

Minutes of the Sea King Retirement Steering Committee
Meeting on 27 Jan 17 held in the Hornets Nest, Arundel Castle

Attendees: Maj Dale Arndt
Hon Col Mike Sudul
Mr Jeff Morris
Mr John Latimer
Mr Peter Bey
Mr Ian Lightbody
Mr Paul Peacey
Mr Howie Ballantyne
Mr John McManus
Mr Wayne Krause
Mr Dan Burden
Mr John Orr
Capt Don Leblanc

Absent: Mr Phil Redgrave
Mr John Cody

1. The meeting was called to order at 1205 by the chair, Mr Ian Lightbody.
2. The previous minutes were adopted as published.

Old Business

3. Ian Lightbody explained his post to the Sea Retirement Facebook page as a necessary step to both advertise that an event would be occurring in 2018 and to attempt to regain control of some of the individual momentum that had begun to build toward that event.
4. A question was asked regarding the possibility of a Cyclone being made available to attend the retirement ceremonies in a static or flying capacity (or both). Maj Arndt will make the necessary enquires through the chain of command.
5. Peter Bey volunteered to send a letter to each of Canada Post and the Royal Canadian Mint. The purpose of these letters is to seek the issue of a stamp and a coin to commemorate the retirement of the Sea King.
6. Maj Arndt brief that Rogers Chocolates had been approached by Maj Arndt to investigate producing a commemorative chocolate tin similar to what was produced for the Centennial of the RCN. Rogers is interested, but want to see a marketing business plan; will need to approve the cover art work; need 3 months lead time and have a minimum order size of 2500 units. It was unknown what the cost of each unit would be, but previous tins have retailed for \$20.00 each. Peter Bey agreed to be the OPI for this item.

7. Prior to the meeting, Maj Arndt distributed CFMWS guidelines concerning events that were large enough to require their support and guidance. It was felt that this event would easily breach the \$50,000 threshold requiring their involvement. After some discussion, there was not seen to be any serious disadvantage to working under their umbrella. Maj Arndt was directed to begin producing the required business plan and support documentation to be sent to CFMWS National HQ through the chain of command.
8. The challenge coin concept provided by CPO2 Bungay of Sea Training Atlantic was reviewed. The design was well liked except that landing gear should be up instead of down. CPO2 Bungay felt that the cost to the committee for a run of 510 coins would be approximately \$8-10 per unit. They would be numbered, with tail numbers, Sqn numbers and ship side numbers being reserved to be sold a premium price. Dan Burden agreed to be the coin OPI, except that Maj Arndt would convey the design changes to CPO2 Bungay and would seek scrap metal from an actual sea king to be smelted into the coin.
9. Capt Don Leblanc volunteered to be the OPI for commemorative painting to be completed by Mr Pete Robichaud. Anyone with ideas for a design is to provide them to Capt Leblanc.
10. Maj Arndt agreed to be the sponsorship coordinator. Anyone with ideas for sponsors, including contact info is asked to provide it to Maj Arndt.
11. John McManus briefed his website concept and that a .ca domain would cost about \$30 per year; a .com about \$20 per year and that web hosting would be \$30 per year. John McManus volunteered to be the webmaster for the Sea King Retirement website.
12. The keynote speaker(s) for the social event was discussed. Several names were proposed, but it was felt that it would be difficult to have any one person cover the entire scope of Sea King history in Canada. The concept of having several speakers covering the major eras would be appropriate, as would a representative of Sikorsky as would Royal Family involvement. Howie Ballantyne agreed to investigate a list of guest speakers, but Maj Arndt will investigate through the Chain of Command the possibility of having a member of the Royal Family attend.
13. Maj Arndt briefed that SAMEO 443 Sqn is investigating commemorative aircraft paint schemes or FOD MOD decals in time for the retirement ceremony.

New Business

14. It was noted that the committee membership was heavy on aircrew and officers and was without the input of maintenance personnel. The committee members agreed collectively to seek out serving and retired maintenance personnel to serve on the committee.
15. Jeff Morris noted that the owner of the Spitfire Grill, adjacent to 443 Sqn, was open to the idea of renaming his restaurant as the Sea King Grill for 2018.

16. John Orr briefed that the BC Aviation Museum and the Comox Military Museum were interested in assisting with the Sea King Retirement. It was also suggested that the CFB Esquimalt Museum be included. He also noted that Sikorsky was interested in the retirement events. He finally suggested that the 1 Cdn Air Div historian be contacted to see what assistance that he could provide.
17. John Orr agreed to investigate the production of a coffee table book in time for the Sea King Retirement.
18. The meeting was adjourned with the agreement that the next meeting will be scheduled in late March or Early April 17.

Consolidated OPI List

Committee Chair- Ian Lightbody
Committee Secretary- Dale Arndt
Sponsorship- Dale Arndt
Coffee Table book- John Orr
Coin- Dan Burden
Painting- Don Leblanc
Webmaster- John McManus
Rogers Chocolate- Peter Bey
Canada Post and RCM Commemoration- Peter Bey
Guest Speaker List- Howie Ballantyne