



## **Submariners Association of Canada (East)**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday 24 June 2020  
Via ZOOM Conference Meeting



This is the 3rd attempt of conducting a virtual meeting via Zoom. By all accounts if it goes as well as the last two in April and May it will be a success. Individuals still appear to have some issues depending on the device they are trying to connect with and as everyone is not a computer expert that might have something to do with it.

Once everyone seemed to be connected and the greetings seeing smiling faces on your screen and various pleasantries all round. It was good to see old faces and some new faces.

**Opening** the Chairman, Sylvain Rouillard, brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at 19:36 hrs from his home and thanked all for making this special Zoom meeting tonight. The first item was to pay our respects to our departed “brothers”. Art Bodden passed away on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. Art’s family were very close and supported SAOC(E) at every event. Good comments were made by attendees. Sir Charles Gunning passed away in Ottawa on 01 June. Charles was Commissioning crew of Ojibwa and sailed with her for a couple of years after Ojibwa returned to Canada. He was active in SAOC(C). It was also reported that UK Member Charlie Lonsdale’s wife passed away a few weeks ago. It is with regrets from our Association. Also, the passing of Michael Brown was mentioned again. Brian Lapierre stated that he has a good relationship with Garry Weir of the website [www.forposterityssake.ca](http://www.forposterityssake.ca). Brian encourages everybody to look at the website to view information on our comrades that have “Crossed the Bar”.

**Attendance** 14 members were in attendance: Pierre Alarie, Cliff Boettcher, Pierre Bouchard, Jeff Cameron, Ron Cooper, Sherman Embree, Jim Harris, Peter Heppleston, Brian Lapierre, Shaun MacDougall, John Meehan, Jim Northrup, Gilles Poirier, Sylvain Rouillard, Steve St. Amant, Phil Webster,

**Regrets** were received from 3 members: Greg Hallonquist, Robbie Fraser, Boyd Thomas.

**Health and Wellness** Tex Ranger is not well either. Brian had talked to him a couple of weeks ago. He is hanging in but Brian said Tex stated “that he was in good shape for the shape he was in”. A few members asked Brian if he would send them Tex’s phone number. Tex’s email is not functioning as his mailbox is full and he told Brian he forgot the Password so can’t get into it. Brian posted Tex’s telephone number so if people want to contact him, they can. **Tony Halvorson** in PEI is suffering from Parkinson’s Disease. Again, members are asked to reach out to Tony with encouragement.

**Minutes** the 27 May 2020 MGM minutes were distributed by email. No errors. The minutes were approved as distributed.

**Correspondence In** Nil.

**Correspondence Out** Nil.

**Reports Chairman** Sylvain stated he has been enjoying the Zoom meetings. This is the 3rd General Meeting using Zoom.

**Vice Chair** Jim Northrup stated that with the “All Around Look” Zoom meetings we are seeing people we don’t normally see at meetings. Generally, we thought that there would be more people joining in on the Zoom meetings whether it was for a MGM or for the “All Around Look” meetings.

**Secretary** Nil. Brian Lapierre is recording the meeting and will transcribe it.

**Treasurer** Ron Cooper gave his report. At the end of May our balance was \$16,399.00. Deposits were made from the Mask Project. One for \$1740.00 and another for \$2180.00. Also \$440.00 deposited from dues collected and \$160.00 from Slops. This is a total of \$20,315.00. Ron Cooper paid the initial bill for the Facemasks which was \$4170.00. After Ron takes his money the Final Balance is \$16,145.00. Ron also stated that the final total of income from the Mask Project was \$3320.00.

**Slops** No report as Greg had given his regrets for this evening. We still need a volunteer to take over slops.

**Membership Update** Brian Lapierre Brian reported there are 42 Life Members, 88 Members paid for 2020 and beyond for current total of 130. Brian encouraged people to find out their status and pay their dues. Send dues via E-Transfer to sylvain.rouillard@outlook.com. He will also be sending out emails to members who have not paid for 2020. As of the meeting only 4 people haven't paid their dues for 2020. Thank you all.

**Social** Nothing to be done with Entertainment due to COVID-19. BBQ will probably not happen and we will just have to wait and see what the fall brings. Maybe things will calm down by September but who knows. We still need to determine what the Nova Scotia "Bubble" means. It is a slow process for sure.

**Old Business** Sylvain asked about "Buster's" Book. Sherm Embree indicated that contact has been made with the Brown family which are still grieving. Sherm indicated they had offered any assistance from SAOC(E). The fund-raising issue that Brian did with the Facemasks was brought up. The topic of a Submarine Monument in Halifax was brought up. Steve St. Amant mentioned that he had received an email from Jennifer Denty, the Director at the Naval Museum of Halifax, that the museum would be willing to assist us in this project. We now need to move forward on this with ideas. A committee needs to be formed to support this. Steve St. Amant, Sylvain Rouillard, Brian Lapierre, Jim Northrup, and Jim Harris when he is in Canada. The committee would have to have something put together to present to the Director of the Museum in order to be able to move forward. If members are interested in participating in this and have any ideas, they need to contact Steve St. Amant. Members in attendance had various comments about the topic at this time. Support from Maritime Command is essential along with the Base Commander of CFB Halifax.

**New Business** Peter Heppleston from Central. He talked about the situation of the Ojibwa museum and when it was going to be painted. She is in rough shape. With COVID-19 the project has been dragging on with nothing being able to be done. Ojibwa managed to get a donation from Benjamin Moore, the paint company. They have received 128 gallons of Flat Black. A few members of SAOC Central have been getting together and trying to move the project forward. There is still a requirement for items such as brushes, rollers, long toms etc. to start the project. Peter stated that an estimate of \$5000.00 would be needed to purchase the supplies to get started on this. SAOC Central's AGM has been cancelled and the money designated for this, \$1500.00 has been moved over to the Ojibwa Paint Project. The status of the commitment of SAOC(W) is unknown at this time. Peter then asked if SAOC(E) would be interested in contributing to this project. If SAOC(E) agrees to a donation then the project will move forward. Peter stated that volunteers could stay onboard Ojibwa as well as long as they don't leave any "mysteries" in #1 trap. They have the support of the Ojibwa Museum. The paint has been selected by Benjamin Moore to be best suitable for the application so hopefully it will last a few years. The original painted done by Heddle Marine in Hamilton before she went to Port Burwell was the wrong paint and it shows the result.

It is hoped that in a few weeks that the restrictions may be lifted and the Ojibwa Museum may be open again.

After various discussions amongst the attended membership a motion was raised by Ron Cooper to match the Donation of Central up to \$1,500.00 from SAOC(E) towards the painting project for the

Ojibwa Museum and to support the volunteers provided the project goes ahead. Seconded by Jim Northrup. All in favour. **Carried.** Steve St. Amant will be the SAOC(E) point of contact for this project with respect to forwarding the money to SAOC Central's contact. A detailed expense report must be provided from Central for this project.

**Around the Room** Brian Lapierre visited Dave Russell and picked up the copy that lists all submarines that were lost up until 1952. It will be part of the Naval Museum of Halifax Inventory. Sherm Embree indicated it was great to see everyone on the Zoom meetings as travel to Halifax for a normal meeting was out of the question. Gilles Poirier also stated it was great to see everyone.

**Submariners Prayer** was read by Jim Northrup.

**Adjournment** There being no further business, it was moved by Jim Northrup and seconded by Steve St. Amant to adjourn the meeting at 2103 hrs. **Carried**

The next MGM will probably be held via Zoom on 29 July 2020 @ 1930 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Lapierre for Robert B Fraser  
SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard  
SAOC (E) Chairman