

STORIS MUSEUM
USCG CUTTER STORIS MUSEUM & MARITIME EDUCATION CENTER
229 4th Street Juneau, Alaska 99801 (907) 586-8193

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2014

The meeting was conducted by teleconference and essentially ratified committee work completed by the various officers of the Board. Present were President Jim Loback, Vice-President David Benton, Treasurer Tom Gemmell and Secretary Joe Geldhof.

By way of background, the Board has been working to wind down the affairs of the Museum given that the General Services Administration disposed of the USCG Cutter STORIS making fulfillment of the Museum's goal of acquiring the vessel as a museum ship impossible.

Agenda

President Jim Loback presided over the meeting. Jim had circulated the following agenda for discussion and consideration:

1. Old Business
2. Financial & Asset Report
3. Report of Committee on Dissolution of Museum & Recommendation for Disposal of Assets.
4. New Business

Old Business

GSA's Plans to Dispose of the STORIS

Jim Loback summarized the efforts to obtain the USCG Cutter STORIS from the federal government. For a reasons that still remain obscure, the General Services Administration (GSA) elected to dispose of the vessel without offering the STORIS to non-profit organizations, as is seemingly required by statutory law. Because STORIS exceeded 1,500 tons displacement, GSA should not have been involved in the excessing and disposition. Instead, the ship should have been handled by the U.S. Maritime Administration according to 40 U.S.C. 548. This is another violation of federal law. In the end, the vessel was purchased under peculiar circumstances by an entity engaged in automobile scrapping. The federal government then allowed the buyer to flaunt deadlines for several weeks, leaving the ship at the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet. The vessel was eventually taken in tow to Mexico and was scrapped. According to section 3502 of the 2009 Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act, exporting STORIS, a former U.S. military vessel, to Mexico for scrapping is another violation of

U.S. Federal Law. STORIS likely contained significant quantities of undocumented hazardous materials. Disposing of the ship would have violated 41 CFR 101-42 as well as the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976.

The Museum Board thanks all the many individuals and political leaders who provided valuable support and political aid in attempting to save the STORIS. The Alaska Congressional delegation (Senators Mark Begich & Lisa Murkowski as well as Representative Don Young) all deserve acknowledgment for their efforts to preserve the STORIS. In the end, the bureaucrats appeared to be bent on expeditiously disposing of the vessel with little regard for the national historic value of the ship or the precise requirements set out in the law, accepted federal historic preservation protocols, standards and best practices.

Financial & Asset Report

Treasurer Tom Gemmell reported the Storis Museum has just approximately \$36250.00 in the bank account. The Board noted that the Museum has raised the entire amount on hand without resorting to professional fund raising organizations and that the great majority of the funds on hand were made through small donations from numerous donors. In terms of expenses, the Museum Board has used roughly eight percent of the total donations for mailings and other fund raising solicitation, an amount considerably less than most non-profit organizations.

The Board noted that the Storis Museum is in possession of various documents related to the STORIS and STORIS crew as well as a 3" 50 caliber gun that is the type originally used on the STORIS as originally armed.

The Board also has a mailing list consisting of individuals and organizations interested in the STORIS.

Committee Report and Disposal of Assets Recommendation

The Storis Board agreed to establish a committee consisting of Jim Loback and Joe Geldhof to make recommendations on how allocate or otherwise dispose of the assets of the Storis Museum. After investigation and consultation, the Committee recommended the following:

- A. The Storis Museum should acquire four museum-quality models of the USCG Cutter STORIS, along with appropriate cases and display stands for placement in locations that will perpetuate recognition of the history of the vessel and the contributions of the crew. Suggestions for display locations are the Alaska State Museum, the proposed USCG museum, the Smithsonian Museum of American History on the Mall in Washington, DC and another location to be determined. The committee recommended the models be constructed to reflect various phases of the STORIS's illustrious career. These periods include her appearance as launched, service on the WWII Greenland Patrol, the 1957 voyage through the Northwest Passage and

- possibly as configured during her later service in Alaska. After consultation with a number of potential model makers, the committee recommends expenditure of \$ 8838.00 for the construction of the four ship models, including associated cases, metal name plates and shipping.
- B. Placement of the Storis Museum's 3" 50 caliber gun on the Juneau waterfront with appropriate interpretive materials explaining the historical significance of the gun and the USCG Cutter STORIS. \$ 1,000 was allocated to this project.
 - C. The committee recommended that \$ 1,000 be given to Damon Stuebner and Rebecca Smith to complete the video illustrating the history of the STORIS and her crews.
 - D. The balance of the Storis Museum's funds, in the amount of approximately \$25,450.00, should be contributed to the USCG Museum, for which funding is well underway. The USCG Museum will be built in Connecticut near the USCG Academy. The Committee recommended that one third of the funds contributed to the USCG Museum be for unrestricted use by the USCG Museum but that the balance of the funds donated be used to commemorate a STORIS exhibit.
 - E. The photographs and other documentary materials donated to the STORIS Museum will be forwarded to the new USCG Museum.

New Business

M/S by Joe Geldhof and Tom Gemmell to adopt the report of the Committee on Dissolution of Museum & Recommendation for Disposal of Assets. After discussion and agreement on how to implement the recommendation, the motion was approved unanimously.

M/S by Dave Benton and Joe Geldhof to wind down the affairs of the STORIS Museum and terminate the existence of the museum following disposal of the museum's assets.

Adjournment

There being no further business necessary for the Storis Museum, by unanimous acclamation, the meeting was adjourned at 1318 hours.

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/ Joe Geldhof

Joe Geldhof, Secretary