good morning: The quality of sailing within NESSA this year has been among the highest I have had the pleasure of experiencing in my ten years here. Our regatta management was flawless, our sailors fair and everyone's sportsmanship wonderful. Thank you to all involved in NE high school sailing, we are teaching our sailors more than just how to make a boat go fast. Well done.

Rob's email about the Baker was a bit Tabor sided and gave a limited impression on how well the three NESSA teams did. I think it important to congratulate the Tabor team on their sportsmanship on what I am sure were disappointing afternoons. They showed cool heads and maturity when it became obvious the regatta was to be cancelled due to weather. I also think it important to congratulate St. George's for their humor, spirit and strong sailing. They came through in some tough races. Some things did not go their way and some questionable calls were made against them but they were always able to keep their heads up. As far as Hotchkiss, they did what they needed to do on Saturday and that should not be over-shadowed by the weather on Sunday, despite Rob's comments. Obviously, I am very close to those sailors and will miss them. They showed spirit and creativity on the water and gave 100%. It is difficult for a coach to ask for anything more.

The fact that NESSA sailors put their three teams into the final-four is the great thing about this year's Baker. Point Loma is a great team and they deserved to win. They are well-coached and good sportsmen. I am very pleased to say though that the demise of NE team racing was reported prematurely. Congratulations to all the teams in NE. Without the quality throughout the district, the three teams that were honored to represent it would not have been as strong. It was strong racing throughout the season that made us all better.

On a personal note, I will miss leading this organization. It has been an honor to represent the membership at the ISSA level. I am hoping that the new leadership will work hard to continue the push for sportsmanship and fair sailing that has been the hallmark of my administration.

A few points for the membership to consider:

- 1) The organization needs to re-design how it picks the teams for the Mark.
- 2) We need to have more coaching and judging seminars.
- 3) We need to redesign how we schedule our dual, tri and quad meets and to hold schools more accountable for their schedules.
- 4) We need to make it easier for new members to understand how things work.

I think the by-laws should be revised surrounding membership levels. It is silly to me that new members may participate in all levels of championships and pay their dues but they may not vote on the business of NESSA for two years. That seems like taxation without representation to me.

- 5) We need to address a membership level for teams that are formed through two or more schools. While I do not think that conglomerate teams should be allowed to compete in our championships, I think that schools that are forced to have their sports programs at different schools should be considered for membership.

There are my two-cents. I look forward to spirited discussions at our next annual meeting and via this forum. What I am always impressed with however is that we, as a membership, are usually thinking of all of the sailors in the organization and not just our own teams. That attitude will continue to make us the strongest and best run of the seven districts in the country.

Thank you. Roger

Jim Terkelsen presented Roger Rawlings with a plaque for his years of service and dedication to NESSA. Roger started as the NESSA secretary, moved to VP, and has served as NESSA president for the last 7 years.

President's report accepted without reservation.

6. By-Law Changes.

- a. **Change in Article C: Membership. Change the present By-law to read as follows. Changes to the present By-law are shown in italics.**

Article C: Membership.

Section 1 a: New Members: Schools who wish to initiate a sailing program or schools that have a sailing program but have not been NESSA Regular Members or schools that have been NESSA Regular Members but have been inactive. *After one full year from payment of dues, any New Member may apply for Regular Member status by attending an Annual Meeting and by presenting a formal written request for the change from a school administrator (principal, headmaster, athletic director, or student activities head) on school stationary to the NESSA Secretary/Treasurer.*

Section 2: In order for NESSA to assist efficiently the development of diverse school sailing programs, all members – *New or Regular* - will be classified as follows:

- a. Varsity Teams: those schools recognizing sailing as a regular varsity sport, major or minor with or without letter awards.
- b. Club: those schools having a sailing organization recognized as a school club under the auspices of the student activities head and having a faculty advisor, although not having sailing as an established sport at the school.

Discussion:

- Some typos changed.
- Motion carries unanimously without further comment.

- b. **Change in Article E: Representation. Change the present By-law to read as follows. Changes to the present By-law are shown in italics.**

Article E: Representation

Section 1. Each school shall be entitled to be represented at meetings by one or more delegates: faculty coach, adult advisor, or designated adult alternative. Regular Members shall be entitled to one vote for each school. . *No New Member may vote.* Students are welcome to attend meetings with the adult but may not vote.

Section 2. All votes are to be decided by a majority of Regular Member schools represented at the meeting.

