

Water Rat Sailing Club (WRSC)
Annual General Meeting Minutes 2021
VIRTUAL Meeting: Zoom Video Conference
Sunday, November 21, 2021

1. Call to order: 2:06 pm

2. Introduction

- a. Welcome from Norm Lamb, Chief Rat
- b. Minimum quorum: 15% is 40 people – we have enough for this year’s AGM with 47 people as at the introduction

3. Approval of Minutes from 2020

- Note: Error from 2020 minutes where it says 2019 in the date instead of 2020
- a. Motion: Tobin Young conditional on correcting the date
 - b. Second: Paul Muldoon
 - c. Carried: 40 in favour, 2 abstain

4. Executive Reports

a. Money Rat’s Report – Gordon Akum

- This is my eighth year as treasurer
- Water Rats is a place I love so am pleased to hold this position
- We do financial statements:
 - 12 month: Fiscal year is April 1st to March 31 – this year, there are three year comparatives
 - Operational Interim Statement 6 months: Operating Year is April 1st to Sep 30th
- As at the end of Sep 30th, club had an account balance of \$88,000 which is consistent with last year
- This year was a COVID year, there were no social events or Christmas party so we will see that in the numbers
- We were able to have some limited racing which is great

Full Year Report ending Mar 2021

Revenues

- The first note is that the revenues were much higher
 - Membership work-to-pay collected in April 2020 were towards the previous year
 - There was a ~\$22,000 deposit for 2021-2022 year made at the end of March 2021; when that’s removed, revenues are consistent

Expenses

- Rent – previous years had reassessments
- Ground Expenses – this went up due to the trees
- Insurance – pretty much the same
- Racing – this went up
- Social – non existent in 2020-2021
- Hydro – the same
- Associations – the same
- Property taxes – the same
- We are a not-for-profit club and we want to use our profits
- The accounting is done on a cash basis

Six-Month Report ending Sep 30, 2021

- Revenues – we're trending along the same line
- Rent – shows it went down but that is due to the timing of the payments
- OHSF – also went down slightly
- Grounds expense – this went up because we dealt with the issue of the Willow tree and replaced it with the two new trees; this is part of our relationship with the city because when we take down a tree, we need to replace it
- Insurance – Similar to the prior year
- Racing – we're up a little bit because in 2020 we did very little
- Social – Non-existent in this period due to Covid-19

Jordan: The OHSF expenses went down quite a bit; was that due to the toilet expenses?

- Last year, the toilet purchase was part of the statements and we didn't have the expense this year

Tobin: Do we still do Balance Sheet showing our assets?

- Uncertain if showing a Balance Sheet would provide a lot of value; we do have assets such as the club house, boat and docks
- As Treasurer, I don't see a lot of value showing the value of the assets
- When Tobin was Head Rat, we hadn't paid rent, so we accrued that on the balance sheet
- Currently, we have all our expenses paid up to date and we have the current amount in the bank

Norm: Would it be easier if we changed the by-laws from the year-end from March to later in the year?

- Gord and David Street to take that away because it might make it easier to do the HST

- The information will become easier but we would need to change the date in the articles of incorporation
- In general, you're allowed to change the date once in the life of the corporation/organization

Motion to accept Treasurers Report

First: Paul Stillwell

Second: Colin Braithwaite

Carried: 49 in favour, no abstain, no against

b. Race's Report – Presented by Norm Lamb (in lieu of Randy McMeekin)

