

Meeting: UML Kate Ford - Ashley Blake

From: Dorothy Semonian (dorothyfaynp@aol.com)

To: board@merrimackrowing.org

Date: Saturday, January 29, 2022, 11:24 AM EST

Meeting: UML Kate Ford - Ashley Blake

Boathouse Friday Jan 29, 2022 9:30 AM

Mark Romanowsky joined me.

Kate Ford Boathouse manager: had 2 items:

Discuss Dock removal and Spring Installation. Reviewed some were water filled, very heavy, awkward

Mark added concern regarding potential injury. AB agreed

Will discuss with Peter Murray cost/ arranging to have outside company like Gentle Giant install - remove docks. I also reminded them TRR/MRRA own 35 of the dock sections (newest).

Kate intends to install a "Yak port" on the inside side of the dock - will be attached to dock. - I mentioned this would prevent boats returning during regattas, (could be removed.)

Yak port type equipment - Allows easier entry, getting out of Kayak, can also be helpful for adaptive programs.

Dock cleanliness - Duck deterrent, predator call.

Mark Romanowsky will do more research and contact Kate Ford/ Peter Murray about options. Briefly reviewed plan for regular cleaning. Importance of hygiene.

Dates for Boathouse use:

Gave Learn to Row Day date - First Sat of June 2022

Festival Regatta Date as last Sunday in June 2022

Ashley Blake (UML coach) wants to make sure the MRRA is aware she intends to host 3 regattas in April on the Saturdays. One will be the "River Hawk Challenge" - larger regatta. She did not seem to be aware of the scope/ planning required for regattas. (Mark also mentioned depending on the snow pack, flow rate rowing may or may not start in April.)

Barge has been damaged by a plow. Peter Murray is working on repair, no guarantee it will be available for Lean to Row Day

We asked to have access to the trailer for storage of Quad - potential area to store a rented 8

We asked to rent sweep equipment and launch/ launches.

Neither Kate nor Ashley are able to make decisions regarding this, they need to ask Peter Murray.

Peter asked Kate to arrange this meeting, but he did not attend.

Ashley also mentioned that "there is a woman who has asked to rent the entire UML fleet for the summer." She runs programs for children, dorms use etc. But there has not been a firm agreement.

I reviewed the history with Kate and Ashley regarding the past use of equipment being a "shared model." UML students had access to sculling equipment, MRRA had access to sweep equipment. That we are fully insured and pay to rent equipment as well as pay for any repairs that might be needed. That historically they have filled gas cans and supplied gas for other programs use.

I asked that if it is a firm "NO" on renting equipment that we be notified quickly, as we need to vote on our budget for March. And will need to make arrangements for rental equipment.

I reminded Kate and Ashley that until recently every one got along "nicely in the boathouse."

Mark briefly reviewed the history of the TRR, started with University rowers, alumni, and the incident at a past regatta that lead to the increase cost of safety (dive teams, environmental, police, fire, ambulance etc).

I also reviewed with Ashley the opportunity to have a voice on the TRR board. She made it very clear that after we reviewed that the Regattas generally do not "make the money they used to." There was little incentive. She doesn't have the time.

She stated she has 80 hours of work and is being paid for 20 hours per week. She has fewer rowers returning for Spring season, than last Fall.

She has a few students struggling to make payments for the cost of the program and would welcome any options for fund raising. (They did yard clean up in the fall.) I mentioned Carl may have a computer project. That I would review the particulars with him if a student would be interested.

Ashley also thought the TRR should raise rates and then have more money to distribute.

We reviewed that the TRR also maintains a reserve.

That the MRRA this year had 100 percent participation. That the community responded with only positive comments.

That it takes many volunteers to run a regatta.

Mark and I reviewed that the MRRA is a non profit program and our goal is to grow community rowing programs. That we give scholarships to students and our goal is to have better participation this year.

I also suggested Ashley consider reaching out to the MRRA for information regarding regattas.

She did not seem aware that in the past the course that has been set up in the Spring did not belong to UML.

She was not aware that permits are required to use the parking across from the boathouse.

She did not know that in the past MRRA members have volunteered to help with UML and LHS regattas.

Ashely said that she understands the MRRA is offering "good will." (But seemed to be disappointed that we were not offering money. - (but that was my interpretation.)

Most of the conversation was geared more toward Ashley as Kate took notes and said she would be willing to discuss our meeting with Peter Murray and get back to us soon.

Dottie Semonian