

MRRA Safety Committee Agenda and Notes from Meeting held on Feb 12, 2013

Meeting called to order at 6 PM and adjourned 7:15 PM.

In attendance: Joseph LaFreniere, Mark Romanowski, Roland Meijer, Bob Lynch

Safety Video shown at 6:30 pm

Mark Romanowski propose that Safety Committee present a Navigation Clinic in the early spring at the boathouse: topics to include – navigating singles and team boats in recreational and competitive environments. Particular stress on how to navigate in areas of our river with known fixed hazards.

The committee reviewed Joe LaFreniere's proposal for defining criteria allowing classification of rowers into: Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced categories. It was agreed that the draft be distributed at the general meeting and it will be posted to Safety's section on the website. Club members will be encouraged to comment on the categories and criteria before they are presented to The Board at their March meeting. A brief discussion ensued between Joe LaFreniere And boat captain, Roland as to whether, from the standpoint of safety, rowers in Beginner and Novice categories should be restricted from rowing high performance boats, which are inherently less stable than recreational entry-level boats. Further discussion is necessary.

Minor changes were made to Joe LaFreniere's proposed budget for 2013. It is recommended that the club subsidize half of the cost for the first 10 club members who sign up for the first aid and CPR courses being offered through UMass Lowell at the rec center. Six hazardous sites were identified to be marked by new buoys. Mark will present the budget for approval to The Board at its March meeting.

There was some discussion of safety signage to be displayed at entry to the dock area. In particular, there was concern that a course map and safety instructions should be on separate signs. Discussion is ongoing.