

## **SUMMARY**

## **MBSA General Membership**

**Nov 9, 2022**

Present: Logan, Erik L, Sue H, Rob G, Jack C, Jody G, Rama, Chris L, Mitch W, Rob D, Bill F, Tom B, Bob F, Lance, Bob M, Jeff K, Sean G, Ken A, Elke, Richard F, Adam T, Dave, Melissa V.

### **Intro:**

Logan welcomed all, reviewed the agenda.

### **AWARDS Banquet:**

Scheduled for Nov 18 at Cottage Park, Winthrop at 7:00. Come celebrate and enjoy comradery.

### **Working Group:**

Mitch will head up the Working Group this winter. After the awards banquet, an email will be sent out to invite anyone interested in helping shape the future of our sport here in Mass Bay. The group will focus on a narrower range of topics including restructuring of Mass Bay splits.

### **Early Organization of Next Year's Schedule:**

In order to keep pace with an overbooked world, we intend to get the schedule out much earlier. The hope is the early schedule will enable families/sailors to have important information as they start booking next summer's events. A primary goal this year is to get the book out early for the same reason. Thanks to Jack C and the North Shore for organizing their sailing schedule early and emailing it in.

### **Season Participation:**

Some factoids brought up in discussion:

- Some say there are too many events and that dilutes the racing
- 53% of those on the email blast list actually opened the emails.
- Some regattas report that using the MBSA email blast helped increase sign up; other, small events, saw little or no impact.

### **Young Adult Sailing**

There was talk about creating pathways for younger sailors (high school/college) to enter handicap sailing as crew and future boat owners. In order to reach younger sailors, we need to expand beyond website and fb to Instagram, twitter, tictok, etc. A suggestion was made to ask junior sailing organizations to nominate instructors to crew in our fleets; we might consider underwriting them to attend "Safety at Sea" and other courses.

Doing something similar to rally any age adults to come out to race. Some OA's offer free first (or three) races for novices, skippers to coach them on their boat, separate starts at some Wednesday night races for novices. Erik L shared how he came to his first season (2022). He said it wouldn't have happened without opportunities to crew on other boats, having experienced skippers and crew come out to help coach him and his crew. Others echoed similarly, and that many sailors and even racers do not know of MBSA. We need to work on how to reach a broader audience.

## **Juniors**

Patrick Broome will work with Junior Organizations to collaborate on scheduling and using what resources MBSA can offer. South Shore junior sailing teams have already been collaborating. Next we work on north shore and more.

## **Racing Rules and Protests:**

In response to a few delayed protests this year, we will set up a committee to make sure protests are heard in a timely fashion. Some OA's had trouble coordinating/organizing protest hearings. MBSA will create a process to facilitate protests to support smaller organizations in need of help/resources (judges etc.). The delay in hearing protests last summer was "unacceptable". Later this winter, we hope to hold a zoom seminar on "How to Protest." It was also suggested that an appendix be added to GSI's, including suggestions for hearings at a lower, less formal level before convening a full hearing.

## **Season Participation**

Russ C shared a spreadsheet he created to display information on the past several years' participation in MBSA Season Championship Races (Q's). Russ invited anyone to create a similar sheet for the pursuit series. The decline in participation is obvious: about be 6 – 8% annually. Russ included races that have been discontinued, along with recently initiated races. An unprecedented 6 races were cancelled in 2022, not due to weather, but to lack of registered boats. JFK changed format from traditional buoy race to a longer navigation form as suggested by "working group." It still required active promotion to get boats to register.

The floor was opened for any additional questions/discussion. Meeting concluded.