

Water Rat Sailing Club (WRSC)
Annual General Meeting Minutes 2022
VIRTUAL Meeting: Zoom Video Conference
Sunday, November 27, 2022

1. Call to order: 2:05 pm

- Motion: Henry Fong
- Second: Peter Halsz
- Carried

2. Introduction

- Welcome from Jeff Gerrits, Chief Rat

3. Approval of Minutes from 2021

- Motion: Barb Anderson
- Second: David Street
- Carried: 46 in favour (39 voted with online voting)

4. Executive Reports

Money Rat's Report – Gordon Akum

- This is my ninth year as treasurer
- There are two sets of financial statements:
 - 12 month: Fiscal year is April 1st to March 31 – this year, there are two 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 in BMO account of approximately \$103,000

Full Year Report ending Mar 31, 2022

Revenues

- Timing issue since revenues from memberships are collected in March or April

Expenses

- Pretty much in line with past years
- OHSF was higher this year
- Ground Expenses
- Insurance
- Racing – we had more races and that's encouraging and what we want to do
- Social – social came back for 2022 after COVID
- Hydro – consistent
- Associations – consistent

- Property taxes – consistent
- Accounting is done on a cash basis

Six-Month Report ending Sep 30, 2022

- Revenues – about \$75,000
- OHSF – on a six-month basis, it's consistent
- Insurance – It's going up, we changed brokers
- Racing – last year it was \$650, but this year was \$2,200
- Social – we went up to \$1,700
- More or less, financials are consistent with the exception of racing and social expenses and it is in our mandate to let racing and social go higher

Larry: Why don't we have more interest on the bank balance?

- Up to now, interest rates were up to 0.5%
- We could put \$50,000 in a cashable GIC or bank account
- Gord asks David Street to note that we will put \$50,000 or some amount to earn interest income

Body Rat's Report – Presented by Michael Williamson

- 221 total members
 - 49 Catamaran members
 - 84 Laser members
 - 13 non-Laser Dinghy members
 - 69 paddling members
 - 6 non-storage members
- We auctioned off a number of boats
- The proceeds went to purchasing a shipping container where we are constructing lockers for members.
- Steve and others have been building lockers and will be available next year
- There's a big demand for lockers based on the response to a question on the membership renewal this year.
- There are a large set of inactive boats
- On racing days, there are a number of people but other times of the week are very quiet at the club
- It's a tough situation since we have a number of unused boats but then a big waiting list
- The auction has freed up some space
- We would like to increase the number of catamarans from 50 to 55
- Approximately 30 of the 50 seem to be unused
- We would like to revitalize the catamaran fleet a bit
- We also found that some members had more boats than the membership permitted

Yvonne: I noticed you didn't mention paddlers

- Jeff: Yes, fair point

Peter: Could we have a waitlist and also a registry about how often boats are used?

- Jeff: We're thinking of changing how we are getting into the club that may give us some idea of metrics
- Michael: On the waitlist, we made a change this year, so it's now on the website and will help with the tracking; for paddlers, there are over 100 and paddlers join as a laser member and then don't use their laser
- We created a non-storage member this year

Dan: Can we consider a non-use fee?

- That can be looked at as part of the committee

Heather: We have a by-law about raising the mast by the end of June

- Michael reached out to people that didn't raise their mast
- There were approximately a significant number of boats that didn't put up their masts before the end of June.

Peter: Could we think about a use plan that each member logs at the beginning of the year? There's a debate about whether we're a boat storage facility or sports club. Technology has evolved and maybe we can look at electronic tracking

- Jeff and Michael are working through that
- It could be that we form a committee on boat usage

Henry: I'm a paddler, from a revenue point of view, we occupy less space. Should we consider increase the number of paddlers?

- There's not a revenue issue
- There is not a motion for paddlers but don't think that there is a lot of support

Tobin: At one time, the catamaran and paddlers were a percentage of the overall membership

- There are not specific rules for this
- We made more room by clearing up trailers and cutting back trees
- We would like to get new blood into the club
- We also see that a lot of paddlers aren't using their boats

Steven: We officially don't have a right to use the spit as part of our lease, however, for years, we have allowed catamarans to be parked there; if the city were to come down on us, we would need to move the catamarans onto the regular grounds.

Also, on boat usage, life does come up, so I'm not sure it makes sense to look at the planning at the beginning of each season...

- We're not talking about someone who doesn't come down for a year

Paper Rat – Presented by David Street

- We changed our insurance broker to Arthur J Gallagher from the Magnus Group
- In 2000, they became the broker for Sail Canada and in 2021, they became the broker for Ontario Sailing
- They did a pitch in August 2021 that they can control the increase in policy and develop a policy specifically for sailing clubs
- This year, our insurance cost went to \$10,219 and it is unlikely to decrease
- We asked our current broker and they gave us a quote of \$30 more than what Gallagher was offering us

Tobin: We did work with Gallagher in the past and they were good and people that have been around won't have much of an issue with this change

- This is good news

Not-for-profit Corporations Act

- The Club became subject to the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (the "Act") in October of 2021
- One of the parts of the act requires all not-for-profits to have an auditor
- In the past, we have not had audited statements
- There is an exemption available which has two requirements:
 - We're not a public benefit not-for-profit, and
 - We have revenues have of less than \$100,000
- We meet both requirements
- David recommends we pass a motion with the form of resolution
- We need 80% of the people who vote to agree

Gord: If anyone has any question about the details of the financial statements, please contact me. I also agree with David to put forward a motion to not appoint an auditor

- This will apply only to the 2023 financial year

Any idea of the cost of having an audit?

