Minutes of the Flotilla Meeting of April 6, 2021 --

Meeting called to order by FC Mike Harbin 19:03. Meeting was conducted by Zoom. Present were Twenty-one Zoom participants, although some had more than one person.

Jeremy Whiteford has returned to Traverse City. He is flying for the DNR.

Karen Feahr and Rick Johnson welcomed as guests.

Minutes of the March 2, 2021, meeting were approved.

Dave Montgomery – We are in discussions with Station Charlevoix and Sector Sault about an Auxiliary mobile communications trailer to assist with Coast Guard and Auxiliary operations.

FN – Dick Lavanture – In March $209 was expended for racks installed in our storage room. Balance $5723.12. Finance report accepted.

FC Mike Harbin reviewed the One Flotilla concept. A major effort is under way to get the mobile communications unit up and running. We are working with Sector and Station Charlevoix.

BOSN Rob Grushow, AuxLO at Sector Saul Ste. Marie, was our guest. BOSN Grushow described Sector’s responsibilities and the assets at its disposal including ten units and two seasonal units. CAPT Jones is Sector Commanding Officer. This season Sector and its ships conducted 10,000 hours of ice breaking. He mentioned the help the Auxiliary gives with our safety initiatives, ATON verification and help with searches. For example an unmanned kayak adrift is treated a PIW (person in the water) and the Coast Guard must launch air and surface assets to search. Auxiliary facilities can be very helpful in providing a timely response. Sector Sault covers all the way from Lake of the Woods, Lake Superior and large parts of Lakes Huron and Michigan.

BOSN Grushow answered questions. Asked whether surface ops would be back on the water in June (as Commodore Cathy Slabaugh suggested during her presentation at a prior meeting), he thought it might be sooner, although the decision had not been made.

BOSN Gurshaw suggested monitoring Ch 16 during both surface and air patrols. Distress calls and Coast Guard response calls can be helpful in discovering nearby emergencies Aux patrols can assist. He requested commercial fishing boats and gear be included in patrol reports, including location, if the fishing is in navigable waters.

COVID form 7101 needs to be filed reporting Auxiliarist vaccination status. The Coast Guard is not requiring Auxiliarists to be vaccinated, but order issuing authorities use that information to assign tasks.

Meeting adjourned 20:27

 Respectfully Submitted, Tom Power