

TYP 356 ne

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 10, 2017

Organization of the Meeting

The TYP356ne Board of Directors Meeting was held at NewBridge on the Charles, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center on July 10, 2017.

Board Attendees:

Peter Venuti, President
Allen Sisson, Vice President/Membership Chairman
Dennis McGurk, Treasurer
Gordon Nichols, Website Coordinator/Club Calendar
Tom Tate, Director at Large/Immediate Past President
Ed Tobolski, Newsletter Editor and Tub Times Publisher
Norm Brust, Director at Large
Ken Nykiel, Director at Large
Greg Lane, Director at Large (via speakerphone)

Absent Board members:

Jeff Leeds
Peter French

Meeting Guests:

Bob DiCorpo
Frank Anigbo

Administration

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. (Quorum achieved).

2. A vote was made to accept the meeting minutes for last regular BoD meeting 5.8.2017 Accepted.
3. A Membership Report was presented by Allen Sisson – Currently, there are 185 paid-up members – Finally!
4. The financial report was presented by Dennis McGurk.
Our balance as of 5/10/17 is \$7059. We deposited \$275 for the month and distributed \$214 in expenses.
5. Gordon Nichols presented the Website/Club Calendar report.
Website Photo and Calendar sections are up to date as of today.
Looking for member photos from the Endicott show last weekend
Gordon notified the Board of a proposed spec for a new website format.
This proposal was emailed to the Board today for review and comment.
Once we have Board acceptance for the direction, Colin Blake and Gordon can begin the search process for new site software.
6. The Tub Times report was presented by Ed Tobolski.
The latest (July) Tub Times has been published to our email list and will be added to the website. Ed is still looking for someone to help out with the “Featured 356” articles. He needs a volunteer to identify members who are willing to write articles about their 356, like Bill Sooter does with the “Featured Members” articles.
Can we just send out an email? Ed will email the club, looking for volunteers (more detail in that email).
7. The Lavender tour is a go.
May see late day showers.
Everything coming together: 17 cars 29 people with quite a few locals from CT.

Peter is bringing the spares kit to give to Gordon (driving sweep in Kelvinator) for the trip.
8. Holiday Party

Repeat of last year, in between Football games.
Need a check for \$500 to hold the date - Same prices as last year.
2016 headcount was 35. Expect something similar this year.
Board should review the proposal from Ken Nykiel and weigh in by the end of the week.

9. Reprinting the club brochure – Ed Tobolski:

Should we include info for the club's 20'th anniversary?
Should we also update the club CD to include 20 years of club photos? (Probably Not)
Should we update the badge to show "Since 1998" or just have a sticker or small badge showing "Since 1998" to be affixed near the existing badge. We need someone to design the new badge - Peter to ask around for a designer.

10. Club day – Ed Tobolski:

Nothing firmed up yet.
Looking for board member input for trivia items, the rest being addressed by Ed and Dennis.

New Business

1. inappropriate emails seen on the membership mailing list.
1 member has been temporarily suspended from the club-wide email list for his inappropriate emails to the group on 7/9/2017.
While that member has apologized (via email), he still does not feel the email was inappropriate.
Several members on both sides have taken issue and are asking for action.
This is the one and only issue like this seen in the past ten years.
The vast majority of the club does not condone this sort of stuff.
The bylaws of the club outline what message content is acceptable to the club on the email service. The messages in question fall outside of those guidelines and give the board reason to dismiss the offending member.

Dennis McGurk: The guy didn't mean it, he has apologized, many of us have screwed up and sent emails to the wrong group, too, so should we give him the benefit of the doubt? If we toss him out, what kind of precedent does that set? What message does that send to the membership? This was a very bad mistake, but do we eject him because of his personal opinion?

Ken Nykiel: We have but 2 issues: Content and use of email for that content. We have had issues in the past, particularly in classified ads selling non-356 stuff. So if it violates the club policy, how should we respond?

Allen Sisson: Allen feels that ALL of the emails were totally inappropriate and that the author refuses, over and over, to recognize his errors and continues to make his case. Allen strongly feels that the board should take the harshest action we can to send the message that we will not tolerate this stuff. The author generated racist and political content, then denied that it was so.