- Randy is travelling right now and will be retiring from this position
- We had great races and regattas
- Congratulations to Bruce who was the winner on Tuesday night series and Ray the winner on Thursday night series

c. Ground Rat's Report – presented by Barbara Anderson

- There wasn't a clean-up date due to COVID-19
- The biggest part of the year was planting two 24-foot red maple trees after removing the big willow tree
- Massive thanks to Barna for clean-up and pruning of the trees
- Thanks to Bruce for fixing the fence near the windsurfing club
- Security - We had three kayaks stolen and the clubhouse was broken into
 - Hanlan and the Multi Hull Club were also broken into
 - We were assigned a community police officer and the officer's name will be posted in the clubhouse
 - We're gathering all the break-ins over the last five years
 - The thinking is that it might be more organized
- Shade on Clubhouse Deck - Bruce put up the beautiful shade on the clubhouse deck
- Ants – Aetna did two sessions of ant spraying in June and July
- Lawns and mowers – Thanks to Marvin for cutting the grass and caring for the lawn mowers
- Gravel clean-up – Hanlan's members came and cleaned up the gravel on our property; they're happy to come again and they're looking at putting the pipes under the ground (it might be from the wave action)
- Washrooms – work to do with a cement pad under the washrooms next year
- Locks – Bought some additional locks
- Grounds plan – the main point of the grounds is for sailing and kayaking

- Invasive species – That’s why we have a tarp to control the invasive species (Japanese knotweed)
- Spit – the spit is eroding and the conversation authority
- Thank you to Anna for all the help with the grounds plan

Joey: Thank you for the picnic tables and the swing will be “swinging” again

- Picnic tables are new and great
- Appreciate the repainting of the swing and new fabric that will take place next year

Gigi: Will we have joint effort with the other clubs for security?

- We’re trying to figure out what to do with the security
- At this moment, there is no plan with the other clubs
- OHSF doesn’t have a plan yet; but none of the clubs take security lightly

Alison: It was Mooredale where the break-in and the arrest made.

- Ok, it wasn’t St. Jamestown as the Grounds Report states
- Mooredale organized bringing in the police officer for all the clubs
- Also at Westwood, there was nothing stolen and the heating was turned on
- Robert: At Multi Hulls, all the sheds were broken into and tools and outboard motors were taken; at the Multi Hull club, laser wire will be put up on the fence

d. Paddle Rat – Norm Lamb (in lieu of Christy Sneddon)

- Paddle membership – we have 69 and 1 space is available
- The waiting list is quite long but some on the waiting list do not want top racks
- A lot of the canoes and kayaks appears not be used
- Bruce does so much in helping out around the club and members really appreciated the dolly
- Tie-down boat; if your boat falls off and damages another boat, that’s something we don’t want to happen
 - This also goes to the Catamaran people

Peter P: For those that don’t use their boats that often, we might want to consider that those people using a lot get priority

- That has been talked about for some time

e. Body Rat’s Report – Presented by Jeff Gerrits and Joe Van Rossem

- 224 total members
 - 48 Catamaran members
 - 93 Laser members
 - 14 non-Laser Dinghy members
 - 69 paddling members
- We saw an uptick in Laser members related to COVID-19
- One of the constraints is the place gets very busy sometimes
- We've filled the club and money is coming in for membership

Peter: We might want to set-up a membership committee to accommodate crowding and how the grounds could be best used? There's going to be a lot of pressure to get access to our beaches...

- Yes that is a fair point

Colin: Perhaps if there were more lockers, then we could park outside the gates...

- Yes, I could see more lockers to utilize derelict space

Gigi: There could be opportunity for more racks like other clubs have done and more paddling members. I didn't see a big crowd during the week.

- We have the most kayaks of any clubs
- The reason the other clubs did it was because they were thinking of it as a revenue stream
- For congestion, it was mostly on Tuesday and Thursday night races and then on the weekends

Joe: Dinghy Rat

- Thank you Norm for the all the hard work over the years and the club has benefited from you greatly

f. Web Rat Report (Communication) – Matthew Burpee

- Top pages on waterrats.ca were "How to Join", "Weather" and the "Classifieds"
- The Facebook page has 404 followers; 77 are from other clubs
- Instagram increased 80 followers to a total of 327; 30 photos were posted throughout the year
- Twitter is used to follow local news and we gained 37 followers for a total of 79
- Norm took care of the email to the membership base throughout the year

Can the social media links be sent to everyone?

