

**January 13, 2015**

**UML Recreation Department Meeting Room:**

**Attendees:** Linas Alinskas, Tim Wheatley, Carl Popolo, Terry Freeman, Dottie Semonian, Mark Romansowsky, Bob Lynch, Sharon Morris, David Morley, Chur Masors, Jody DeCarolis, Joe LaFreniere, Dennis McCarthy, Doreen Jennings, Barbara Sherman, Bob Sengstaken.(16).

Meeting began at 7:05 PM, Chaired by Terry Freeman  
December Meeting Minutes approved:

**Agenda**

- \* Safety message

- \* Forming committees for 2015. Need volunteers for Safety (2-3), Equipment (6-8), Social (4-6), Membership/Programs (2-3). Rack Policy committee is already seated and will complete their work by March meeting.

It is critical for scullers and sweep members, competitive and rec rowers to be present on committees. The equipment committee especially needs a large group to spread out the workload.

- \* Make a final decision as a club about whether to run the USRowing Masters sprint race in June. It has been decided to run the Saturday USRowing Masters head race Oct 3rd. We made about \$4500 from the USRowing Sprint race last year but this requires us to install the buoyed course and use stake docks. We do not need the buoyed course/stake docks for the Festival. FINAL decision to be made at this meeting. If you cannot make the meeting and want to express your opinion, please send comment to: [board@merrimackrowing.org](mailto:board@merrimackrowing.org)

- \* Comment on use of Lowell Community Rowing for Learn To programs

- \* other business as needed.

Reminder: pay your \$100 base membership fee by Jan 15th - bring checks to meeting or fee goes up to \$125 on the 16th

**Safety Message:**

**Also Safety Committee Report:**

Joe LaFreniere: Welcomes New Safety member, David Morley, Board Liaison.

Will Elect a new Chairman for the year.

Safety finishing the rower rating system, this is a self rating system, intended to be safety related and not to limit rowers from using equipment.

Safety Signage completed: Needs to be posted

Joe LaFreniere has 2 big projects in mind.

1. Weather Station Weather Cam, would coordinate with UML, Boathouse user group
2. Suggests purchase of a Wakeless Launch

Need working launches, rescue ability, wants to look at wakeless launch

Wants to ask Club to decide on wakeless launch, would be owned by MRRA

Would like to see the club buy one, safety platform for rescue

Stillwater: boat with motor 20 horse power is about \$17 K

Most of members present think it is a good idea.

Motion to Equipment committee to look at financials  
Carl made motion to purchase wakeless launch, will need further discussion  
Aware needs to be discussed at Board Level First.

**Asking for Members to join committees:**

Bob Sengstaken: asking for more members to get on equipment committee to maintain equipment and also recommend new purchases.

Needs a core group of volunteers to work closely with The Boat Captain.

Repairs:

New Seats for Carolina

Would like the BOD to Give Authority to Equipment Committee to change the description of what the committee does. Has evolved into not just deciding on purchases, but also maintenance, gas purchases, etc.

Ideally, would have enough members to post tasks and set a schedule.

A note pad was available for members attending to sign up for committees.

**Discussion: Sprint Race US Rowing Event in June:** Discussion regarding expense and work involved in installing and removing buoyed course, use of stake boats and demands on members to work the event.

All in attendance voted:

Not run the NEMA US Rowing event this year

Agree will run the Festival Regatta

**Vote to Authorize a two day Head race in the Fall with TRR**

Will form a Local LOC to review details with US Rowing.

All in attendance agree.

Years ago the MRRA filed to use "Lowell Community Rowing." Trade mark needs to be renewed this year. Suggest use for Learn to Row Programs

Joe L. Not sure the MRRA comes across as, "Friendly to Community." Would like to suggest the MRRA run our teaching programs under this name this season. Further discussion if better name might be "Greater Lowell Community Rowing." Members at meeting agree to try **"Lowell Community Rowing," for Learn to Row programs this season.**

Carl P. could link the URL for Lowell Community Rowing to link to MRRA

At the meeting there was support for both Greater Lowell Community Rowing and Lowell Community Rowing to run the learn to programs under.

Board could discuss further.

Bob Lynch recommended having some brochures outside the boathouse advertising our programs.

Mark Romanowsky, suggested a plastic covered information board to hold the information for programs along the fence.

Carl Popolo:

New Business

Wants to know how MRRA can join the UML Rec Center, Dottie S will get Carl the information.

Meeting is Adjourned at 7:50 PM