

# United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 46, Cape Ann Gloucester, MA

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## Meeting Minutes: March 8, 2021

**1900:** Virtual meeting held on *Microsoft Teams* called to order.

**1903:** Pledge of Allegiance

**1906:** Flotilla Commander Mark Lapham's introduction of our guest speaker:

USCG CWO Elijah Reynolds, Operations & Training Officer

Many questions had been provided to **CWO Reynolds** prior to our meeting in order for him to have up to date answers for us.

Such as:

- Both the Commandant and the NACO have made it a primary focus to increase Auxiliary Surface and Air Operations nationwide. How can local flotillas help meet these goals and what can the local DIRAUX office do to help get Aux members underway?
- Surface Facilities and trained boat crews are at an all-time low. How can we increase these assets? Is there any thought to pooling resources at the District or Sector level to get a local "Crew Academy" together for intensive training sessions focused on a fast-track qualification for members interested in joining Operations?
- With the shortage of QEs in the District, could active duty BMs assist with check rides?
- What types of missions should we be focusing on? (PATONs/Bridges? - MOM Patrols - Regattas - etc.?) If you had to rank your operational needs, what would you put at the top of the list?
- For those members who cannot serve in Surface/Air Operations due to physical (or other) constraints, but want to contribute to other CG Support Missions, what would you recommend? How do we get that information to Aux members?
- At what point during the pandemic do you foresee operations going back to "normal?" What milestones must be met to get us back to face-to-face missions?
- Will the Marine Mammal Observation Program ever come back to D1NR?
- What are the odds of getting underway on a cutter while providing a specific non-operational skill, and what skills are needed if any? (e.g., Interpreter, Food Services, Public Affairs, etc.)

**1910: Brief Partial Summary of CWO Reynolds reponses:**

Firstly CWO Reynolds thanked us for all we do and to FC Mark Lapham for his invite to our meeting.

- ✓ Goal is to get us (Auxiliary) underway.  
Some still need Core Training.  
Check Rides for over 200 need to be met.  
Pass our recommendations up the chain of leadership.  
Patrol orders have to come from the sector or unit.  
CWO will visit CG units to reintroduce & remind them (active duty) of their auxiliaries for support.  
Has been a 93% drop in boating safety classes due to covid thus
- ✓ There's been no request for Crew Academy at the District level, work with your sector (good idea but, will be a lot of work).
- ✓ Active duty has 20 QEs total and can use auxiliary QEs if needed.
- ✓ Prioritizing missions; depends on the needs of the CG service, all missions are important, requests for orders come from the sector.
- ✓ After covid, watchstanders - radios - *especially chart corrections & food service cooks* will be needed.  
The FC is the authority to reach out to the CG unit for their support needs.
- ✓ Getting back face-to-face; leadership are taking guidance from the CDC, States, Coast Guard Command and success of the vaccines, signs are pointing possibly towards this summer.

**1938: Invocation by Floyd Grace ACS-Chaplain****1940: Roll Call**

Attending members and guests:

Mark Lapham FC  
 John Keyes VFC / FSO-CS-IS  
 Ralph Milroy IPFC / FSO-PE  
 James Beauvais  
 John Mellen FSO-CM  
 Floyd Grace FSO-DV  
 Bill O'Neil  
 Tom Clarke FSO-HR-MT  
 Evangeline King FSO-NS-OP-PA  
 Jack Flanagan FSO-PV  
 Gerry Davidson FSO-SR  
 Bob Goetschkes Guest and future member  
 Dorothy Foley Guest and future member  
 Donald Strunk Guest and future transfer  
 Damian Benson VCDR

**1942:** Staff Officer Report Updates

Jack Flanagan FSO-PV advised the membership of the process of PV becoming also VE

**1944:** Old Business / New Business

No Discussion

**1945:** For the Good of the Auxiliary

**Awards:** Div-4 Outstanding Performer Plaque for **John Mellen**

Certificate of Appreciation for **Ralph Milroy & Paul Maglio** “For Outstanding Cooperation & Assistance in Furthering the Purposes and Principles of the USCG Auxiliary”

FC Lapham has informed us via DIRAUX report from February that **Tom Clarke** has been approved as an “Interpreter”. Award certificate will be forthcoming.

Also, **John Keyes** has passed his Workforce Resilience.

Happy to report that FL46 has again achieved the **NACO 3 Star Award For Diversity**

Jack Flanagan mentioned that there are more awards coming to several of our members in attendance.

**Announcements:** Ralph Milroy has informed FC Lapham that he assigned himself as mentor for James Beauvais and, suggested that someone consider mentoring new member Nicole Horgan at the flotilla level.

Bob Goetschkes displayed his photo from the Merrimack River of two CG vessels in tandem together.

Guests **Dorothy Foley** and **Donald Strunk** introduced themselves and briefly explained their backgrounds. (Both are to be future flotilla members)

Damian Benson VCDR offered advice and assistance to Evangeline King for her upcoming check rides

**2000:** A motion to adjourn was made and second, unanimously agreed to.

Respectfully submitted:  
Gerry Davidson FSO-SR  
Cape Ann Flotilla 013-04-06