

Location: St. Sebastian's 7:00 in the triangular building labeled "Fine Arts" and "Hockey Rink"

(The agenda is shown in black and the discussions shown in blue.)

The following teams were represented at the meeting: Sharon, Duxbury, Hingham, BB&N, St. John's Prep, Wellesley, Lincoln Sudbury, Boston Latin, Pingree, Winthrop, Concord Academy, Nantasket Nor'easters, Notre Dame Academy, St. Sebastain's, Boston Public, Needham, Newton Country Day, Newton North, and East Boston

#### Finances

- Treasurer's report: For 2014, income will exceed expenses by about \$1600
- Disposition of 420 and Coordinator funds: Final distributions will be made this winter/spring in accordance with the policy previously enacted.
- Budget and Dues: Proposed budget and dues will be the same for 2015 as for 2014. There will be no fee for the Championship Regatta.

Update on NESSA – reported by the president

2014 Success of MBL teams:

Fleet race O'Day Finals– Manchester, Sharon, St. John's, BB&N

TR championships: Manchester - Mark, Duxbury, Sharon, Wayland - Terk

Fall championships: Duxbury and Wayland to ACCs. Duxbury to Great Oaks. BB&N dominated at Healy

End of year championships for 2015:

Same, as far as I know ...

Mark and NESSA will use TechScore Program to score fleet race regattas. Please properly register your team and sailors on the NESSA Website to facilitate use of the program.

Update on CBI – reported by the president

CBI reports that things will be the same for 2015 as they were for 2014

Procedural rules issues – reported by the president

Several teams did not meet their division requirements in 2014, and each infraction lead to an extra loss in their scores for division standings . The requirements are:

A division – NESSA membership, sail against 3 NESSA teams outside of your division. Sail at 1 NESSA event

B division – NESSA membership, sail against 1 B team outside your B subdivision, and 1 A team or 1 other NESSA team outside the B division

#### Current composition of divisions

A: BB&N, Duxbury, Hingham, Manchester-Essex, Sharon, St. John's Prep, Winchester

B North: Boston Latin, Brookline, Gloucester, Pingree, Swampscott, Winthrop

B West: Dover-Sherborn, Lincoln-Sudbury, Concord Academy, Wayland, Wellesley

B South: Nantasket, Notre Dame, Scituate, St. Sebastians

C at CBI: Cambridge, Natick, Needham, Newman, Newton North, Newton Country Day, Noble and Greenough, Quincy

Other C: Boston Public

#### Discussion of alternative division structures

- Bob Foley from Nantasket made a proposal to replace the existing structure with a 4 division structure based on solely geography. The top two teams in each division would advance to an 8 team league championship. This would all be team racing.
- Several C division teams discussed their difficulties with hosting other teams and with travel to venues other than CBI.
- Several A division teams expressed their desire to continue to sail against those they deem "the best" teams in the league, preferring what they deem "level competition" over easier travel considerations. They also expressed concern that sailing "weaker" teams would hurt their NESSA ranking.
- B division teams generally showed support for the proposal. Several A division teams expressed a willingness to schedule B division teams.
- The proposal was tabled awaiting a formal motion to be voted on at the annual meeting in January.
- In a breakout session of B division teams, an alternative structure for just the 3 B divisions was discussed and a proposal will be forthcoming.

#### Discussion of teams who want to change.

Wellesley wants to move to A. It was discussed that maybe Wayland should also move to A.

#### New member and former member status

Caitlyn Ridgley represented a new team from East Boston High to sail at Piers Park

#### Proposed Schedule of Events for 2015

29-Mar            sun    Courageous Keelboat

3-Apr	fri	Good Friday/ Passover
5-Apr	sun	Easter
10-Apr	fri	Fleet Race Friday at Courageous and Sharon
17-Apr	fri	Fleet Race Friday at Courageous
18-Apr	sat	Sharon Invitational
18 -Apr to 26-Apr		Public School Vacation
25-Apr	sat	O'Day Qualifier
26-Apr	sun	O'Day Finals
2-May	sat	SAT
2-May	sat	Sharon Fresh/Soph regatta
3-May	sun	MBL A Division Team Race at Duxbury
8-May	fri	Fleet Race Friday at Courageous and Sharon
9-May	sat	Donald Green
10-May	sun	Mothers' Day
16-May	sat	NESSA TR Championships
17-May	sun	NESSA TR Championships
18-May	mon	MBL Championships
19-May	tue	MBL Championships
21-May	thu	MA States ?????
22-May	fri	MA States ?????
23-May	sat	ISSA and NIT Championships
24-May	sun	ISSA and NIT Championships
1-Jun	mon	Coaches' Dinner

#### Event Notes and Issues

- Hosting MBL B team race – [Lincoln Sudbury at Lake Cochituate, date TBD](#)

- Donald Greene as shown above conflicts with NESSA Women's Event on May 3 and 10. Possible switch of Sharon Invitational date with Donald Greene
- Fleet Race Fridays at different venues Courageous and Sharon confirmed dates shown
- Duxbury confirmed date of A Division team race event
- MBL Championship shortage of 420s – allocation problem  
President reiterated the general consensus from last January's discussion of this issue: First come, first serve, is not desirable and there is a desire that the "best" teams be represented for a true championship. President reported the content of last year's NOR on the subject:

*Berths are limited in the 420 divisions. Schools may not sail in one 420 division without also sailing in the other 420 division. In the event there are more requests for 420s than there are boats available, teams meeting "performance criteria" will be awarded berths first, and the other teams will be awarded the remaining berths by lottery. The "performance criteria" are: 1. Hosted a MBL event. 2. Top 50 ranking in the final NESSA team race standings that determine "Mark" and "Terk" selection. 3. Top 25% finish at the Courageous Keelboat Kickoff, Sharon Invitational, or Donald Greene Regatta. 4. Top 3 teams in CBI race series standings as of May 11. Berths will be finalized and registrants notified by Thursday, May 15 at 10:00am. Teams that are denied a 420 berth will be notified by email and may be assigned an additional boat in one or both Mercury divisions, subject to the availability of boats.*

Several C division teams thought this unfair and proposed that each division be awarded an equal percentage of 420 fleet berths. The teams awarded berths would be based on season standings within divisions. Several A teams thought this would exclude some better teams over lesser ones. Chris Lash from Duxbury proposed a system with qualifiers occurring on the first day of the Championship and a second day with 18 420's sailing along with the Mercury divisions.

ALL AGREED THAT GETTING MORE 420'S FOR THE REGATTA WAS THE BEST SOLUTION. Jeff Hodess from BB&N offered to bring 6 boats. Isabel Ruang from Newton Country Day is a recent Harvard grad and offered to talk to Harvard about borrowing boats as we did last year. Specific proposals for dealing with a short fall of boats will be brought forth and voted on at the Annual meeting in January.

#### New Business

Notre Dame raised the question of making helmets mandatory. After discussion of financial issues and individual choices for teams, no motion was brought forth.

#### Scheduling

- Proposal to complete all scheduling at January meeting. Teams not in attendance will be scheduled by the other teams in their division on one of these Tuesdays or Thursdays: April 14, 16, 28, 30, May 5, 7, 12. Most of the A Division schedule was completed during this October meeting.
- Division breakouts