

General MRRA Club Meeting Minutes: January 14, 2014

Chelmsford Police Station

Meeting Started 7:05 PM

Attendees: (19) Bronwyn Chapman, Terry Freeman, Bob Sengstaken, Tim Wheatley, Mark Romanowsky, David Morley, Linas Alinskas, Dennis McCarthy, Liz Albert, Stephanie Birchenough, Jody Decarolis, Carl Popolo, Denise Bergeron, Karen Scammell, Barbara Sherman, Mary Theresa Freund, Steven Freund, Kathy McGowen, Dottie Semonian

President: Karen Scammell:

Motion to accept December Meeting Minutes: unable

Minutes from December annual meeting: Will be voted on at February meeting

Members for 2014 Cannot View minutes on web site until membership has been paid

Carl updating membership list for 2014

Agenda for March Meeting: Budget for 2014

MRRA Committees: 2014 Time to seat committees: Calling on all members to VOLUNTEER:

Adding: **Rack Policy Committee:** Plan to update the existing Private Rack Policy
Last update (2005)

Would meet this year to complete update, short commitment for volunteers

Volunteers: Liz Albert, Erin Lallemand, Barbara Sherman, Bob Sengstaken, Wilma Breiland, ? Joe Lafreniere

Mailing list started, not accepting more on this committee

Membership-Programs Committee:

Per MRRA bylaws: Vice President on committee: Jay Feenan

Volunteering: Jason Holden, Jody Decarolis, Stephanie Birchenough

Committee: Works on obtaining Coaching

Sweep and Sculling Programs

This year goal, Increase participation in Learn To Sweep

MRRA Not running Junior programs in 2014, UMass Lowell resuming youth programs

Most work for volunteers: between now and May, asking for volunteers

Social Committee:

Dottie Semonian: board liaison

Volunteers: Terry Freeman, requesting additional volunteers

Safety Committee:

Bob Lynch: board liaison

Asking for Volunteers

Equipment Committee:

Boat Captain- Bob Sengstaken, board liaison

Money available \$15-20K

Need to decide on equipment purchases

Need a Chairman: To coordinate, take minutes, need 6-8 active members

Volunteering:

Kathy McGowen, Dave Morley, Linas Alinskas, Tim Wheatley, Dennis McCarthy, John Ballentine and Bob Bowen

Feedback on Programs:

Learn to Sweep: Club has Access to 6-8 boats, need 9-18 individuals for Learn to Sweep, for success

2013: Advertised Lowell Sun, Learn to Row Day.. not well attended

Feedback has been: Cost too high to allow individual to try the sweep program

Discussion: Trial, low price \$99 for 4 weeks, introductory- twice a week, something less than last year

Currently \$300 for 6 weeks, row twice a week

Sessions were held Mon and Wed Evenings 5:30 pm

Discussion about moving time, too early for individuals coming after work

Morning time available?

Saturday AM for 2 hours?

Need to advertise: Broaden advertising, think about populations we should target

Discussion: UML community, MRRA already listed on UML web site, how do we gain interest

Encourage team building with companies?, brochures at spartan races, 5K's, local Gyms?

Advertise at LHS regattas in the spring, parents may be interested

Propose: Attend Lowell HS Junior Regattas in Spring:

MRRA to have informational Booth

Sculling: Only one Learn to Sculler joined MRRA in 2013

Need to find a way to build membership, retain individuals

Agree, individuals try rowing, more difficult and physically challenging than expected

Decide not for them, don't want to continue, may not feel confident enough to continue without "buddy system." Chur Masors has tried to encourage, how can club help?

Mentoring: Need to invite new members to row in boats with current members, mixed Make feel more a part of the club, use of 4X, more experienced rowers, possibly rowing board in boat house, email, to encourage.

Group rows in the past on Saturday, Full moon rows, Social Committee to address.

Regattas:

Festival Regatta on a Sunday In June - **30th Anniversary**

MRRA has run successfully, earned about \$5K for one day event

****Invited by US Rowing to Host Masters Regional Regatta**

Looking for New Venue, bridge construction, Lake Quinsigamond

Merrimack River: Great Venue for water and spectators

US rowing provides registration, referees, schedules, medals

MRRA to provide venue, volunteers for start, finish, launches, course, facilities

Need Core group of Volunteers to work on budget, feasibility

US Rowing would pay \$ TBA to MRRA for event

Additional revenues to club for parking, vender tents, concessions

Requirement:

US Rowing asking for 3 year commitment for the Regatta Event

US Rowing needs late June, early July date, need to choose a date, perhaps last weekend in June, Father's Day weekend?

Expects: about 300 entries

Suggest: US Rowing Event on Saturday and Festival Regatta on Sunday-Same Weekend

(prevent duplication of work, course, volunteer commitment, launches)

Proposing:

Core committee: Need 4-6 Volunteers

Develop Budget

Lowell Regatta Rowing Association owns the Race Course

Propose: Rent and use for Masters Regatta and Festival Regatta

Members: Concern about too close to July 4 th weekend- members being away

Discussion about Earlier weekend in June, possibly Father's Day weekend, African American Festival June 21, field not available for parking

**** After Checking with US Rowing, Field Availability****

Propose:

US Rowing event Saturday June 28th and Festival Regatta Sunday June 29th

Volunteering:

Karen Scammell

Dottie Semonian

Bronwyn Chapman

Dave Morley

Linas Alinskas

Need: Chair, course, launches, police, volunteers, port o john's, permits
Vendors, Parking, launch drivers
May need to rent additional launches none available locally (likely Boston)

Need more information from US Rowing: number of heats
recommend wakeless launches

Members: ? Worth paying a member to Chair?

UML and LHS - Request renting sculling equipment:

Request to rent MRRA sculling equipment for "better rowers"
Varsity rowers 4-8 individuals, limited number, coaches would like opportunity to use 1X
Rent equipment before MRRA season starting
Dave Cormier and Coach Alex from Lowell HS making request
Karen Scammell: Asking what members think?: Boathouse at capacity, no room if
purchased own equipment. MRRA rents 8's.

Member discussion:

Members at meeting agree: Should use standard, boat captain testing: Major concern
safety and avoiding equipment damage

*Students would be rowing afternoons only- some MRRA members rowing off peak
concern about having equipment available

*Students would always be supervised (members wanting to know specifics)

Sculling is not sweep rowing, different concerns about safety, navigating the river,
equipment damage, deductibles will be \$1000, if damage missing vital equipment when
out for repair- added work for Boat Captain

Deductible is \$1000, student would be responsible for whole amount-(MRRA shares
cost with members)

General discussion was to limit equipment borrowed to: Fisa, Peinerts, possible old
Vespoli 2x

Members in general: Wanting to try to work something out for UML and LHS students
Need more information from David and Alex

Swim Certificates expire for some this year: Dottie Semonian will send reminder to
members expiring in 2014

Meeting Adjourned
8:25 PM