**NE DISTRICT 2022 WINTER MEETING MINUTES**

**\*Notes are highlighted in bold font**

District Commodore - Bob Shapiro

District Secretary - Nathan Cunningham

1. Call to Order – **Meeting was held on Zoom and was called to order by District Commodore Bob Shapiro at 7:08 PM February 28, 2022**
2. Roll Call of Fleets
   1. Fleet 301-Lake Champlain
   2. Fleet 493-Bow Lake
   3. Fleet 332-Squam Lake
   4. Fleet 273- Lake Massabesic
   5. ~~Fleet 121-Merrimack~~
   6. ~~Fleet 145-Spofford~~
   7. Fleet 189-Marblehead

**Fleets in attendance: Squam Lake Fleet 332, Bow Lake Fleet 493. A quorum was met**

**Members: Bob Shapiro, Nathan Cunningham, Nadine Cunningham, Gregory McGinnis, Jamie Boynton, Rob Dresser, Claire Gormley, Raoul Posmentier, Kimberly Rosell, Nathaniel Hendrickson**

1. Past meeting’s minutes
   1. **Motion made by Rob Dresser to dispense reading of past minutes. Motion seconded by Raoul Posmentier--passed unanimously.**
2. Treasurer’s report
   1. **Motion made by Raoul Posmentier, seconded by Nathan Cunningham, to accept treasurer’s report as written. Passed unanimously.**
3. Unfinished Business (from Winter 2020-2021)
   1. 2022 schedule
      1. **Moved by Nathan Cunningham to accept proposed 2022 schedule for NELD. Seconded by Jamie Boynton. Passed unanimously.**
   2. Trophy locations
      1. From winter meeting:
         1. District Master’s trophy – Bob Shapiro
         2. District Women’s trophy – Sandra Czibik (not awarded)
         3. District Circuit Championship – Bob Shapiro
         4. District Championship – Justin Coplan
         5. Junior District Championship – Toby Frank
         6. Len Pratt Trophy – Vermont Sailing Partners (?)
            1. Last awarded to Pat MacQueen in 2021
         7. Sportsmanship award – VSP(?)
            1. Last awarded posthumously to Kip Hamblett in 2021
   3. Goals for District – big picture

From last time:

* + 1. Bob Shapiro: more boats sailing in New England District
    2. Lightning Lab in 2022? Hosted at Squam?
       1. **There was a large discussion on the above two items. Kim Rosell suggested holding a “sailing basics” style event for newcomers in addition to a separate Lightning-oriented lab.**
       2. **Bob Shapiro suggested that the top boats from each District event do a short debrief after the day’s sailing to share knowledge and build relationships.**
       3. **Jamie Boynton suggested creating short instructional videos specific to each sailing area to brief new folks about parking, launching, etiquette, hidden rocks, etc.**
       4. **Similar to Kim’s idea about teaching sailing basics to newcomers, Jamie also suggested a “Community Day” to be held by each Fleet for introducing new people to sailing a Lightning in our District.**
       5. **To sum it up, Rob Dresser made a motion proposing the following items: the top 3 boats at Districts will debrief after each day of racing; each Fleet should schedule a day/time for hosting a “Community Day” to introduce new folks to sailing a Lightning; Lightning Lab to be scheduled by the District and hosted by District members at one of our lakes (most likely to be Squam); and each Fleet should create a short introductory/instructional video about sailing at their respective venue. Motion seconded by Nathan Cunningham & others. Passed unanimously.**
  1. Using Slack for communication going forward
     1. **Slack has seen some use primarily by Squam Fleet 332 members. Several District members find Slack to be more convenient than email for sharing photos, finding last-minute crew, organizing upcoming events, etc. Some District members are uninterested in using a form of communication other than email.**
     2. **Motion made by Raoul Posmentier to continue using Slack in addition to updating other forms of communication. Seconded by Nathan Cunningham. Passed unanimously. Both the Google Group and Slack will continue to be updated with important notices.**

