

MRRA meeting minutes - October 9, 2012 at the Boathouse

Attendees (14): Bob Bowen, Barbara Sherman, Ann Ballantine, Jay Feenan, Dennis McCarthy, Barbara Mack, Joe LaFreniere, Tim Wheatley, Bob Lynch, Chur Masors, Karen Scammell, John Ballantine, Roland Meier, and Wilma Breiland.

Minutes Approval Discussion-

- Chur proposed motion to waive reading the minutes and approve as posted...but later rescinded motion after request from Joe LaFreniere that minutes be read and officially approved at monthly meetings.
- Wilma passed around copy of posted minutes of previous meeting held on September 11.
- The minutes were briefly summarized by Jay Feenan
- After some discussion, motion that minutes be sent out with the agenda for each monthly meeting so that members could come to the meeting prepared to officially approve the minutes as posted was approved unanimously.

TRR Update from Jay Feenan

- TRR very successful and made about same money as last year. Finances still coming in.
- Very pleased with participation and volunteers - some juggling with folks racing.
- On Friday for course setting, not enough folks to help – need signup sheet next year – very good to start course setting on Friday.
- Joe L – visiting teams do not know where rocks are and need to set safety buoys first next year.
- Parking – maxed out
- River capacity – hope to expand to another launch site such as the ramp above Rourke Bridge
- Dock capacity is an issue.
- John B reported \$65K revenue with expenses comparable to last year. Net about \$30K as in past two years.
- T-shirt revenue – min. \$5K plus % of sales – very successful
- Only disaster this year – no police on entire boulevard early in the morning while the cones were being set up.

Safety - Safety manual has been adjusted for cold water rowing rule- With water temp 50°F or lower, no groups of less than 4 oars can go out without a launch. What this means practically is that singles, and pairs should use the buddy system.

1. Buddy system: with the temperatures of water and air dropping, and more rowers out when it is dark, it is strongly suggested that scullers start to look for a buddy and row in groups of at least 2. This will become a requirement at 50°F water temp, so now is a good time to find a buddy for the last month of rowing.

2. How to help a person in the water: this was demonstrated at the Flip Clinic - if a person in the water cannot get back in the boat on the first try, it is strongly suggested that they paddle either their own boat or on a buddy-boat "surfboard style" by laying prone across the stern to shore and safety. Also, give your sweatshirts and warm clothing to person who has just been immersed when they get safely to shore.

3. Fog rule: If you cannot see the Rourke Bridge CLEARLY, do not go out (that goes for all boats, all types)

4. Lights and visibility: white stern light and red/green bow light when rowing in the dark/dusk/dawn.

Safety issues and updates:

1. We need to be vigilant about making sure that folks are on the correct side of the course when rowing. This is especially true when crews are turning. They need to “square” the turn, that is, go directly across rather than travel diagonally and eventually row into the correct course.
 2. Boathouse safety: see emergency “phone” in lobby. This goes to campus police, official 911 responders. If someone is on the river and 911 is called, ask responder to “bring a boat.”
 3. Blue box outside boathouse also
 4. Remember to close gates when on water
 5. Having a cellphone for emergency calls is also recommended
 6. Coming: spotlight to shine on the rowing docks
- Flip Recovery Clinic – recommend conducting annually
 - Chur recommended it as part of LTScull2 sessions
 - Notes on Flip Recovery Clinic should be posted on website – Joe L will email the notes for posting.
 - “Doing it “ is very important for learning.
 - Definition of experience ratings for scullers will be addressed.

Annual meeting will be Tuesday December 11th

1. Nominations are open now on members website – login on www.merrimackrowing.org with your username and password. Click on **Nominations** on the left-hand side.
2. Call for one new trustee member and all other board seats are up for re-election:
 - a. President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer and Boat Captain
 - b. Current Board is not listed on members website and request was made to post current board members on the website.
 - c. Current board members are: Karen Scammell, Pres; Jay Feenan, VP; John Ballantine, Treas.; Wilma Breiland, Sec. and Directors: term expires 2014 -Jason Holden; term expires 2013 - Mark Romanowsky and term expires 2012 – Joe Bernard.
3. Karen will work with social committee to find place that is less expensive than last year.

Equipment committee: need active members as recommendations are being presented for equipment purchases

1. Equipment committee/boat captain are already working on an equipment 10 yr plan
2. Go over process to be followed starting January for new equipment purchase – will need 3-4 months of review with final approval by board and entire membership.
3. Want people to participate in process with participation from scullers and sweep rowers, including recreational scullers and competitive sweep

Smackdown is Saturday November 4th.

1. Course is round trip to and from Tyngsboro bridge. Keep logistics simple and easier to navigate trouble spots (rocks, etc). Start and finish is bottom of the 2k course
2. Race time is 8 am, coaches cox meeting is 7 am
3. Post race feed (bring something to eat) afterwards

DOCK pull date possibly on Saturday, November 10th.

1. UML will do the primary work with the front loader but we need to get a date on the calendar
2. Bob Bowen recommended holding **boat wash** on the same day.

Respectfully submitted by Wilma Breiland