

ACBS Mid-Atlantic Chapter Meeting

Date: 03-09-2021

Time: 700pm

Location - Virtual via ZOOM due to COVID

Call to Order - Chapter Pres. Ed Andrews called the meeting to order, with approx. 23 members in attendance via ZOOM.

Pledge of Allegiance - was omitted due to the ZOOM meetings format.

Meeting Minutes - Approved as published.

Secretary's Report - Omitted as there was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report - Joe Gartner presented an overview of the chapter's **financials**. The financial report was approved unanimously.

Jack Brooks presented the **Endowment Committee Report**. The account is now established, and is in its investment stage, with provisions for monthly updates along with a full blown presentation annually. Timelines for distribution of funds have been established, as well as allocations of the funds (membership, events, Sea Scouts, etc.) There was some discussion to clarify who has access to the information and who will have signing authority.

Sea Scout funding will continue as receipts are submitted.

Donation Boat - Brian Gagnon reported the Hugh Saint boat was sold privately by the owner. The Chapter incurred a \$750 loss as the survey was completed prior to the boat being sold. Further discussion about donations (boats and/or securities) clarified the Chapter's position and tax status.

President's Report - Ed Andrews presented information about the **application for a new chapter** in the Chesapeake Bay area, to be called the "Maryland Maritime Heritage Club". He explained all neighboring chapters were invited by ACBS national to weigh in on this application. At-length discussion followed, including geographic overlap concerns; membership conflicts between our, the Chesapeake Chapter and other chapters; competing events, etc. There was speculation this may be a "breakaway" chapter due to infighting in the Chesapeake Chapter. It was also determined the real reason for the application for a new chapter remains unknown. Re the new chapter's membership projections - experienced members noted the chances of a genuine increase in membership is unrealistic, instead being most likely membership "movement" between chapters will occur.

Brian Gagnon offered a very informative historical perspective on a similar attempt to form a breakaway chapter, which resulted in the application being denied for the good of the national organization. He also recommended this application should be denied as resources (members, volunteers, etc.) are "slim", and the potential for disruption is great.

A motion was made, and approved, to not support their application at this time due to the need for more information justifying the addition of a new chapter in such close proximity to neighboring chapters. Ed Andrews will share our concerns, as both Chapter President and Board member, at the next ACBS Board meeting.

Vice President's Report - Jack Brooks provided an update of the **Sea Scouts** program, introducing "Skipper Bill" Murry. Bill updated the status of the Coast Guard project boat, including engine issues, additional components needed, the need for a survey for insurance purposes, etc. Bill also acknowledged and expressed his appreciation for our continued support. Target date for launch is June 2021. He also outlined the new ownership group structure and tax status, enabling the ability to charter the boat and participate in other activities. A motion to continue funding was made and approved unanimously.

Bill stated Sea Scouts program attendance and participation remains good.

Another program, the Meerwald, is also active. Sailing dates were outlined, with plans to coordinate sailing with ACBS events later this year.

2021 Activities were presented by Carmen DeLeo. He introduced Mike Kedziora, from Somers Point Historical Society, who provided an overview of their "Horsepower By The Bay" event in October. He invited the ACBS members to participate, and to tour the facilities.

Carmen provided overviews of the scheduled events, noting that many dates are now, in fact, hard dates.

Notable was the addition of dock space at the **Neshaminy** event, and likely participation of multiple neighboring chapters.

Discussion about the **Point Pleasant** show included cross-promotion, and having the Meerwald participate since it will be in the area. Ongoing COVID issues were also acknowledged, with the possibility of continued disruption or limitations. Ed also encouraged our members' participation in other chapter's events.

Ed also requested increased **promotion** of our Chapter events, including coordinated efforts with regional and national publications, plus production and heavy saturation of poster placement prior to local events.

Membership Report - Ellen Gagnon reported there are 90 members in the chapter, noting only one lapse. She also noted the number of members has been stable over the past few years. Ed noted an auto-renew option will be established by ACBS.

Nautical Mile - Brian is working on alternative ideas for publication, since there were no shows on which to report.

RE **Advertising** - George Hulse noted his being "lax", and deferred to Brian regarding questions about renewals/attrition of advertisers. George anticipated increased interest as the season approaches. There was also discussion about coordinating advertising with the Barnegat Bay event as well as the advertisers in *Rudder*.

Old Business

Web Site - Ed noted a liaison is STILL needed to interact between the chapter and ACBS National.

Social Media - Ed welcomed Gloria back to her role as social media coordinator, and expressed appreciation for her work.

Apparel/Ships Store - Ed Andrews requested finalizing orders in time for the Neshaminy event. Meg agreed determining products and placing orders in early May would provide sufficient lead time.

New Business

The **Judging Symposium** has been postponed until May 2021. Ed also presented having a new “touring class” in place for the Barnegat Show, specifically designed for the “user” boats to be judged separately from the “trailer queens”.

Ed presented a request to change the Nominating Committee process to better facilitate placement on the Board and committees. Brian noted changes to the by-laws may be required. This will be explored in further detail.

Next Meeting will be May 11th, 2021 at 700pm, with live participation anticipated. The meeting will also be on ZOOM in a hybrid format from the Eddington House.

Motion to Adjourn was made and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Wilson Black, Chapter Secretary.