1. New Business
   1. Districts location for 2023
      1. **MBBC to tentatively host 2023 District Championship on June 17-18. Mark Gardner will confirm after speaking with the rest of Fleet 301.**
      2. **Rob Dresser will inquire with Hingham Yacht Club about hosting the 2024 District Championship.**
   2. District pays membership dues to ILCA for new NE District members?
      1. **Suggestion to pay first year of dues for new NE District members for 2022 only, unless voted on and extended for future seasons. Total amount paid by District is limited to $300 for the year. New members to be captured beginning at 2022 NE Districts and any/all subsequent events for 2022 season.**
         1. **Motion made by Nathan to implement the above suggested rule, seconded by Bob. Passed unanimously.**
   3. Increase “Junior” age to under 30 for NE District WJM?
      1. **After some discussion and a general agreement that the purpose of the NELD Junior trophy is to encourage “young” people to race Lightnings, a motion was made by Nathan to modify the NELD “Junior” rules to recognize a boat with a combined 3-person crew age of 60 or fewer years, or a boat skippered by a Junior (as defined by ILCA—under 20 by the end of the year in question) with any age crew. Any such boats competing at the NELD WJM regatta will be eligible for the Junior District Championship trophy. The motion was seconded by Claire Gormley and passed unanimously.**
   4. Modify Master’s qualifications to include 3-generation teams of any age?
      1. **Motion made by Nathan and seconded by Rob to modify the NELD Master’s requirements to allow 3-generation teams of any age to be eligible. Motion passed unanimously.**
   5. Modify Women’s qualifications to include teams of at least two women or a woman skipper?
      1. **Motion made by Rob Dresser to grant eligibility for the NELD Women’s award to a boat skippered by a woman with any gender crew and to a boat with at least two women on board. Priority for the award will be to the highest finishing boat with a female skipper. If no qualifying boats are present at the NELD WJM regatta then the trophy will not be officially awarded but may be presented to the highest finishing woman in the event. The motion was seconded by Claire Gormley and passed unanimously.**
   6. Advertise NE District schedule in Flashes? $65 for quarter-page ad, $100 for half-page?
      1. **Motion made by Rob Dresser to advertise in the Lightning Flashes. Seconded by Nathan Cunningham and passed unanimously. The size of the ad will be determined by Commodore Bob Shapiro upon purchase.**
   7. Assign volunteers for the following items (separate documents needed for NE District Championship and local NE regattas):
      1. Sample NOR **– Nathan Cunningham and Claire Gormley**
      2. Sample SI **– Nathan Cunningham and Claire Gormley**
      3. Checklist of items, to-do’s, and best practices for District Championship and NE regattas (i.e. budget, required equipment, staff, post-racing debrief, introducing visitors) **– Bob Shapiro and Raoul Posmentier**
      4. Create guidelines for race officials and participants to better understand RRS, prevent rule abuse on racecourse, assist sailors in the event of a hearing **– Gregory McGinnis**
      5. **The above items were assigned to those who volunteered to complete them. Motion made by Nathaniel Hendrickson and seconded by Gregory McGinnis to assign above tasks to be completed as defined. Motion passed unanimously.**
   8. **Sears Cup**
      1. **The Sears Cup is an annual championship for “triple-handed sailing among juniors over 12 and under 18.”**
      2. **After some discussion, motion made by Raoul Posmentier to ask Rob Dresser to contact the organizers of the Sears Cup and inquire about hosting the event in Lightnings somewhere in New England. Motion seconded by Claire Gormley. Passed unanimously.**
   9. **Instagram**
      1. **Nathaniel Hendrickson to remain point of contact for the NELD Instagram account. Account handle is @ne\_lightningclass**
      2. **Nathaniel requests folks send photos to him each week of the sailing season (or outside of the season) so he can post them to increase outreach.**
      3. **In addition to using Facebook and Instagram, Bob Shapiro floated the idea of creating a Lightning-centric TikTok account, though no motion was made to implement it.**
2. Adjournment
   1. **Motion to adjourn made by Raoul Posmentier, seconded by Gregory McGinnis, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm on Monday February 28, 2022.**