~~Section 3. *No New Member may vote. A Regular Member absent for more than two (2) consecutive Annual Meetings forfeits the right to vote. This right may be regained after attending an Annual Meeting but may not be exercised at the meeting. The list of eligible voters will be available at the Annual Meeting.*~~

Discussion:

- Motion carries unanimously without any comment.

7. Old Business:

- a. **Baker Tickets.** With the Baker scheduled for Jensen Beach, FL, NESSA will be doing a group ticket purchase this year. All teams that qualify for the Baker will be required to purchase tickets through NESSA. More information will be available in the spring.

- b. **Executive Committee:** In accordance with the By-laws, the NESSA president appoints the following members to the executive committee until further notice. Jim Terkelsen (NESSA President), Doug Heil (NESSA VP), Rob Hurd (NESSA Secretary/Treasurer), Roger Rawlings (Past President), Kevin Baker (ISSA Rep & FCSL President), Carl Zimba (MBL President)

c. Report on Conglomerate Teams

- **From ISSA meeting last winter (Roger Rawlings):** At the last annual meeting we named a sub-committee to investigate conglomerate teams. Carl Zimba contacted me and sent me a website to investigate. Kevin and I brought the issue up at the ISSA meeting last year and the conclusion was to allow students to compete at other schools if their school does not field ANY other sports teams and all athletes from that school participate in sports at another HS. The ISSA board was very against allowing students from one school to participate with another school if their school has sports but their school does not have a team. The ISSA board is sympathetic to areas that are just starting out and allowing teams to take sailors from several schools for a year or two. These teams will not however, be allowed to participate in ISSA events and if a single-handed sailor wants to participate in the Cressy he/she needs to join from his/her school. NESSA may continue to allow teams to conglomerate if we so chose. We may not however, expect these teams to be allowed to participate in ISSA events. I am not sure what the sub-committee has found, but that is the report from ISSA.
- **NESSA policy concerning sailing in NESSA events:** According to NESSA By-Laws, only NESSA school teams may sail in championship events. NESSA has interpreted that to mean

that conglomerate teams may sail in NESSA promotional events (Fall Funfest and Women's Invite), but if they do, they are subjected to the same rules and regulations as NESSA teams.

- **NESSA Policy concerning NESSA Membership:** Since NESSA is an organization is schools, conglomerate teams, which by definition do not represent a school, may not join NESSA.
- **Report from the NESSA ad-hoc Committee on Cooperative Teams (Carl Zimba)**

A. BACKGROUND

1. During recent years, some schools have requested that NESSA officers approve the participation of sailing teams formed from student sailors that attend two or more individual schools. In general, these requests have been motivated by a desire to build a fledgling sailing program from a limited number of existing student sailors.
2. In response to these requests and following an active discussion of cooperative teams during the annual meeting of NESSA in November 2003, the officers commissioned an ad hoc committee to study the issue and report back to the officers and the membership at large.
3. As stated in a report issued by the MIAA, "The number of different possible groupings within the category of cooperative team is mind boggling. The *shift* from the *interest patterns of schools* to those of *individual athletes* is not amenable to simple formulas with regard to enrollment, geography, and the like. A good case can be made by athletes in small and large schools, and in urban and rural ones."
4. State athletic governing organizations have expressed concerns in a number of areas: recruitment, fairness of competition, displacement of athletes, the ability to monitor such cooperative teams, the handling of financing, insurance, supervision, contracts, and legal disputes for any cooperative team, the shift from school-based teams to some other basis, the potential erosion of the traditional school-based system, the temptation of schools and individual athletes to win at all cost, and the financial constraints that might motivate schools to eliminate athletic teams and limit the participations of student athletes.
5. The Board of Directors of ISSA recently considered the issue of cooperative teams from a national perspective. In general, there was considerable concern about fairness of competition and the potential for abuse. There was little enthusiasm for sanctioning cooperative teams that were not based upon a school unit.
6. The NESSA committee limited their discussion to three general situations with the potential for a cooperative team: school districts with multiple high schools that combine students from those schools to form a team, separate school districts that combine students to form teams for all sports, and separate school districts that combine students to form a team for a single sport.
 - a. In the first situation, it is not uncommon for a school district to combine students from each of their high schools within the district for multiple sports and to do so with the blessing of the respective state athletic governing organization. In some instances, there are cooperative teams involving students from each school for some sports while other sports involve independent teams from each of the schools within the district. In these cases, it would seem appropriate for NESSA to allow such a cooperative team also.
 - b. It is clear that state athletic governing organization have also sanctioned partnerships whereby two or more school districts form a combined athletic program, participating in many sports. The most common instances of this are school districts with low student populations that preclude the establishment of a vibrant student athletic program without such a partnership. It would seem appropriate for NESSA to follow the lead of the state governing organizations and allow such a cooperative team for sailing.
 - c. The third situation is more troubling. While such partnerships are not without precedence, state athletic governing organizations have struggled to balance the accommodation of individual athletes with the needs and desires of member schools. Concerns have been cited regarding recruitment, fairness of competition, displacement of athletes, and monitoring such teams. NESSA should sanction a cooperative sailing team between schools with caution, especially in the absence of other existing cooperative teams in other sports. However, formation of such