- We don't have an estimate but we expect it would be between \$3,000 and \$5,000

Vote on not hiring an Auditor

- *Be it resolved that as the Club is a non-public benefit corporation and had annual revenues in its March 31, 2022 fiscal year of less than \$500,000 the Club shall not appoint an auditor and shall not have an audit or a review engagement in respect of the Club's financial year ending on March 31, 2022.*
- Motion: Willa Marcus
- Second: Peter Halasz
- Carried: 46 approved, 1 abstained

Change to By-Law: Allow for meetings to be Virtual meetings

- During Covid Government of Ontario passed a regulation that all meetings could be held virtual regardless of the by-laws
- It was supposed to end on September 2022, however it was extended to September 2023
- The request is to change our club by-law to allow for virtual meetings

Willa: Do we need to say it can be hybrid? Or is that implicit?

- That's implicit

Peter: How would we decide to make it hybrid?

- We would need good internet at the club
- The executive would need to make the call on whether it's hybrid

Vote on Virtual Meetings

- *Be it resolved that the by-laws of the Club be amended to provide that if a meeting of the members is called by the directors or the members then the directors or the members calling the meeting, may determine that the meeting be held entirely by telephonic or electronic means that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.*
- Motion: Peter Halasz
- Second: Shona Chornenki
- Carried: 46 approved, 1 against, 1 abstained

Paddle Rat

- Shona is the new Paddle Rat taking over from Christy; joined as a sailor and have become a paddler

Willa: Would like to organize a group paddle and will be reaching out to Shona

- Think that is a great idea and we can plan something for the spring

Race's Report – Presented by Ray Davies

- We had a successful year with the racing

- Cold spring and COVID was still rampant
- The spring racing series was lightly attended (mostly four boats)
- The summer racing series was a little better; overall, we had 20-25 boats
- Throughout the entire year, probably had 35 individuals who raced
- Would like to see our membership out on the water
- This year, we scaled back to Tuesday nights only and in the fall, on Sundays
- Tuesday night worked well, however, if others feel differently, we could consider both Tuesday and Thursday
- Spring War: Only 7 boats mostly because of the weather; a lot of the sailors were good as they were preparing for the worlds in Mexico
- Fall War: We had in late October and had 20 boats; we didn't charge anything and that helped with the numbers
- Catamaran Regatta: Had a strong regatta
- International racing: Both Ray and Nigel raced in Mexico and Gord Welsh did well in Kingston
- Major thanks to Nick McMeekin and Oliver Van Rossem for doing a great job running the races
- The racing at Water Rats is really good
- We saw some old faces who were former Olympians and they helped increase the caliber of the racing
- On race nights, Ray watched the Windsurfing webcam to see if we move to Thursday; next year, we might hold the Tuesdays and defer to the Thursdays
- Would ask for volunteers to do the Spring and Fall series since Nick and Oliver go back to school

Party Rat Report – Monika Roschlaub

- We had a couple of BBQs this year and they were well attended
- We maybe want more feedback from the general membership for the days and times
- There needs to be a little change of how and when we do things
- Noticed that there weren't a lot of sailors at the BBQs
- However, when we ran it on the same night as races, sailors would show up late
- Perhaps we run them on the weekend
- We were looking at doing a holiday party and put out a survey and in an email newsletter and we only had 12 people interested
- It is a lot of work to put a holiday party and it costs the numbers
- 10 people + 11 people with a guest, so we're getting 30 people
- If you've voted once, you can't go in again

Web Rat Report (Communication) – Annette Bradford

- Stable number of visitors to the website around 5,000 visitors

- Most visitors to the site were trying to find information on joining the club
- The Facebook page has 425 followers
- Instagram had 406 followers and is growing more rapidly
- Email is still the primary – we sent 8 main emails

Peter: Can we send a bulk email to all members vs. Facebook?

- We always do emails for the major news items
- However, with race nights this would largely be Facebook

Badger Past Head Rat – Norm Lamb

- Only comment would be boats and people not sailing
- We talk about this all the time but really do need to do something

Shona: Believe we should put on FOBs

- When you tell people we don't want your boat here, generally, people aren't happy
- Over the off-season, have a committee and talk about higher fees for catamarans or taking electricity to the front-fence to get FOBs

Peter: We do have an inclusion policy to try to give access to the property

- There's the idea of people aging out
- We want it to be fair for all the participants

Chief Rat's Report by Jeff Gerrits

- Love the club
- Want to keep on improving and especially what Norm spoke about as far as getting boats in use

Is there a committee for lease renewal?

