

MRRA Monthly Meeting
Saturday November 8th
Boat House:

Attendees: Doreen Jennings, Chur Masors, Sue Mathias, Kathy McGowen, Sharon Morris, Liz Albert, Linas Alinskas, Dave Morley, Tim Wheatley, Bob Sengstaken, Barbara Sherman, Dennis McCarthy, Joe LaFreniere, Jay Feenan, Bronwyn Chapman, Karen Scammell, Dottie Semonian, John Ballentine, (18).

Meeting called to order 10:45 AM

Safety Message:

Rowing season ends today, dock is out.

Joe LaFreniere: Has received some complaints of rowers coming down the wrong side of the river, not following the traffic pattern.

Safety Committee will address with other programs

Need to work amongst other programs to maintain the traffic pattern, safety.

Thank You to all for a safe season.

Accepting October Monthly meeting minutes: Accepted

TRR: October roughly 50 K, about 40 last year.

About 45K to be distributed to UML, LHS and MRRA

Jay Feenan: Getting more calls from US Rowing, asking for MRRA to consider adding a Fall Masters Regional Head race.

Would need huge support from UML and LHS in order to run successfully.

Boathouse user group meeting next week, per Karen Scammell.

Would need to have LOC; Regatta Director, some one from UML, LHS, and maybe Merrimack Convention center. More bodies and money.

Proposal has been a Fall, Two Day Head Race:

Discussion: Qualified Marshall's, launch drivers, course, big commitment in bodies

Members present generally agree if have enough help, adding the Regatta would be financially beneficial to the club.

The US Rowing, Masters event would be the Saturday before the TRR, does not overlap with the Green Mountain Head this year.

Will add a Ballot question for the membership to vote, agree:

1. Do you agree on a 2 days Spring, Festival / US rowing Masters Event?
2. Do we take on the U/S rowing Masters Head Race, the Saturday, day before the TRR(one year only). Building to 2 day TRR the following year?

All agree TRR is a financially successful regatta. Would be very careful not to give up revenues from this regatta. MRRA, UML and LHS depend heavily on the money from this regatta.

Would need to negotiate many items with US Rowing before agreement might be made.

Spring Sprint Racing: If MRRA is asking for help from LHS and UML for Masters Races, MRRA should expect LHS and UML to ask for help with their regattas
Spring: LHS and UML June time frame, both schools area out of session, more difficult finding volunteers. Some discussion about finding volunteers from other areas, clubs, students requiring community service hours.

Joe LaFreniere: Agrees to work the 2 day head race in Fall.
Would prefer to run Festival and skip the US rowing sprint races.

Brief Financial overview:

Started with just under 47 K, 75 K deposits, 63 K expenses
By end of year 62 K in MRRA account.
TRR keeps a separate account.

MRRA Board has been discussing possibly starting a Capital Fund for new Boathouse:

Fleet has been replaced, regatta money has been used for equipment. Potentially , need a launch 2X ad 1X in 2015.
One thought has been that the Roarke bridge will eventually be reoriented up river to Old Ferry Road.
Would strand some land, land owned by the City of Lowell.
Could enter into some discussion about being interested for a lease of land, 99 year lease.
Want community to be aware looking for land up river.
Money spent to pay for current space could possibly pay a mortgage.

Barbara Sherman: High schools build a building every year, would a boathouse building be of interest?

Would like to form a committee, to talk with Chelmsford, Westford, other clubs with 8's.
Maybe they would be interested in the project.

IF UML were to go D1 suspect we would be asked to get out from the boathouse.

Really need to be planning for the future, to be in position to purchase.

** Thought is to take on the extra Regattas to make more money to be able to fund this project.

New Boathouse Building Committee: Joe LaFreniere, Dennis McCarthy, John Ballentine, Karen Scammell, Dottie, Semonian, Liz, Albert, Dave Morley, agree to be on committee.

Boathouse User group will be meeting shortly: This is UML, LHS, MRRA, Sheila from Tsongas industrial center.

Joe L will send some Safety issues to be addressed, (traffic pattern.)

At the last Annual Meeting, plan was to form a financial review committee. BOD decided to five Bronwyn Chapman (new Treasurer), some time to get adjusted with book keeping.

Need 3 people with our accountant to review books. Review of 2014 in 2015. Anyone present want to be considered? Will ask Bob Bowen to consider being part of the financial review committee.

Committee updates:

Equipment Committee: Today boat check, inventory, Bob Sengstaken has list. Does not appear anything needs to be sent out.

Hudson scratched: Erin was going to check with husband, has auto body shop. Rigger on Swift HW, has crack, ordering new.

New officers: Elections in December, all offices are open. Members encouraged to speak with prior officer about duties if interested in running. Regarding election process, absentee ballots will be available 2 weeks before the December Annual Meeting.

Liz Albert: **Would like to make change to ByLaws**

Second: Joe LaFreniere

Asking to add nominations from the floor at the annual meeting

Asking to amend the bylaws language to allow right in a name on the ballot, allow nominations from the floor, to allow more flexibility.

Liz Albert: Will chair bylaws committee, will announce at the annual meeting. Will work on the language for the change.

Rack Committee: Fell apart, did not complete task, Liz Albert intends to work on.

Draft of rack policy is almost complete. Suggest committee have the policy complete by March.

Safety Committee:

Rowing wrong side of the river, not following traffic pattern, needs to be addressed.

Solution more communication between the other programs.

Joe L will offer a program to coaches of other programs, coxswain's, etc. To help facilitate communication and maintain safe traffic patterns.

Complaints about condition of docks, debris, shoes left, bird deterrent, bird waste.

All agree significant health issue.

Panels of the dock, some are sinking, need some attention, bolts.

UML owns docks, responsible for maintaining, all agree would like to see UML make better effort next season.

Liz Albert also looking for a ramp to get to the end of the dock. UML has agreed to complete.

Motion to adjourn 11:50 AM