cooperative teams with the aim of building a critical mass that can lead to the formation of multiple independent school-based teams would seem to be a worthwhile activity that is consistent with the mission of both NESSA and ISSA.

7. The committee acknowledges a desire to respond to the needs of both member schools and individual student sailors. In order to fulfill this desire, the committee recommends the following policies regarding the establishment of cooperative teams for the consideration of the NESSA officers and membership.

B. PROPOSED POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

The intention of these policies should be to:

- Respect the goals of the petitioning school districts.
 - Protect competing schools from competitive disadvantage.
 - Guarantee increased participation.
 - Ensure that no displacement of athletes occurs.
 - Rest on a firm financial commitment by the schools involved to support a viable team.
1. Any schools that desire to form a cooperative sailing team should file a written proposal to do so with the officers of NESSA. While it is preferred that the proposal be submitted jointly by the cooperating schools, proposals will also be accepted from other established organizations (community sailing programs, Sea Scout Ships, colleges, etc.) acting on the behalf of the cooperating schools.
 2. The proposal should include letters of support from each of the cooperating schools. If the school principals and athletic directors of the petitioning schools are of one mind that a cooperative proposal is good for their students, schools, and communities, then NESSA will consider that “local” position.
 3. The proposal should illustrate the need of the cooperative team and the likely composition of the team (i.e., the numbers of students from each school and their experience level in competitive sailing). Schools that have cooperative teams in other sports should clearly describe those teams and the position of the respective state athletic governing organization relative to those cooperative teams. Schools that do not have cooperative teams in other sports should include a plan to transform the cooperative sailing team to two or more independent teams.
 4. The proposal should address the potential impact on nearby sailing teams. Letters of support from nearby sailing teams can be used to demonstrate this impact.
 5. The proposal should demonstrate that the cumulative student participation in the cooperating schools will be greater under the cooperative plan than it was during each of the previous two years.
 6. The proposal should demonstrate that students who participated in the program during the previous year are guaranteed the opportunity to continue that participation under the cooperative proposal.
 7. The proposal should include evidence that no financial support was withdrawn from any existing athletic programs during the previous two years. No consideration will be given to cooperative proposals which result from the elimination of a sailing team due to financial cutbacks during the two years immediately prior to the request.
 8. NESSA member schools, especially those located in the community or in contiguous communities, should be given an opportunity to submit written positions and rationales, or to appear before the NESSA officers, prior to a final decision. If NESSA members are convinced by those proposing a cooperative team that their proposal is appropriate and does not present a competitive threat, then NESSA will heed this “regional” evaluation and support.
 9. The cooperative team can not be formed from any school that has been a member of NESSA in the two years prior to the request. Furthermore, the cooperative team can

not include any student that participated on a sailing team from a school that was a member of NESSA in the two years prior to the request.

10. Any petitioning school with at least three sailors with 2 or more years of experience in competitive sailing will be considered to have a sufficient number of athletes and will not be granted a request for a cooperative team.
11. No school may send students to two different cooperative sailing teams nor should any student participate in two NESSA member programs.
12. The cooperating team must be formed as an official club of the cooperating schools or be part of another legal entity (community sailing program, Sea Scout Ship, college, etc.) that has its own insurance coverage. All liability associated with the formation and conduct of approved cooperative team rests with the cooperating schools, which exempts NESSA and its agents from all liability and responsibility.
13. Following a favorable evaluation of the proposal by the officers of NESSA, cooperative teams will be granted NESSA membership for a two year period. Any cooperative teams granted membership in NESSA enjoy all the privileges of such membership except eligibility in ISSA-sponsored events or events leading to such events.

