**2011 NEISA Annual Meeting Minutes**

**December 3, 2011**

1. The Meeting was called to order by Acting President, Brian Gracey USCGA ’12, at 9:14am
2. Roll Call was performed by Brian Gracey. 32 teams were represented. Please see attachment “A” to view attendees.
3. There was one addition to the agenda. Matt Cohen from MIT proposed an adjustment to the 2013 Spring Interconference Schedule/calendar.
4. Commissioner O’Connor made a motion to wave the reading of the minutes from the 2011 Fall Executive Committee Meeting and accept said minutes, because everyone had an opportunity to read them prior to this meeting. The motion was seconded by President Gracey.

**The motion was brought to a vote; it passed with all in favor.**

1. Commissioner’s Report. See attachment “B”
2. President’s Report (Gracey). Brian reported that NEISA teams had an outstanding year in 2011. We won five out of the six National Championships. NEISA had more sailors recognized by the All-America Committee and the All-Academic Committee than any other conference.
3. Treasurer’s Report. See attachment “C”
4. Mr. Bresnahan noted that in 2010 NEISA spent more money than we earned. This was mainly due to a backlog of trophy engraving that was performed that year.
5. In 2011 the process of billing teams for dues and regatta fees was brought up to date. NEISA earned more money than we spent.
6. The cost of bookkeeping has stabilized.
7. Outstanding overdue bills from 2007-2009 are unlikely to be collected.
8. NEISA needs to become stricter in enforcing payment of bills without being prohibitive to growing teams.
9. The stipends have not been processed as of this report.
10. NEISA has lost its non-profit status.
11. Conn College Alum, Matt Parker, is an attorney. He has offered to help us restore the non-profit status. We may incur some additional costs here.
12. NEISA needs to increase revenue by increasing regatta fees.
13. Matt Cohen suggested that we need to be conscious of increasing fees too quickly so that smaller programs can continue to manage their budgets. He also suggested that regattas that cost more to run, such as team racing and match racing, should have higher fees commensurate with the additional costs.
14. Greg Wilkinson suggested that a Finance Committee be established to make recommendations on decisions related to NEISA’s finances.
15. Mr. Bresnahan suggested that NEISA adopt the following new regatta fee schedule.
16. Out of Conference: $30 (unchanged)
17. In Conference: $26 ($2)
18. Two Day Trophy: $22 (unchanged)
19. Two Day Minor: $20 ($18)
20. One Day Trophy: $16 ($12)
21. One day Minor: $12 ($8)
22. Commissioner O’Connor made a motion to adopt the proposed fee increases. President Gracey seconded. **The motion was brought to a vote; it passed with all in favor.**
23. Henceforth bills will be sent out at the end of the fall semester unless teams have made an arrangement for billing at a different time of year. It is imperative that we obtain correct current billing addresses for all teams.
24. Mr. Wilkinson made a motion to form a Finance Committee to work in conjunction with the Treasurer. O’Connor seconded. **The motion was brought to a vote; it passed with all in favor.**
25. Jury Coordinator’s Report (Kerry Sullivan)
26. Ms. Sullivan started by thanking all of the judges, coaches, sailors and alumni. She also stated the reimbursements have been issued promptly, which reflects well on NEISA. Over the course of the year we had fifteen judges or umpires officiating at thirty regattas. We added five recent graduates to the core of judges.
27. She then stated that she would like to formally thank the following for all their time and effort on behalf of NEISA: Peter Johns, Meredith Killion, Greg Kiley, and Jeff Dusek.
28. One goal for the spring is to have a full complement of umpires for SNETR.
29. Another goal is to establish an All NEISA Jury Team to recognize those who have performed the best.
30. There will be an Umpiring Seminar at MIT prior to NEISA Team Race Champs.
31. Mr. Wilkinson pointed out that host schools are ultimately responsible for getting umpires to their regattas. Hosts should not simply rely on Kerry; they should work with her to recruit effective juries/umpire teams.
32. Sullivan suggested that all sailors and coaches be respectful at all times. Judges/umpires are people too. They will make mistakes. Sailors and coaches need to accept decisions graciously and move on. Positive feedback is helpful. Negative feedback must be conveyed appropriately. If not, we will lose volunteers.
33. Old Business
34. Performance Ranking System (Brain Swingly)
35. Mr. Swingly stated that the PRS is system intended to rank the teams after an entire season. It should not be used as a weekly ranking. This will be misleading to people without intricate knowledge of the system, such as administration officials. He suggested that if we post it on the website every two weeks, we should rename it to more accurately reflect what it is.
36. The feedback on allowing teams to count more than one score per weekend is all positive.
37. One significant problem is the lack of scoring opportunities for women’s teams. Coed teams have 34 opportunities, whereas women only have 9.
38. C level regattas are rated too high. PRS committee will address and make recommendation.
39. Mr. Assad made a motion to count seven coed scores and five women’s scores. The motion was seconded by O’Connor. **The motion was brought to a vote; it passed with only to votes against.**
