

MARITIME HISTORY COMMITTEE

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the **Maritime History Committee** was called to order on Friday, **January 16, 2009** at 9:07 AM. Voting members present: Joanne Williams, Chairman; Walter Daniels (by conference call); Malcolm Fearing, and Elmer Midgett. Non-voting members present: Valerie Bateman, Counsel; Tom Brooks, RIC Chair; and Kermit Skinner, Manager-Town of Manteo. Commission members present: Ellen Newbold and Fountain Odom. Also present: Jamie Daniels, Mayor-Town of Manteo; Dwight Gregory; and Capt. Frank Silver, American Sailing Association. Staff members present: Scott Stroh, Executive Director; Amy Hinnant, Operations Manager; Robbie Putnam, *Elizabeth II* Captain; and Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Tod Clissold and Angel Khoury.

Welcome

Chairman Williams introduced and welcomed Andrea Hanganu, the new Administrative Secretary.

Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

The minutes for October 16, 2008 were not officially approved due to lack of quorum.

New Business Sailing Program Presentation *Capt. Frank Silver*

Scott Stroh stated that the sailing program has been the signature program of the Maritime Museum for some time. The Roanoke Island Commission (RIC) has been actively seeking ways to enhance and expand the on-the-water program. Capt. Robbie Putnam has taken steps in that direction assuming a larger role with that program in 2008. Mr. Stroh said the inherent partnership potential in this sailing program presentation today presents an ideal opportunity to achieve various goals by working proactively with other community entities with less direct impact on operations, staff, and budget at Roanoke Island Festival Park (RIFP). Mr. Stroh then introduced Capt. Frank Silver from the American Sailing Association (ASA).

Capt. Silver described his personal background which includes being a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Master with a rating of 50 tons, carrying endorsements for sailing vessels of various power, and carrying a system towing endorsement. He has been on the Outer Banks for thirteen years, spending ten of those years in Colington Harbor with additional involvement in several yacht clubs. He is a member and certified instructor for the ASA in basic keelboat sailing, coastal cruising, coastal navigation, and bareboat chartering. He is captain of the *Down East Rover* and has volunteered for work with Capt. Putnam on the *Elizabeth II*. He met Capt. Putnam eight years ago in a captain's class at the College of the Albemarle and has also been friends with Barry Wickre, former Maritime Museum Curator.

Capt. Silver stated that he believes a full-service, year-round sailing school is needed to serve the community and the sailing community as a whole. Previous discussions were held with Capt. Putnam and Mr. Stroh regarding a viable commercial sailing school which resulted in today's presentation. Details of the proposal for a viable commercial sailing school were provided in a PowerPoint presentation with handouts that are filed as an attachment in the official Report Book. Capt. Silver's presentation included the following points:

- The school will be named the Outer Banks Sailing Academy.
- RIFP, the Maritime Museum, and the Town of Manteo will all benefit.
- Each student packet sent out will contain chosen RIFP information.
- The Maritime Museum will have the youth program run by professionals with the elimination of much cost and administrative hassle.
- Local adults will have greater opportunities with a full-time school.
- The program will allow youth to take the next step in sailing.
- With the exception of the youth program, the school will primarily target people across the country who would specifically come to Manteo to attend the school and who would thus contribute to the local economy while being on family vacations.

- Programs will be set up to last 3-4 days.
- The ASA is a standard for sailing education in the U.S. with a code of ethics for its instructors.
- The ASA presents sailing as fun, easy, and safe.
- Certificates must be earned through completion of classroom and on-the-water standards.
- The program is structured nationwide so course content does not vary.
- The ASA basic keelboat certification has been approved by the National Association of State Boards.
- There are 3 aspects to the program:
 - 1) Keep things as they are and running smoothly (Maritime Museum youth program will continue; curriculum will only change from U.S. Sailing program to an ASA program for certification).

* Walter Daniels joined the meeting by conference call. *

- 2) Include a comprehensive 4-course curriculum with keelboat, bareboat, coastal cruising, and coastal navigation.
 - 3) Teach those who do not want certification but want to know how to sail.
- Program expansion possibilities include a celestial navigation course from the *Elizabeth II*, a high school sailing team in Manteo, certified U.S. Coast Guard licensing with examination, and competitive sailing with a Manteo Sailing Team for youth and for adults.

* Malcolm Fearing joined the meeting. *

- The school will offer the community a professional school servicing the needs of the local community, the sailing community, and the sport of sailing in general utilizing experienced professional instructors who are trained in sailing as well as in teaching sailing.
- The program will provide the opportunity for students to have access to traditional sailing.
- Capt. Silver will need three individual classroom spaces; use of the basin, floating dock area, and docks; a small office space for receptionist/greeter; and use of the dingy fleet for the youth program.
- Capt. Silver will provide, purchase, and maintain the basic keelboats (20-25 ft.) and coastal cruising boats (30-34 ft.).
- Staff will consist of Capt. Silver, a receptionist, a youth program instructor, and two assistants for the 8-week youth program. Other instructors are typically contracted to teach particular or multiple courses.
- Program costs include: youth program currently at \$190.00-\$200.00 per participant to be maintained; basic keelboat course at \$550.00 with the school providing a discount for locals at \$450.00; and coastal cruising class not taught at school where participants go on a boat for four days at \$900.00 with an additional discount for locals. Organization members will also receive a discount.
- No full sailing programs exist within 100 miles of Manteo. There is a small ASA program in New Bern without many available classes.

