



Secretary's Office

Susan Lema



The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) Board of Directors meets monthly. In order to keep all members apprised of Board business I will report here when appropriate. It is important to note that not all business will be reported here since there are often issues dealing with individual members and privacy will always be protected. Also, some Board business that doesn't result in any action won't be printed.

RISAA Board of Directors June 22, 2021 Meeting Summary

FINANCIAL REPORTS

• **Treasurer's Reports**

Treasurer **Peter O'Biso** presented reports for the following:

- RISAA checking and savings accounts
- Foundation checking and savings accounts
- Foundation scholarship fund

• **Investments**

- Reviewed investments funds as of May 31.

• **Membership Report**

- Steve Medeiros reported that out-of-state memberships have increased slightly in the past few months, possibly due to the availability of online seminars.

MEMBERS IN SICKNESS OR DISTRESS

• The Board acknowledged the passing of Dick Geldard's wife Carole. Also discussed the serious illness of one of our well-known members.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Approved renewal of RISAA membership in the Environment Council of Rhode Island and approved \$100 annual dues.

OLD BUSINESS

• **Recreational Fishing Reporting App Grant**

Rich Hittinger updated the Board on the *AnglerCatch* app which is now going through the second version of "alpha" tests, and that it is almost ready to move to the "beta" phase in which more volunteers will be included. Susan Lema and Dawn Wood have volunteered to test the app in this next phase.

Our partner, Harbor Light Software, is setting up it up in the app stores where the next "Evaluation" version will be available to download.

• **Saltwater License Plate**

Steve Medeiros updated the Board on the progress of legislation in the House and Senate to move our striped bass license plate forward by reducing the mandatory minimum orders from 600 to 150. There are behind-the-scenes discussions on increasing the minimum funds that the DMV wants to get the production going. No other news available at this point.

• **Meeting Seminars/Recordings**

The Board continued discussions on moving back to in-person meetings. The West Warwick Elks is not yet ready for

us, but will be in the future.

The main concern is the fact that so many members now enjoy online zoom seminars, and if we went back to the Elks, those would end.

Steve contacted a couple of professional videographers about recording meetings when held at the Elks and then converting the video to a format that can be loaded onto our RISAA Dropbox account and from which members can view the seminar a couple of days later.

The cost of doing this would be expensive though, paying both the monthly rent at the Elks AND the video fees.

Also, in response to an email sent out, a dozen members responded with a variety of suggested ways to live broadcast the seminars from the Elks, but there is currently no reliable WiFi connection there. It's deemed "faulty" at best.

A board subcommittee was formed to investigate all suggested options and report back to the board next month. They are **Steve Medeiros, Gary Johnson, David Michel, and Dawn Filiatreault Wood.**

NEW BUSINESS

- None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

• **By-Laws Proposed Change**

The proposal to change the By-Laws, which would eliminate mandatory quarterly meetings, was set up for Members to vote on the RISAA Survey Monkey account.

An email was sent to all members, via our email listserver, on June 11 and remained active for 14 days.

The message explained the proposals, the reasons why, and a direct link to the voting page.

That voting page had the entire "Section 9" of the By-laws with both the current and proposed changes to the text.

There were only three questions:

1. Member's Name
2. Member's Vote (check off one of three options)
3. Optional comment (not required)

The results:

213 Members Voted

205 Approve..... 3 Not Approve..... 5 Abstain

The changes take effect immediately.

The complete RISAA By-Laws are always posted on the web site www.RISAA.org