

Massachusetts Schooner Ernestina Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 7, 2011

Meeting location: New Bedford National Historic Park

33 Williams Street

New Bedford, Ma

Commissioners in Attendance: Ken Foley, Laura Pires-Hester, Steve Walsh and Jen Nersesian

Absent; Matthew Sisk and Edwin Carr

Quorum present

Also present: Jeff Carter, DCR

Public Attendants; Mary Anne McQuillan, Fred Sterner, Chuck Smiler
Steven Guan and Barbara Burgo

Meeting called to order at 1:05PM

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Laura Pires-Hester, Vice Chair.

Motion to accept the minutes? Ken moved to accept the minutes with changes, second by Jen Nersesian, motion passed.

New Business:

Election of officers;

Results,

Jen Nersesian, Chair

Laura Pires-Hester, Vice Chair

Steve Walsh, Secretary

Laura turned the meeting over to Jen Nersesian the new Chair.

Programming Committee:

Committee is working on a 117th Birthday Party reception.

Date: Sunday February 20th @ M&C Restaurant

A cost of \$30.00 per person

Committee is looking for corporate sponsors @\$300-\$500 range for the event.

Laura taped a program for the local Channel 7 network that will air on February 6th about getting the Ernestina sailing again.

Other steps;

- Working on a forward looking outline
- SEMA next steps/outreach
- 2012 Tall Ships Program
- 2012 Tall Ships New Bedford

Maintenance Committee:

Jen's met with the volunteers and came back with a list of requests for DCR.

- Cover need to go on the ship ASAP.
- Create a project plan.
- Full time person to work on the ship w/ shipbuilding expertise.

- Reports from Manny and what he is working on.
- Will Lea's position be filled this year?
- Restoration facility on the dock.
- Advisory role when DCR puts out bids for the ship maintenance.

Jen asked if there are any policies in place for volunteers working to clean-up the ship.

Ken said that Conrad Crawford, DCR will need to work with SEMA on a new volunteer waiver. This will give only SEMA member's access to the ship.

Operations:

Jeff Carter, cover is being put on right now. It should take one or two week to complete.

Lea's position is still in the plans for the summer.

Seven bids were received by DCR for work on the ships mast and rigging. Jeff should have more information within the next two weeks on the contractor selected. Work will begin March/April

Finance:

Trust finance information submitted by Jeff Carter

Haul-out in spring will be paid in part by the Trust

Open discussion about the haul out and what happens and how the process will is done.

Archive update; Ken & Jeff

Sean will be meeting with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in the next couple of weeks. He will be discussing the University housing all records for the Commission.

Some Commissioners and attendees reminded Sean to contact New Bedford Library again and see if they are interested in housing the records. Jeff will talk to Sean about the New Bedford Library suggestion.

Chuck suggested opening the files to museums to place some of the information and exhibits on loan.

SEMA Report;

Mary Anne reported they have 250 members as of today and \$80,000 in budget.

More New Business;

Mike Spurgeon, formally of the Schooner Liberty out of Boston was interested in taking the ship on as a new business venture. He was not aware of the current condition of the Ernestina. Mike will visit the ship this afternoon with Ken and review the work that has been completed.

Under Mike's plan, he would move the ship to Boston June - September for recreation sailing and youth training. The ship would then be returned to New Bedford for eight months of the year. This would raise \$250,000- \$400,000 per year for maintenance.

Ken offered to take Mike on a tour of the ship after the meeting.

Steve Walsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Jen Nersesian, motion passed

Meeting closed at 3:15PM.

Next meeting scheduled for February 25, 2011.

SMW.