- Yes, they're in the report

Matthew is stepping down

- Norm: Big thanks to Matthew for all your work

g. Party Rat Report – Monika

- Hopefully next year, we will be able to organize something social but we'll need to be careful about the rules
- We are not having a Christmas party this year

h. Chief Rat's Report by Norm Lamb

- Tie-downs: please tie down your boats and take down your masts where applicable
- Theft: Boots were stolen and please lock down as much as you can
- Organized theft: We got hit by this as did the other clubs in the area

External Affairs

- Council of Commodores is mostly focused on keelboats
- OHSF (Paul Howard) goes to most of the Council of Commodores
- The biggest concern at the OHSF is safety and security
- OSHF takes care of garbage, toilets and Sports Camp (we donate \$3,000 each year)
 - They're always looking at renewing their fleet
- Schedule B is part of our charity work

Traffic congestion in the Outer Harbour

- Congestion is still bad on the water
- Norm spoke with the Harbour Master and he is onside with reporting specific boats
 - He takes action and contacts the boat owners
- Speed buoys with a decal stating the maximum speed were placed in; many thanks to Jason for taking the initiative
- The bad boating behaviour might increase
- The Water Safety committee might be able to help
- The Paddle Centre east of the club looks like it is a no-go
 - Toronto Regional Conservation Authority is a no-go
 - It was a pet project of Paula Fletcher so uncertain what will happen from here

Green P Parking

- It has been quiet for awhile
- We're lucky in that we have space most times

Police Inspection

- Police inspection talked about certain changes to improve security

Filming

- Funding might go towards signage for speeding or lights on Regatta Road

Rat Spit

- OHSF is running with this as many of the other clubs are affected by the lack of the Water Rat spit

Road Repair

- The recreation department doesn't have a dedicated crew
- The lease does say they have to

Lease

- Our lease runs until 2025
- No mention of it at OHSF
- Probably in 2023, there will be conversation about the lease

Regattas

- COVID-19 did affect this
- We did more near the end of the year

Security

- Everybody is closing the gate behind them

Neighbours

- We store equipment for the Windsurfing Club
- Hanlan does have landscaping problems

Asset Status

- Tree cutting – as the trees get older, they break and don't want any to come down on anyone; some trees did fall
- Fence – the fence seems to get broken by vandals
- Kayak/Canoe Racks – might want to move to a new location since they don't look that great on the lawn
- Lockers – if someone wants to put forward a proposal to purchase new lockers

2022 Plan

- In general, it has improved so much

- But, the external perception is that we still have an eyesore problem at the club

Boat ownership

- Did some work to ensure that every boat has an owner

Retiring

- Norm has enjoyed the five years as Head Rat
- Tons of challenges from high water to COVID-19
- Big thanks to the dedicated executives
- Also, thanks to those volunteers that do more than 6 hours
- Norm’s highlight was the 2019 50th Anniversary, which included having politicians to mark the occasion
- Most challenging time was the high-water event and of course our first COVID summer
- What did Norm learn? You can’t keep everyone happy (e.g., paper plates)
- One thing, Norm would do differently - set time limits on executive positions; I think we can avoid burnout by setting a two to three year term limit
- Biggest disappointment – would really like to continue making the club look better
 - Wanted to kick-off a group of like-minded individuals
 - Need “doers” not “talkers”
 - Would like the “doers” to come up with a strategy to come up with a strategy to get rid of old boats
 - Consider all aspects: tiered fee structure based on space, other people say put the unused boats into the far corner

Paul: Stepping down from executive

- It’s been thrilling serving all the members as badger, past Head Rat and Web Rat previously

Progress on the grounds

- The grounds have improved a lot and thanks to you
- Tobin: Cleaning up unused boats is one of the hardest tasks; if you get rid of 10 boats in your tenure, you’re doing well

5. WRSC Executive Nominations and Vote

Position	Incumbent 2021	Running for 2022
Chief Rat (Commodore)	Norm Lamb (retiring)	Jeff Gerrits (Acclaimed)

