

Waikawau Boat Ramp Society AGM Minutes, Thames Sailing Club, 26.07.2020 at 10am



Present: 44 members attended including the following office holders and committee members, Eric Carter, Matt Juby, Peter Hudson, Terry Hawkeswood, Bev Walker, Rowan Christini, John Sanford, Bill Malcolm, Mike Simpson and Mike Lander.

Apologies: Grayson Reynolds, Greg Harrison, Neville Robinson, David Hutchinson, David Blewden, Richard Radonich, David Prowse, Les Bell, Trevor Davies, Mal Tevita and Stu Davies. *Moved Terry Hawkeswood and Mike Moore, Carried*

The Minutes of our last AGM were distributed before the meeting and taken as read. *Moved as a true and correct record, Peter Hudson and Malcolm McGeorge. Carried*

Matters Arising. Eric tabled the latest Site Compliance Report from the Waikato Regional Council which carries through for the next two and a half years.

President's Report: Eric thanked everyone for coming and on behalf of all members, he gave a special thanks to all our willing band of Ramp Wardens who again did a fantastic job this last year. He thanked our committee members who he said was a good balance of people who kept him in check and especially our treasurer who once again had ensured a strong balance sheet. He commented that we have worked hard on connecting with Iwi and that he and Matt had been privy to their plans for the Reserve and even though he could not share them in detail to us they were pleased that they pretty well mirrored our aspirations too. Eric said that he shared in their frustrations at the delays to the signing over of the reserve which means we cannot proceed with our plans to improve the site for our members for a while yet. He reported that Covid-19 further frustrated us as it put a stop to our negotiations with TCDC to help them improve our site toilet facilities as the funding from Tourism Infrastructure Fund was put on hold. We had offered TCDC a loan to top them up from the Tourism fund to establish a new block of public toilets nearer the road. We do not want to own or maintain them, that is clearly the job of Council. We will continue to work with Iwi to push TCDC along in this matter. Eric reported that the five year site audit by the Waikato Regional Council was completed this year covering our dredging and depositing methods as well as our management and total operation of the ramp and we received a high level of compliance which is what we were hoping. Jim Dahm is still pursuing a reduction in the level of documentation we need to accumulate for dredging and depositing and our yearly reporting based on the excellent record we have established to date. Eric talked about our conclusions regarding Waipatukahu/ Tapu Point. We have completed the bathymetric

surveys, had favourable discussions with TCDC and Transit NZ but the anticipated costs of between \$24 and \$32 million for the seawall, ramps and pontoons alone without even considering the parking area, has made the raising of funds for this project, in today's climate a no go. Eric has informed Ngati Tamatera of this decision and has pushed hard again for the need of another double ramp and if elected for another term as president would continue to make this and the desire for us to become a partner rather than just a tenant of Iwi, his priority. In response to questions from the floor about us reaching capacity and the dangers of boat trailers forced to queue up on the coast road, Eric said that by putting two wardens on duty on our very busy days and also planning to discuss with Iwi a better roading and parking system, that will alleviate this problem. Our investigations into a camera recognition and payment system, once approved by the owners would also help in this regard. Other questions arose about Tapu Point, as to peer reviewing the findings of Tonkin and Taylor and this was looked into but the costs, being another \$20k, did not warrant it. John Sanford suggested that if another cheaper option could be found another separate group was free to investigate this. *Eric moved that his report be accepted, John Sanford seconded this, carried.*

Treasurer's Report: Matt Juby distributed copies to the members and directed them also onto our web page. Our membership is already at 726 compared to 550 at the same time last year, so we have ordered a total of 1500 stickers for this coming year. This past year we needed four dredgings costing us \$65K compared to just three dredges and \$50k in the previous year. Our books are still very healthy and they need to be for our plans for the future. In the previous financial year we were hit hard by the January 2018 weather event when use of the coast road was restricted and this last year it was Covid-19 severely affecting but we have bounced back. Do we keep on building up our reserves of \$500k? We need to have at least \$100k for future weather events and of course more for our proposed new roading and ramp improvements. Charles Verry has retired but will be used as a consultant re our desire to gain Charitable Trust Status, this will have benefits regarding tax and securing future grants for our society. Matt spoke kindly about Peter McMahon, our accountant at Business One, who soon after completing our books suffered a major heart attack and died. Matt recommended we continue with Absolute Auditing based in Tauranga for doing our annual audit. They have completed the task but made us aware of possible future problems regarding our honesty box and the collection of money, something that is hard to audit and relies heavily on trust and we acknowledge this. Matt reminded us of the honesty box being stolen some months ago and the need to replace it. He estimated that the thieves would have been lucky to have retrieved \$50 for their criminal efforts. *Moved Matt Juby, seconded by Stan Lowe. Carried*