- There is one for OHSF and for anyone interested, send Jeff an email

Ground Rat's Report – presented by Barbara Anderson

- Bought a new lawn mower and don't lower the blades
- Thanks to Steven Hoke for servicing all the equipment
- Spring clean-up on April 30th
- Thanks to Warren, Jamie and Martina for helping
- Perhaps TRCA will come down and explain their plans for the spit
- We had the Aetna Ant treatment and we will put the dates out there
- We had keys
- Thanks to everyone with watering the trees and suggested we do it for another year to keep the trees going
- Huge thanks to Shona and everyone on the deck and chair

- Work started on the lockers and thanks to Bruce
- Purchased an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and want to train 10 people on how to use it
- We sent a Grounds Plan
- Most of the trees are of the same age and that's why we're replacing them
- We will likely be putting in more trees

Peter: Concerned about the TRCA split

- We want to have them come and explain it
- The tree stumps will impair the access in and out of the water
- Be careful as we do not rent that land
- TRCA did mention that there might be some safety concerns
- Barbara will be pursuing with the TRCA

Vote to accept Reports

- Motion: Peter Halasz
- Second: Shona Chornenki
- Carried: 42 approved, 1 abstained

5. WRSC Executive Nominations and Vote

Position	Incumbent 2022	Running for 2023
Chief Rat (Commodore)	Jeff Gerrits	Jeff Gerrits (Acclaimed)
Money Rat (Treasurer)	Gordon Akum	Gordon Akum (Acclaimed)
Paper Rat (Secretary)	David Street	David Street (Acclaimed)
Body Rat Lead (Membership)	Michael Williamson	Michael Williamson (Acclaimed)
Dinghy Body Rat (Membership)	Joe Van Rossem (Retiring)	Joe Van Rossem (Acclaimed)
Paddling Body Rat (Membership)	Christy Sneddon	Shona Chornenki (Acclaimed)
House Rat (Grounds)	Barb Anderson	Barb Anderson (Acclaimed)
Race Rat (Racing)	Ray Davies	Ray Davies (Acclaimed)
Social Rat	Monika Roschlaub	Walburga Groetzing (Acclaimed)
Web Rat (Communications)	Annette Bradford	Annette Bradford (Acclaimed)
Past Rat	Paul Stillwell	Norm Lamb

Nominations

- Joe Van Rossem
 - Motion: Michael Williamson
 - Second: Larry Chad
- Shona Chornenki
 - Motion: Bruce Hanson
 - Second: Willa Marcus
- Walburga Groetzinger
 - Motion: Jordan Mitchell
 - Second: Norm Lamb

Vote on Executive

- Carried: 39 approved, 1 abstain

6. Motions from the floor

- Motion to move from 50 to 55 catamaran members
- We would need 50% approval
- Motion: Michael Williamson
- Second: Warren Edwards
- Carried: 23 in favour, 9 against, 5 abstained

Peter: How are these numbers determined?

- We noticed that we figured that we can fit about five more boats in the area

Bruce: Is it fair to ignore the waiting list for paddlers?

- The next thing would be to look at usage
- There are about 30 boats wrapped in tarps that never seem to move

How can we ensure people will use their catamaran?

- It is very hard; we do ask questions and their intentions to use the boat

Peter: Would like to thank the executive for all the work and hosting the AGM

- Thank you and we would like to spend some money on some items such as new racks
- Extreme variability of the water levels does it make it challenging
- We're always looking for volunteers on a wide-range of ideas

Peter: It would be great to have secure Wi-Fi onsite (Hanlan has it)

- Yes, there could be options for exploring that
- We could maybe to couple that with a camera and weather station and would make it easier to come down to the club

7. Adjournment at 4:12pm

- Motion: Warren Edwards
- Second: Bruce Hanson
- Carried: Unanimous

Attendees (alphabetical by first name):

Executive

1. Annette Bradford
2. Barbara Anderson
3. David Street
4. Gordon Akum
5. Jeff Gerrits
6. Monika Roschlaub
7. Norm Lamb
8. Ray Davies

Members

1. Allison Conliffe
2. Angela
3. Artem Lanrynenko
4. Bruce Hanson
5. Chris Killey
6. Dirk Vanhauwaert
7. Frank Goldschleger
8. Garvie Brown
9. Guler (Gigi) Elbi
10. Heather Broughton
11. Henry Fong
12. JP
13. Jerry Lazare
14. John Brock
15. Jordan Mitchell
16. Ken Devlin
17. Kenneth Quarton
18. Larry Chad
19. Matthew Burpee
20. Nigel Heath
21. Paul Muldoon
22. Peter Eagar
23. Peter Halasz

24. Peter Pennefather
25. Richard W
26. Rob Wessel
27. Rod Davies
28. Roy Spencer
29. Sandra Bernstein
30. Shona Chornenki
31. Steve Carroll
32. Steven Hoke
33. Ted Kerr
34. Theo Prociw
35. Tobin Young
36. Tom Schoenhofer
37. Walburga
38. Warren Edwards
39. Willa Marcus
40. Yvonne Pennefather