

MRRA Board meeting minutes - November 5, 2012 at the boathouse

Attendees: Mark Romanowsky, Jason Holden, Bob Bowen, John Ballantine, Wilma Breiland, Karen Scammell and Joe Bernard. Jay Feenan was unable to attend.

Safety Committee Charter - Karen Scammell met with Bob Lynch, chair of Safety Committee.

- Need Safety tab on left-side menu on website for important safety articles – Karen will bring request to Carl.
- Start every meeting with a safety message.
- Posting signage at the dock on the course - make more visible
- Give Peter Murray 8-12 key safety items for special sturdy weather-proof posting at the dock
- Safety test with about ten questions will be generated by the safety committee based on the UML Bellegarde Boathouse: Safety Policies and Procedures; must pass test to be OK2Row; designed to encourage members to read and understand this document.
- Safety video – will still be required viewing and the safety committee will coordinate viewings prior to monthly meetings early next year – cannot post on website due to copyright issues.
- The Safety Committee will classify/define levels of rowers.

Boathouse User Group Meeting – really did not happen due to the storm

- USRowing would love for the city to host the Junior Regionals – the official course cost is \$40K+ with a reduction in the course to 3 lanes (2 lanes wide each) down to the \$30K price point. Karen reported that this course is not needed by the MRRA for Festival Regatta. USRowing looking for some user group to agree to host and needs response soon.

Annual Meeting planned for Tuesday, December 11 – Details forthcoming –

- Raffle tickets for two free \$100 annual memberships will be drawn. Winner needs to be present for the entire meeting to win.
- Quorum of 32 members is required for the annual meeting elections. (Based membership of 96 members where one-third constitutes a quorum.)
- Absentee ballots due to MRRA, P.O. Box 1909, Lowell, MA 01853 on Friday, December 7, to be counted. Absentee Ballots will be printable on members website for those unable to attend the annual meeting.
- Final nominations are due by Friday, November 23, to allow time for folks to submit absentee ballots by December 7th.
- Board requested that Wilma, as secretary, contact current nominees to find out who will accept nomination and appear on the ballot. This list of “accepted” nominees will be shared at the November meeting along with a reminder for members to submit final nominees by November 23.
- Board agreed to again offer discount of \$25 next year for those who renew the annual membership of \$125 by January 15. Renewals are due by January 15, 2013. The discounted fee will be \$100, saving \$25. Payment must be postmarked or delivered to the hand of Secretary/Treasurer by January 15 to qualify for the \$25 discount.

Membership Update – Wilma Breiland

- Prior to Aug 1 = 93 ; Post Aug 1 = 13; Total = 106 (includes 10 student memberships)
Total Voting Members = 96

Logbook sculling categories:

Logbook 42; post 8/1 - 8; Off-peak 2; OSweep 4; PVT 7; and STU 5

MSweep1 – 13; MSweep2 – 17; MSweep3 - 3

OSweep1 - 15 + 3 coaches and 3 cox; OSweep2 – 25; OSweep3 - 13

Members Volunteers – Karen Scammell

- Agreed not enough volunteering. In addition to TRR/Festival, every member should be on a committee.
- We should also add Boathouse Cleanup Committee to take out trash, clean up all those water bottles that collect, sweep docks and our bay regularly, etc.
- Let members know that we are trying to track whether they have volunteered, joined committee, attended monthly meetings, etc.
- Website renewal/member application – should have member choose committee, what to do on Festival Regatta and TRR, etc. – with submit/confirm – sent to committees, chairs, etc.
- Board agreed that secretary should send blind email to members where there is no record of volunteering in 2012.

MRRA Support of Merrimack River Watershed Council - Joe Bernard

- MRRA is user of Merrimack River.
- Swim group donates percentage of their proceeds from swimming competition to MRWC.
- MRRA should consider donation of some percentage of one of our regattas.
- Mark R asked Joe B for some more clarification on the activities, funding, etc of MRWC.
Joe mentioned the following:
 - River testing such as monthly samples and some of the results are publicized – testing for organic and chemical
 - Prosecuting after detecting problems – fecal problems from birds feeding on bread near the dock
 - Last year's budget - \$180K from memberships and grants/donations - 400 members
- **Action Item for John Ballantine, Treasurer:** Board request to provide proposal as part of the 2013 budget that MRRA donate 10% of Festival Regatta profits and no less than \$500 – for approval in March/April budget meeting.
- Mark requested that Joe B provide more information and awareness of MRWC at future MRRA monthly meetings, etc. Joe welcomed this request and will do so.
- The board unanimously agreed to approve \$100 donation to MRWC for 2012 as has been done in previous years and included in the budget.

Discussion of member disciplinary action – Karen Scammell

- Reviewed Article X of the Bylaws regarding Disciplinary Action.
- The board agreed to seek clarification before pursuing.

Respectfully submitted, Wilma Breiland, MRRA Secretary