Election of Officers:

President: Eric Carter, *nominated by John Sanford and Terry Hawkeswood. Carried*

Vice President: John Sanford, *nominated by Peter Hudson and seconded by Matt Juby. Carried*

Treasurer: Matt Juby, *nominated by Eric Carter and seconded by Mike Moore. Carried*

Secretary: Mike Lander, *nominated by Matt Juby and seconded by Peter Hudson Carried*

Membership Secretary, Bev Walker, *nominated by Matt Juby and John Sanford. Carried*

Members: Moved by Eric that the current committee of seven members, Bruce Bogan, Terry Hawkeswood, Bill Malcolm, Greg Ward, Rowan Christini, Mike Simpson and Peter Hudson be re-elected for the coming year, *seconded by Trevor Johns Carried*

Auditor: Absolute Auditors to be retained for next year's audit. *Moved by Matt Juby and seconded by Bev Walker. Carried*

General Business: Concerns were raised from the floor about a lack of communication from the committee to our very large membership. We do have a very active facebook and web page but very few of the members present use these sites and so one newsletter a year, is not enough. Bruce Efford wanted members to receive the draft minutes of each meeting and *Moved: That the draft minutes be posted and sent out to the members within two weeks of each meeting. This was seconded by Lloyd Downing for the purpose of discussion.* Stan Lowe was concerned that confidential material discussed at the meetings may not be for public viewing. Matt Juby felt that a more regular newsletter would help with communication but that posting it out to those who did not have a computer would be problematic. Bruce Efford made it clear that he did not want it posted just sent out by email. Lloyd stated that draft minutes should not be sent out anyway as they were not passed as a true and correct record and as the first motion did not gain approval *he proposed another motion: "That a newsletter be produced every three months and sent out to all members via the email and website. Seconded Allan Gamble. Carried*

Our poor and outdated signage and state of the ramp was then discussed. The new owners need to be consulted about any new signage going up - we will look at updating what we have. The proper use of the channel needs also to be posted on our web page. The channel is working well and the exit to the left, or port, of the outer marker is still the preferred one. Eric is looking to have another major dredge in late September/October. Broad Spectrum set up the markers on the ramp which were a great help for boats backing but were destroyed in a matter of weeks. Reflectors set flat in the outer edge of the ramp may prove more successful. Eric stated this year it will be twenty years since we formed the Waikawau Boat Ramp Society. Mike Moore suggested that we contact Transit NZ as to having a Queue Alert Sign on the coast road, Eric will follow up on this. Discussion arose around LegaSea and what a great job they have been doing for recreational fishos like us.

It was moved by Allan Gamble that our society donate to the LegaSea Organisation and this was seconded by Lloyd Downing. They spoke about how LegaSea had stopped longlining and trawling in the Gulf and indeed were leaving a positive legacy for our grandchildren by the watchdog work they were doing. Lloyd alerted us to a TV3 programme screening later that day for members to view. Several talked about supporting LegaSea was more of a personal choice as there were many organisations our society has been asked to support. *The motion was not supported by the members in attendance* with Eric then stating that it was up to individual choice.

Ray wanted more wardens on duty, Eric talked about having an afternoon roster and utilising traffic management organisation. Malcolm McGeorge suggested that the society could look at employing our Ramp Wardens. Stan Lowe was against the Traffic Management concept. Bev noted that we had received an email from Trevor Davies requesting that we wanted our boaties to please be KIND to the older boaties as one day they will be the same.

Matt wanted the meeting to think about our membership fees as to whether they should go up or down, whether a concession should be made for long standing members or indeed an extra fee for new members. Maybe continuous and loyal membership could be rewarded but whatever was decided it had to be easy to administer. The committee was asked to look into this and report back at the next AGM. Potentially an extra fee for new members could be considered when we have to spend some significant money at Waikawau. Eric thanked everyone again for their attendance and input.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm followed by refreshments and a catch up time.

Mike Lander, WBRS Secretary