Money Rat (Treasurer)	Gordon Akum	Gordon Akum (Acclaimed)
Paper Rat (Secretary)	David Street	David Street (Acclaimed)
Body Rat Lead (Membership)	Jeff Gerrits	Michael Williamson (Acclaimed)
Dinghy Body Rat (Membership)	Joe Van Rossem	Joe Van Rossem (Acclaimed)
Paddling Body Rat (Membership)	Christy Sneddon	Christy Sneddon (Acclaimed)
House Rat (Grounds)	Barb Anderson	Barb Anderson (Acclaimed)
Race Rat (Racing)	Randy McMeekin	Ray Davies (Acclaimed)
Social Rat	Monika Roschlaub	Monika Roschlaub (Acclaimed)
Web Rat (Communications)	Matthew Burpee	Annette Bradford (Acclaimed)
Past Rat	Paul Stillwell	Norm Lamb

Introductions

- Michael Williamson - catamaran sailor and looking forward to becoming the membership Body Rat
- Ray Davies – been a member for 10 years; would like to get the race numbers up for Tuesday and Thursday. Water Rats has some top master sailors that compete internationally.
- Annette Bradford – could not attend this meeting; Annette is a regular member and works at CBC on social media

Vote on Executive

- Motion: Monika Roschlaub
- Second: Joey Schooley
- Carried: Unanimous, 48 people

6. Motions from the Floor and Other Items

Access to the Club

- Jordan: I think the pressure to provide access to the club will increase over time and was curious if we think about aligning ourselves with

groups to provide organized access such as environmental groups for species/plant studies, disabled sailing or indigenous groups

- Schedule B – in the lease, we have to do charity work and have to provide “soft access” - We do this currently through the Sports Camp
- It’s a good idea and we need to make sure we coordinate it through the city so we get credit for it
- Waterfront Toronto is expanding the area all around us so it is important that we think about the best way to do this

- Disabled sailors – Peter Eager is a disabled sailor and can offer input on this item
- Nature stewards in Toronto – Barb was in contact with the Nature Stewards and did part of the project; we’re approved members of the program
- Unused Public Land – Peter Pennefather - there’s unused public land and we might want to provide access to the water
- Paddlers and Environment – On the Don Council, there could be a community event to provide access
- Children’s Sailing Camp – there might be an opportunity to do this in the future

7. Adjournment at 3:58pm

- a. Motion: Barb Anderson
- b. Second: Paul Stillwell
- c. Carried: Unanimous

Attendees (alphabetical by first name):

Executive

- 1. Barbara Anderson
- 2. David Street
- 3. Gordon Akum
- 4. Joe Van Rossem
- 5. Matthew Burpee
- 6. Norm Lamb
- 7. Paul Stillwell

Members

- 1. Allison Conliffe
- 2. Artem Lanrynenko
- 3. Bistra Arsova
- 4. Chris Van Rossem

5. Colin Braithwaite
6. Doug Poad
7. Frank Goldschleger
8. Garvie Brown
9. Guler (Gigi) Elbi
10. Heather Broughton
11. Ian Bostock
12. Ian Robertson
13. Jan
14. Jason Knecht
15. Jeff Gerrits
16. Jerry Lazare
17. Jim Plaxton
18. Joannes Tsang
19. Joel Zeikovitz
20. Joey Schooley
21. John Weakley
22. Larry Chad
23. Lori
24. Michael Williamson
25. Moira MacDonald
26. Monika Roschlaub
27. Nigel Heath
28. Paul Muldoon
29. Peter Eagar
30. Peter Halasz
31. Peter Myall
32. Peter Pennefather
33. Ray Davies
34. Rob Wessel
35. Roy Spencer
36. Sandra Bernstein
37. Shona Chornenki
38. Steve Carroll
39. Steven Hoke
40. Sylvia Winninger
41. Theo
42. Tina Van Diepen
43. Tobin Young
44. Yvonne Pennefather

Tk327

Lori

Paul
Theo