

Present: Bob and Janet Abraham, Rich Atkins, Kevin Brook, Donna and Peter Conlon, Jack Hinz, Jane Howard, Joan Kadaras, Frank Miller, James and Nancy McKnight, Susan Whitney

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting at Slattery's, Fitchburg was called to order at 7:15pm by Chair Hinz; Prior meeting minutes posted on line for review were ACCEPTED.

II. REPORTS

A. Treasurer

Treasurer Howard reported the following financial status. Report ACCEPTED.

*Checking \$1,647.14

*Reserve Savings \$2,142.37

*Total \$3,789.51

Account Activity \$152.02 T-shirts income

\$ 0.07 earned interest.

*2017 budget based on last year's actual with very slight increase was approved.

B. Activities Coordinator

Coordinator Miller reported:

Environmental Police will provide a speaker. The date is pending.

*Fitchburg State University dive pool night to check dive equipment FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 7-9pm.

*Chicks' Day SUNDAY, JULY 9 at Stage Fort Park, Gloucester

*Lobster Fest SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 at Kevin Brooks and Susan Whitney's home.

Miller will host shore dives Saturdays starting this late April/earlyMay. He also will be available to host "retiree" dives during the week if requested.

V. P. Conlon will book a morning boat dive with "Cape Ann Divers" August 19 if members want. He also will book an early June scallop dive on "Daybreaker" if 6 divers sign up.

*A club trip to Isle of Shoals to swim with seals was discussed. Consensus was to consider the week end after Labor Day. Miller will research dive boats out of Rye, New Hampshire.

*Bob Abraham suggested a "How to use a compass" seminar he would conduct at his home. Bob will provide more details for interested members.

Hinz recommends the Sea Rovers convention March 11-12 which includes Chester Poling artifacts with a film showing them in early dives. The sound track is the actual emergency conversations as the ship went down. It is the 40th anniversary of the sinking of the Poling.

Miller invites club members to consider joining him for his 30th wedding anniversary dive trip to Dominican Republic May 2018. Members would need to make reservations November 2017.

III OLD BUSINESS

A. UDCM T-Shirts. Howard reports 3 shirts are left for pick up.

B. Membership Forms/Dues. Howard asks all members to complete their renewals by the end of the April meeting. Forms are on line or may be obtained at the Club meetings.

C. Bylaws Change Vote - Conlon distributed a written ballot of proposed changes.

A. MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED 6 to 5 TO AMEND THE BYLAWS TO INCLUDE A WEBMASTER ON THE BOD.

Webmaster. The Webmaster will:

1. Maintain and update the UDCM website,
2. Monitor and edit content added or submitted for publication,
3. Authorize new members and audit and edit content added or submitted for publication on social media sites, (e.g. Facebook.) Other club members may assist with this duty as necessary.

THE ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR WILL NO LONGER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CLUB WEBSITE. This duty is stricken from the Club bylaws for the Activities Coordinator.

B. MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED 8 to 3 TO AMEND THE BYLAWS TO CHANGE THE "CHAIRPERSON'S PROTECTION RESERVE SAVINGS FUND" TO THE "RESERVE SAVINGS FUND"

ARTICLE VII: FINANCES

D. Structure of the Treasury

Savings Fund. The purpose of the reserve savings fund is to provide financial protection for the club.

It is stricken from the bylaws that it is to protect "a person or persons running a Club sponsored dive". It is also stricken from the bylaws that "a portion of every membership dues shall be placed into this fund".

C. MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED 8 to 3 TO CHANGE THE BYLAWS BY ADDING THE STIPULATION THAT FEES FOR CLUB ACTIVITIES WILL BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

- E. Fees. The BOD on the advice of the Activities Coordinator will determine what fees, if any, should be charged for Club activities and members shall prepay for these activities for the protection of club finances.

IV NEW BUSINESS

Members are asked to consider implementing a reduced membership rate of \$15 for students and/or active military.

DIVE TALK: Jack Hinz talked of his French Polynesia dive.

SPEAKER; Frank Miller presented a video of his wreck dive from a Dominican Republic trip.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The 50/50 raffle was not held. The next meeting is scheduled for THURSDAY, MARCH 16 at 7pm at Slattery's. Motion to adjourn at 8:30pm was APPROVED.

Submitted by: Jane Howard, Acting Secretary

Approved by Jack Hinz, President