
From: Pollman, Howard [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F5AE3DB4599B4DC59BC7DC67E755AF40-HPOLLMAN]
Sent: Fri 4/30/2021 5:46:53 PM (UTC-04:00)
To: Fox, Charles [REDACTED] Lowery, Andrea [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: [External] Response to statement about Niagara
Attachment: Flagship Niagara League Mail - Niagara Operations Meeting.pdf

Howard M. Pollman | Director, External Affairs
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
300 North Street, 5th Floor | Harrisburg, PA 17120-0024
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From: William Sabatini <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 5:43:27 PM
To: Pollman, Howard <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [External] Response to statement about Niagara

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Howard,

I am writing today because I feel it is important to correct the information you received that led to your statement to JET 24 this past Wednesday.

There was never an agreement between me and the Site Administrator Jim Hall or any other representative of PHMC that Niagara should not sail this summer. To the contrary, I have at all times expressed my view that the best thing for Niagara, the community, and the Commonwealth is that Niagara sails this summer. When we were informed that the Keystone Project contract would not be signed until the Summer, I informed Mr. Hall that I believed the League could pay for Niagara to go to shipyard for a normal shipyard period, as it has done in the past, but wasn't sure that the League's Board of Trustees would be willing to approve this and so indicated that to Mr. Hall.

At my request, Captain Christopher Cusson prepared a breakdown of the costs associated with sending Niagara to shipyard in the Spring so that we could operate this Summer to whatever extent circumstances might allow, as well as going back to shipyard in the Fall for the Keystone Project. This information was presented at the March 23, 2021 League Board of Trustees' meeting. To my surprise the Board voted to approve the League paying for Niagara's Spring shipyard period.

I then specifically asked Mr. Hall that if the League paid for Niagara's Spring shipyard period would there be any reason that PHMC would not allow Niagara to sail this Summer. His response was "I don't see any reason why not." He also added that if Niagara were ready to sail, she could start sailing on April 30, 2021 when the museum opened. I have attached an email dated February 5, 2021 detailing the plan agreed upon by myself, Mr. Hall and Captain Cusson in advance of the March 23 meeting. Mr. Hall never responded to this email to express any disagreement or concern with the plan.

With this more accurate information in hand, I respectfully request that PHMC issue a corrected statement to Jet 24 or any other local media outlets who published the original one. If you have any questions on this point, please feel free to contact us.

Also, the League was informed at the beginning of the pandemic by the previous Site Administrator, Walter Rybka, that we were to refer all media requests to you. Recently, however, Jim Hall informed Rick Liebel, a member of the League's Board of Trustees, that if the media wants to speak to anyone at the League, the request must go through Jim Hall and he will give approval. Is this now the procedure we are to follow?

Regards,

William Sabatini
Executive Director
Fleet Captain
Flagship Niagara League

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██████████

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William Sabatini <[REDACTED]>

Niagara Operations Meeting

1 message

Christopher Cusson <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 4:58 PM

To: "Hall, James" <[REDACTED]>
Cc: William Sabatini <[REDACTED]>

Hi Jim,

It was good to have an opportunity to discuss possible scenarios for summer operations with Niagara. As we discussed, it is best for everyone, the ship, the Erie community, and the Commonwealth, if we can get Niagara sailing and visible to the public in whatever way we can. As we agreed, we are going to be flexible and adapt to the situation that we are in this summer. It is our intention to get the ship underway and operating in some capacity as soon as practical this summer as the conditions allow.

As discussed, we will use September 1st as the benchmark for the last date we will be able to begin sailing in some capacity with the goal of sailing sooner if possible. Once we get the 2 weeks' notice that the museum will be opening, we will get crew on site as quickly as possible and will hopefully have the ship rigged and ready in 4 weeks. At that time, we will go through the training sails and the USCG Inspection sail. Once that is complete the ship will be ready to take people out sailing again. We will assess at that time if it is safe or not.

The monthly meeting about operations that we agreed to will help keep us all on the same page as things continue to develop.

Thanks and have a good weekend,

Christopher Cusson
Captain, U.S. Brig Niagara
Flagship Niagara League
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