

Tuesday January 15, 2013 MRRA

Attendees: (22) Linas Alinskas, Joe LaFreniere, Bob Lynch, Mark Romanowsky, Wilma Breiland, Terry Freeman, Bob Bowen, Stavros Papadopoulos, Denise Bergeron, Erin McLaughlin, Carl Popolo, Barbara Mack, Barbara Sherman, Roland Meijer, Dennis McCarthy, Chur Masors, Holly Roberts, Tim Wheatly, Mary Theresa Freud, Bronwyn Chapman, Dottie Semonian, Jay Feehan.

Safety video shown:

Joe Lafreniere: Review of safety, club restrictions

When sculling you are making a choice for yourself and your abilities.

Suggest Members consider several factors before deciding to row:

Captains restrictions posted on web

Next decision: Individual needs to decide personal rowing experience level, boat type, fitness, how well you feel today.

Start of each season consider fitness and balance, comfort may be different in the Spring. Would like to remind members to consider small boat in bad weather, may not be a wise choice.

End of season may have been comfortable. Now, beginning new season review the boat you row, small boat, worse weather, consider safer boat (Zepher).

Cold: Ice on dock; even on ok days to row

Safety line may not be in below the boat house early.

Also, consider current, time of day (dark early and late), less traffic at both times but, may be hard to see if flip.

On water: keep in mind experienced rowers flip, can have collision with 1/2 submerged logs

Would like to have all members use good judgement, to maintain a safe rowing season.

Jay Feenan

Move to approve minutes from December meeting, second, approved

This time of year budget process, involved and has evolved

Development of programs, funding, process started

Committee Membership Program Committee Jason Holden  
Committee chairs feed process, fees, traditional problem what is membership going to be ?

Base membership Paid up \$100 today/ then increases \$125

Fees and insurance due, better to pay ahead, "prime the pump."

Goal for March meeting, budgets.

Members are paying on line through PayPal, mailing checks

Carl is reminding members cannot chose your programs yet.  
He will update from last year.

Uses the example of Linas's account. Last year paid to LTS and additional fees. This year will be Logbook. Pricing is not set yet. Please don't pick programs yet.

Members can log on :

My membership tabs for choices, complete paperwork and waivers, membership, rack space

Documents: Membership renewal addendum, can e-sign or paper  
US rowing waiver on line, follow instructions, club code: 7JPJZ  
Boathouse membership application, UMass Lowell Logo, questionnaire  
UML safety policy, signature page, print and sign

Jay spoke with Karen: Erg discussion. Proposals to ERG and row, UML Recreation Center: Peter Murray or Justin Lawler for program information  
Rate: MRRA is Associated with UML can join, part of 3 month Recreation center \$100 will verify cost, has been agreed upon. ERG cost program would be additional. Not sure what cost is yet. Would be Coached ERG sessions  
\*\* Other issue opens at 6 AM, not earlier.  
Remind Jay about membership cost \*\* He will verify.  
ERGS in studio upstairs, locked room

Equipment Committee: Barbara Mack, New member last year: Learn to sweep last summer. May need some additional members, looking for balance of sweep and scullers

Plans to prepare a spread sheet of fleet, inventory, plans a survey of members  
Some discussion about Boat standardization of fleet  
Pinhert, Vespoli, Looking at equipment for learn to programs as well as racing shells  
Barbara had some discussions with Vee for her experience with shells

Capital equipment: 4X no space for additional

Joe Lafreniere: Questioning parameters of standardization, fleet change after a certain number of years? Hope will be looking at wear and tear, if some brands better longevity.

Barbara Mack: Price point, brisk market for boat sales, what should phase out and what to replace, will survey members.

Joe does not think 5 year " how well used, what type of shape each boat is in, some 15 year old boats in wonderful shape. Would not want to see a "number of years set."

Contact:

[equipment@merrimackrowing.org](mailto:equipment@merrimackrowing.org) if you would like to join.

Bob Lynch: Would love some new people on equipment:

Social Committee: Dottie Semonian, need members, has 4 currently

Jay: "Thread of keeping us together, social importance of mixing," Some members like Mark Romanowsky row very early, would not see each other.

Membership Committee: Chair Jason Holden. Need some additional members.

Members should have some understanding of membership, how MRRA is in the UML boat house, payments to UML

Carl will fill in in Jason absents today.

Likely will need to: Raise rates on Masters sweep, learn to sweep needs 2 consecutive sessions, in terms of programing. A & B or longer duration. 12 sessions and then join Master's sweep.

Helps with numbers, like to run together when open sweep is not on water.

Linus mentioned adding program in the AM for sculling, 4X with coaching

Jay Feenan

\$7000 for coaching last year. Could possibly put an offer together for larger salary.

Sum and accumulation of money, contract and offer?? To a coach.

Jason Holden now in attendance: More advertising for programs sweep, scull, junior programs

March time frame, get programs on the web site.

Need dates and times available: When program managers knows schedule, coaching, launches, will update the web site

Joe Lafreniere: Programs and social committee, advertising may be able to work together. Suggests: First Saturday of every month Bagels and rowing, check it out, meet members, try out. Limited bases for 2 month trial.

ByLaws Committee: Discussion about change to bylaws. Confusion in seating committee, Joe Lafreniere: ? look to change by laws, thought change to motions from the floor\*

Non emergency: does not want to re write bylaws. Thought is to give attention, not being addressed for a year. Wants to review a few items, small number of members to review and suggest improvement. "a Bylaws tweak." If anyone wants to review, Joe will work with group to improve. Annual meeting would address. Any member can join, Joe has one particular area he is interested in. Thinks nominations from the floor should be allowed. But if going to look at would like to review, contact Joe.

[rules@merrimackrowing.org](mailto:rules@merrimackrowing.org) Joe asking to be added to email list.

Last item: Jay updating 5 meetings with UML Planning Junior: Will Chair US Rowing to Lowell

\$30,000 from US Rowing for cost of course. Feels very good for Lowell area. No money commitment from MRRA.

Commitment from US Rowing to hold event for the next 3 years.  
Scheduled for: 3rd weekend in May

Business model: First year break even, to pay for course  
Then money maker after, free to ask Jay questions, ? club involvement.  
Joe Lafreniere from experience with setting TRR course: Handling, storing.  
"Even if given course, tremendous commitment. People needed, huge responsibility."  
Jay aware: Liability as soon as course in the river. Will use a Team of local volunteers.  
Joe: "other down side, launch gets beat up. Will there be adverse impact on club to use launches, may expect use?"

Wilma: Award scholarship 2 students graduating from high school March deadline in past. Has been in the budget. \$250 x 2. Should have a summer membership.  
Volunteered or supported boat house activities. Wilma will verify wording. Carl will check dates from last year.

Wilma: motion to fund high school student scholarship, Second by Barbra Mack

**\*\* \$250 x 2 to be added to budget**

Joe Lafreniere wants to be sure non Lowell HS students that volunteer are also able to apply for scholarship. Wording will be verified.

Jay Feenan: For new members wants to mention long time member  
**Paul Wenger** Passed away in December. He was a wonderful volunteer, member, feel a terrible loss, would like all to think of Paul and his family. Honor him now with a moment of silence.

Discussion about how to honor Paul: Perhaps name an event, if purchase a new hull, Naming boat.

Any other issues to discuss? None

Motion to adjourn

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
Dottie Semonian