Discussion:

- Do we want to create a new membership level? That is what the main question is.
- Does a new membership really solve the problem? Presently they can sail in promotional events and private regattas can limit or accept their application as they see fit.
- Adding a new membership level starts us down the slippery slope of moving away from a school based program and into a sailor or parent program.
- What exactly does this proposal do? Should we get an opinion from the membership if we should consider have conglomerate teams in NESSA. 16 voted in favor of conglomerate teams existing in the region. 8 voted against the existence of conglomerate teams existing in the region.
- **Proposal from Ad-Hoc committee was tabled by voice vote without opposition. Membership decided that while the existence of conglomerate teams was fine, there was no need to change what presently happens.**
- **Proposal #2 from Rob Hurd:** The Student Exception: School districts that have more than one school in the district may petition the NESSA Secretary/Treasurer to allow the students from one school to participate on the sailing team from another school in their district, if their own school does not field any athletic teams and the school district policy is that students from that school may participate on athletic teams from another school in their district. The NESSA Secretary/Treasurer will gather the appropriate documents and make a recommendation to the executive committee. If the NESSA executive committee approves the petition, the request will be forwarded to ISSA for approval. If ISSA approves the petition, then those students would be eligible for NESSA and ISSA championship events.

Discussion:

- Does this apply to charter schools in the same town? Only if the charter school has no sports programs
- Is there an appeal process? Not really. Right now, the ISSA executive committee is the authority on student eligibility. This proposal is a way for NESSA to have a say in what happens in our region and not leave the decisions solely to ISSA.
- What if ISSA does not approve it, what then? The school reapplies and we keep moving forward.

Proposal was tabled by a vote of 12 to 6.

Since no action was taken, any questions of student eligibility should be forwarded to the ISSA executive committee for review.

8. New Business:

- a. **NESSA Coach's Symposium.** Sunday February 27, 2005 at Tabor Academy. 10:00 – 3:00 pm Cost: \$10. Morning Session- The Rules. How to teach them properly to your sailors by Tom Duggan. Afternoon Session – Coach's round table discussion lead by Rob Hurd (Tabor Academy)
- b. **ISSA Team Racing Championship (Baker Trophy) in NESSA in 2006.**

- i. Presently, the NESSA has received two bids – Martha's Vineyard RHS/Sail Martha's Vineyard and Greenwich Academy/Greenwich HS/Brunswick School/Indian Harbor YC. A third bid is expected from Duxbury HS/ Duxbury Bay Maritime School
- ii. If you have any interest in being the event chair for this event or have ideas for host sites, bids must be submitted the Jim Terkelsen by December 1, 2004. The executive committee will make a selection from the bids presented.

c. Mark Trophy Selection.

- i. Several years ago, the NESSA officers proposed a change in the selection process for the Mark to make it more objective and less selective. The math formula that was created and tested for the previous three years was rejected by the membership who stated that they would rather have "humans" make the final decisions.
- ii. Since that time, the officers have used the formula as a guide and have made selections based "on the numbers" and the "human input."
- iii. Recently, there have been some questions as to how we can make this process better. To that end, the officers, in accordance with the by-laws, have decided to do the following for selection to the 2005 NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy).

1. Registration:

- a. Schools wishing to be considered for the 2005 NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy) must submit a copy of their schedule, coach's name and contact information, and a check for \$15 made payable to NESSA by April 1, 2005. The funds will be used to pay for the additional computer time and website space needed to do on-line registration.
- b. Schools who have fulfilled the registration requirements will post scores from their meets in the NESSA Teams Website (similar to the MBL results section). It is the responsibility of each school to keep this data accurate and updated. In accordance with the guidelines, meet results through Wed May 11, 2005 will be considered.

2. Selection:

Schools will be ranked first to last using the criteria listed below. The top 8 schools will qualify for the 2005 NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy)

- a. 40% of a school's overall ranking will be tabulated by a computer program, plan G, tabulates points based upon three criteria. One-third of the points are based upon winning percentage against NESSA schools; one-third of the points are based upon winning percentage against other schools that apply for the 2005 NESSA Teams; One-third of the points are based upon the percentage of meets scheduled against schools who have participated at least twice in the NESSA Team Championship in the past 4 years (strength of schedule). For 2005, those schools are **Tabor, St. George's, Hotchkiss, Williams, Dartmouth HS, Barnstable HS, BC High, Milton, Falmouth HS**
- b. 60% of a school's overall ranking will be tabulated by the combined rankings of the executive committee as appointed by the NESSA president. Members of the executive committee will rank all the schools that register properly, excluding their own, from first to last. Each school will be listed first to last by their average ranking.