Jamie Daniels, Mayor of the Town of Manteo, asked what restrictions existed regarding the Museum property. Kermit Skinner, Manager of the Town of Manteo, responded that what matters from his perspective is that the product gets delivered; *how* it is delivered is Mr. Stroh's issue. Mr. Skinner did not know if there were any restrictions on the deed which would prevent a commercial operation. The boardwalk was built there with a combination of funds. These questions will need to be answered, including what restrictions exist if done through the Friends as opposed to the State of NC. Discussion followed about funding and restrictions.

Walter Daniels agreed to examine the deed to the Creef Park property to see if the language refers to commercial activities and determine what actions should be taken regarding the restrictions.

* Fountain Odom joined the meeting. *

Discussion followed about boats which are appropriate for children to utilize.

Discussion followed about the evening sails and regatta.

Mr. Stroh stressed that with summer quickly approaching, the RIC and the Town must commit to moving forward or not. Jamie Daniels responded that he supports the partnership and his Board meets next Wednesday (01/21/09) when he can bring the partnership to their attention.

Discussion followed about the financial benefit to the Town and park as well as Capt. Silver's need to make money.

Discussion followed about Capt. Silver's primary needs of building usage, water usage, dock space, classrooms, and access to State equipment along with the benefits of school revenue.

Capt. Silver reported the youth program will be run basically with the same structure that it has been. The curriculum may differ slightly, but students will know the same material in the end as if the class was taken in any other location. On-water time is 85% of the program. He said the ASA requires youth to pass a swimming test by treading water for five minutes before they can become class members. He noted that the ASA is a small boat certification program rather than a kid's program.

* Elmer Midgett joined the meeting. *

Capt. Silver stated that local youth program instructors from the past will be called first to see if they want to get ASA certification. ASA requires only one instructor be certified, but Capt. Silver requires all of his instructors to be certified; assistants do not have to be certified.

Discussion followed about contracting instructors and how this partnership will eliminate the hiring duties for the organization.

* Chairman Joanne Williams was excused from the meeting. *

Mr. Stroh pointed out that Capt. Silver will run the program at a higher level than has been done in the past.

Capt. Silver explained that the ASA offers schools a comprehensive insurance program that would be in place.

Mr. Stroh stated that this arrangement will not change the maintenance and infrastructure of floating docks, boathouses, and other facilities which are under the responsibility of the Maritime Museum; Capt. Silver stated that he would provide assistance as needed.

Capt. Putnam reminded members that previous programs have been done by U.S. Sailing which is compatible with ASA; ASA is a much larger organization. It was noted that the opportunity exists to have classes go through the *Elizabeth II* or through the Maritime Museum to provide exposure to traditional sailing.

Members discussed and agreed to support the partnership with Capt. Silver and ASA with the intention to have it in place by June 2009 once support of the Town is obtained and questions regarding the deed and restrictions are answered at the Town level. Kermit Skinner agreed to follow up and provide feedback regarding how best to proceed at the Town level. Jamie Daniels agreed to have Capt. Silver come and explain the proposal to the Manteo Town Council on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at the 4:00 PM workshop staff meeting.

Reports

Status of Operations
& Programs at
Maritime Museum
Scott Stroh

Upon Chairman Williams exiting the meeting, Tom Brooks became Chairman by default. Chairman Brooks then presented Scott Stroh who reported that the Maritime Museum educational program plans are moving forward during the park closure to the public in preparation for 2009. There were no additional details to be reported regarding the Maritime Museum since the last update from October 2008.

Jamie Daniels asked for updates on Fisherman's Landing. Mr. Stroh responded that there were no additional updates to be reported other than it continues to be a goal to be reached.

Dwight Gregory announced that he and Greg Southard continue to volunteer at the Maritime Museum two to five days a week, so the door remains open to the public even though the facility is officially closed.

Jamie Daniels and Scott Stroh agreed to meet at 2:00 PM next Wednesday, January 21, 2009 to discuss issues in advance of Mr. Daniels' 4:00 PM Manteo Town Council meeting.

Executive Director
Scott Stroh

In the interest of time, Scott Stroh did not provide the Executive Director's Report due to that report being on the scheduled agenda for the RIC Board meeting later today (01/16/09).

**Commission
Recommendation**

Tom Brooks stated that the Committee would proceed with the recommendation to partner with Capt. Silver and the ASA once questions with the Town are answered.

Announcements

The next meeting of the Maritime History Committee will be Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 9:00 AM.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM.

Minutes by: Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant

Approved by: _____
Angel Khoury, Secretary, Roanoke Island Commission