Guest Bob DiCorpo: He knows Dave Willard and feels that, yes, he posted political and religious material, but he directed that to specific others in the club and only sent it to the entire club roster by mistake - Do we chastise the other named recipients, too? Willard is getting old enough that he is losing some of his faculties and probably did not mean to post such stuff to a public forum.

Yes, he should be reprimanded, and strongly, by the board, but not ejected from the club. Willard has been in the club since founding and has a lot of friends in the club - if we eject him, will his friends want to leave, too? Bob recommends a six-month suspension

Guest Frank Anigbo: Joined club in 2013.

He is a member of other car clubs. Got interested in THIS club because of the positive sense of belonging with this group.

He is more interested in classic cars than racing and high speed.

He felt that this club is very much to his liking due to the welcoming members.

He understands that an open email forum is at risk for what any one member does.

What the club is responsible for is how you react to issues like this. The first email was bad enough, but Dave Willard's response to member reactions in defending his positions went far further in expressing his opinions and exposed him as a racist and bigot. Frank feels that stereotypes matter every day to all of us. What Willard wrote was careless words that many can ignore, but they still hurt others.

The board must decide what we do about this individual and, more importantly, what kind of club do we want to be?

Be careful of the club you want to define – Choose one as welcoming to "car people" without racist, bigot or religious overtones.

Tom Tate: Does the board and club members determine who will be allowed to be a member of this club? We will lose some members no matter what direction the board takes, so do we, as a club, want to take the position of non-tolerance of racial or religious issues?

Gordon Nichols stated that he is a moderator on a couple of websites and something like this is dealt with differently on email versus a web forum; On a web forum, the moderator(s) monitors forum activity and can suspend/delete individual posts or entire threads if inappropriate content is found so that the membership does not see it. After that, the individual(s) involved is contacted privately by the monitor, reprimanded and given a second chance. The next time it occurs the individual is banned from the site. With an email server, once content is sent it cannot easily be recalled and the damage is done. The only recourses are (1.) Ignore it, (2.) public apologies from the people involved, (3.) public reprimand or (3.) suspension from the email list or from the club.

Peter Venuti is proposing a 6-month suspension with the expectation that the suspension may force one or more resignations. A six month suspension would end the 2017 driving season for Mr. Willard.

Do we want to send a stronger message and eject him?

Eight board members feel we should. Others, not so sure and may favor a suspension (no attendance at club events, no use of club email server, no posting to web site) or a letter of reprimand.

Ed Tobolski said that a suspension was pointless for events since Willard could just show up anyway. Ed favors a letter to Willard from the club reprimanding him and seeking an apology to the club – This was supported by Dennis.

Allen Sisson apologized to the board and Dennis in particular for losing his temper earlier in the meeting from an emotional outburst.

Still, he feels he cannot be part of a club where a member is allowed to attack another member publically without repercussions from the Board.

Board Decision time: Do we eject a member and run the risk of losing other members sympathetic to him, or do we simply reprimand that member and risk losing yet other members who support ejection? Several Board members agreed that there will be repercussions with whatever vote the board takes on this issue.

Options:

1. Dismiss Willard. Voted on with 6 yea, 3 nea. Peter will poll the two absent members for their votes and inform the Board of their vote position. The motion needs 9 of eleven votes to pass. If it doesn't pass, the Board will vote on suspension (with potentially the same result).

2. Willard gets 6-12 month suspension. Not voted upon at this time, waiting for the results of #1

3. Board sends out an apology to the club and reiterates the club's by-law position that the use of email for posting controversial content will not be tolerated as a reminder to members for the future and leaves it at that.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 7, 2017 and the location will be NewBridge on the Charles in Dedham, followed by a 7:00 p.m. dinner at The Brickhouse Cafe in Dedham. As always, attendance by

non-Board members is highly encouraged... we seek your input. Please join us for this meeting - or just for dinner and a bit of car talk.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Gordon

Gordon Nichols, Web site and Calendar Coordinator