3. **Evaluation.** The officers will evaluate the process at the end of the school year and make modifications, if necessary. The plan is to conduct the selection process in this manner for the next three years realizing that any plan needs time to work out the quirks, if any.

Discussion and questions on the NESSA Team Racing Championship selection and format:

- Guidelines for submitting scores will be made on the website to add consistency. Issues on how to score cancelled meets vs. forfeits will be addressed.
- Please follow your schedule. Last year there were too many cancellations down the stretch.
- Can the membership think about the possibility that the Mark selection be "sailed" and not selected? In fact, it is "sailed" since selection is made based upon their season record. Unlike the O'Day, where there is little to no

HS fleet racing data available before the championship, the Mark has a whole season's worth of data to help make the selection of the best 8 teams.

- Can there be another end of the season event for those schools that don't make it? Sure, it is easy for any school to set up an event. Most leagues have end-of-the-season events later in the season than the Mark, so they exist.
- If we set up three regional events, each with a berth to nationals available, have we changed the focus of a NE championship? How do you divide the regions up? It will end up favoring the stronger teams if the first round is early in the season. Plus, going away from resume might eliminate a school that had a good year and deserves a reward for their season.
- Could the Mark trophy be expanded? Yes, but the problems with the logistics become difficult. Every time you expand the number of teams, the number of races increases exponentially. This increases the reality that you may not finish the rotation/championship which means that the championship will not be decided on the water. You could do two regattas and two different sites? Yes, but what if you don't get the both regattas done? Also, how do you decide which schools go to which site? Could you expand the championships to add a second weekend? Yes, but when? The calendar is already too full.
- Would increasing the number of teams actually make for a better championship?
- Is our objective to send the strongest teams to the Baker, get the best NE championship, or is it to get as many schools as possible to sail? Presently, it is to have the best NE championship that gives NESSA the chance to have the fairest experience for the top 8 school as a reward for a good regular season.
- Your resume may not be indicative of how good you are. You may have lost meets when you had kids sick or missing for that day. Your team may have started slowly and now is sailing very well but the resume does not reflect that. The reason we have chosen a selection process that is both computer generated and has "human input" is so that we don't have a BCS situation come May. The selection committee has always looked at how well teams close their season as part of the selection and which sailors were participating in which matches if they could. One has to remember that a berth to a NE Championship is a reward for a good season; you get there based upon how you do all season.
- We are a membership of 65 schools and we have never had more than 25 resumes submitted.
- Some of the teams that are trying to get in have to make the effort to schedule the good schools and then follow through not cancel. Teams have to make the effort to qualify by playing and beating good competition. Also, to get noticed, it is important to be the best school team in your area.
- Jim Terkelsen thanked the membership for their ideas. The plan is to go ahead with what we have presented above.

8. Motion for confirmation.

- a. Motion: That the word "acting" be removed from Jim Terkelsen's present title and that he becomes the president of NESSA until the end of the present officer term (November 2005).

Approved unanimously

- b. Motion: That Doug Heil (Martha's Vineyard RHS) is confirmed as vice-president to fill the position vacated by Jim Terkelsen, now acting president, until the end of the present officer term (November 2005). Jim appointed Doug to fill the VP role in September.

Approved unanimously

9. Meeting adjourned 1210

Executive Committee Meeting

Present were: Jim Terkelsen, Doug Heil, Rob Hurd, Roger Rawlings, and Carl Zimba.

Absent: Kevin Baker – ill.

Called to order at 1233.

- President Terkelsen thanked everyone for "volunteering"
- Goals and roles for 2005:
 1. Eyes and ears of the membership. Pass information on from your areas to the board.
 2. Mark Selection committee. More information on how we plan to do resume reviews will come before the spring
 3. 2006 Baker Selection.
 - o Proposals in hand from Indian Harbor/ Brunswick School/Greenwich Academy/Greenwich HS and Martha's Vineyard RHS/Sail Martha's Vineyard. Duxbury HS/Duxbury Bay Maritime School will be sending one too.

- NESSA should appoint a member of the executive committee to be a liaison between the host, NESSA, and ISSA.
- Can we make a decision on venue by January 1, 2005 and have a notice of race by June 1, 2005?

Adjourned at 1245