40. O’Connor made a motion to approve the slate of regattas to be counted in the Performance Ranking System for fall 2012. The motion was seconded by Gracey. After some discussion O’Connor amended the motion to allow for the addition of another women’s regatta. **The motion was brought to a vote; it passed with all in favor.**
41. NEISA Competition Committee (Greg Wilkinson)
42. The Competition Committee had nothing to report.
43. Special Projects
44. New website. Mr. Assad reported that his position as Schedule Coordinator did not allow him adequate time to work on the new website. Therefore he needs to pass that duty off to someone else. \
45. Mr. Bresnahan suggested that we hire a professional web designer.
46. Scheduling Issues for ICSA and NEISA (Justin Assad and Ken Legler)
47. Host site for NEISA Match Race Championship
48. Susan Epstein was in attendance representing the 210 Class. The Boston area 210 Fleet has offered to host the NEISA Match Race Champs for 2 consecutive years (possibly out of Fan Pier).
49. Brown is trying to get permission to host it at NYYC in Newport in Sonars pending confirmation of dates and availability of their Sonar Fleet.
50. Mr. Zagol has requested that the Pine Trophy be switched back to a fleet race regatta in 2012, because it is too difficult to get umpires on that weekend.
51. They are hoping to move the Pine Trophy to a later date in the season in order to help teams prepare for Match Race Nationals.
52. Mr. Assad stated that we cannot make changes to regatta formats this late in the scheduling process.
53. Bresnahan stated that we need to avoid making last minute “Vegas decisions” on such matters. Qualifying for a Match Race Championship through a fleet race regatta is frustrating.
54. Ms. Sullivan said that it is not feasible to recruit enough umpires to handle 2 match race regattas on the same weekend. And that it is difficult to get umpires up to Castine, ME.
55. Mrs. Epstein suggested that we check the US Sailing website to determine the availability of umpires on any given weekend.
56. Mr. Wilkinson reiterated Mr. Leonard’s suggestion that search for a host that can provide keel boats, such as NYYC, and establish a permanent relationship with said host.
57. New Business
58. Membership update (O’Connor)
59. Mr. O’Connor made a motion to move Colby College up from Associate Member status to Provisional Member status. The motion was seconded by Mr. Churchill. **It was brought to a vote; it passed unanimously.**
60. Another motion was made to allow Plymouth State, UMass Dartmouth, Sacred Heart and Holy Cross to become Associate Members. **The motion was seconded by Chruchill; it passed unanimously.**
61. Amanda Callahan proposed that teams competing in major team race regattas be charged extra fees to pay for umpires.
62. Mr. Churchill made a motion to increase the entry fee to NEISA Team Race Championship by $100, and leave all other regatta fees as they are. Mr. Assad seconded the motion and stated that this will only affect the teams that can afford such an increase.
63. Ms. Sullivan said that the increased fees should not be allocated to pay umpires. They should remain as volunteers, whose travel expenses get reimbursed.
64. **The motion was brought to a vote; it passed with 25 in favor and 0 opposed.**
65. Mr. Cohen made a motion to adjust the spring schedule by switching the Boston Dinghy Club Challenge Cup from Spring weekend 8 to weekend 10, and switching the Friis/Marchiando from weekend 10 to weekend 8. The motion was seconded by Mr. O’Connor.
66. Mr. Assad suggested that this change could not happen without approval from ICSA. We should get together with the leadership in MAISA to determine if this is feasible at the ICSA level.
67. The motion was amended to say that we should we should combine forces with MAISA to see if we can get it passed by ICSA**. It was brought to a vote; it passed with 8 in favor and 6 opposed.**
68. NEISA Annual Awards:
69. Mr. Wilkinson nominated John Mollicone (BU ’98)and Dan Rabin (BU ’98) for their Silver Medal performance in the J-24 class at the 2011 Pan Am Games. **The motion was seconded by Mr. Churchill; it passed unanimously.**
70. Mr. O’Connor nominated Kerry Sullivan (BU ’07) for the MacArthur Service Award in recognition of all her efforts in coordinating judges and umpires. **The motion was seconded by Mr. Churchill; it passed unanimously.**
71. NEISA Executive Committee Elections
72. After voting on each of the undergraduate positions on the committee, it was moved by Mr. O’Connor that the following slate be approved for 2012
73. Commissioner: Mike O’Connor (Harvard)
74. President: Ryan Mullins- BC ‘13
75. Vice President: Jared Dunn- Brandeis ‘13
76. Secretary: Ben Lamont- Harvard ‘14
77. Treasurer: Jeff Bresnahan (Connecticut College)
78. Schedule Coordinator: Justin Assad (Dartmouth)
79. Northern Regional Director: Frank Pizzo (Bowdoin)
80. Central Regional Director: Brad Churchill (BU)
81. Southern Regional Director: John Mollicone (Brown)
82. Director of Boats and Safety: Mark Zagol (Coast Guard)
83. Director of Special Projects: Matt Lindblad (MIT)
84. Northern Regional Representative: Blake Burgess- MMA ‘15
85. Central Regional Representative: Evan Woodford- BC ‘14
86. Southern Regional Representative: Alex Rudkin- RWU ‘14
87. At Large Regional Representative: Alex Giordano -Conn College ‘15
88. At Large Regional Representative: Max Caballero- Coast Guard ‘14
89. **The slate was seconded by President Gracey. It was brought to a vote; it passed unanimously.**

F: The meeting was adjourned by President Gracey at 12:46pm