

Board Meeting Monday Jan 7, 2013

Attendees: Conference Call

Karen Scammell, Jason Holden, Roland Meijer , Mark Romanowsky,
Dennis McCarthy, Jay Feenan;
Barbara Mack for one portion of call

- Board meetings will be 1st Monday at 6:30 PM or 7 PM
- Carl has been working on PayPal set up, will be able to use for all membership needs. 2% charge
- Agenda for Tuesday meeting:
 - Mark: ready to show safety video on Tuesday, Joe will set up for 6:30 PM. Some concern about starting the viewings too early in the season, but board decided to continue showing before monthly meetings if possible.
 - Starting to get Committees up and running

New board liaison assignments to committees are:

- Dottie Semonian will Chair (and be board liaison) to Social committee: per Karen, Mary Theresa Freund wants to be on social committee
- Dennis McCarthy will be the board liaison to Equipment committee. Barbara Mack is the chair
 - o Roland will post meeting times on the MRRA Calendar, Jason Holden, James D. from OSweep to join equipment.
- Jason Holden: will continue to be liaison on Mem/programs. Some discussion on increasing cost of Masters Sweep. \$5-10 may be appropriate, to be discussed during Mem/Prog meetings
- Mark Romanowsky will continue as Safety Committee liaison. Bob Lynch is the Chairperson.
- Karen Scammell different proposal: wants to expand Youth rowing, will ask for advertising money in budget. Thinks advertising may draw in more numbers/ members. Learn to sweep with low number

last year.

- Jay Feenan: Brief discussion about Bylaws committee. Member Joe Lafreniere brought up at December meeting. Board addressing briefly.
- Joe Lafreniere, Bob Sherman may be interested in bylaws, will make sure mentioned at January meeting, allow membership to decide how best to address.

Karen cannot make meeting on Tuesday, Jay will address

Karen would like to organize a Boat House Clean Up committee; working on regular towel washing and general clean up inside and at dock
Boat Captain often left with clean up. will check with Bob Bowen for more specifics.

Liaisons: need to meet with committees and start to work on budgets:

Target is to have budgets approved in March

Equipment committee needs to decide on boat purchases: Have been thinking about plan, Barbara Mack has started research
Equipment committee, some from sweep, sculling.

The point being more members to discuss, need a good number. Has used the Monthly meeting in the past to discuss. Suggest bringing up in Monthly meeting.

Roland: Plans to review data, Ann Ballantine did extensive research when the Zepher's were purchased.

Barbara Mack /Equipment committee:

- Karen explained process for equipment committee to follow for getting boat purchases planned and approved.
- 3 years ago Zepher's purchased, Ann Ballatine had been collecting data, then decision on trainer boats and then the type of boats, was brought forward each meeting, spread sheet and usage

- Jay Feenan: Think about as a club, where we want to go?.

No boat purchase last year but bought sweep oars

Decided how to grow the membership, then made the decision to get the equipment to get to the goal. Need to think about where we want to be in the next few years

Board is gathering info about being in own boat house at some point, likely 5 years away: Some assumption, simplify on 1-2 boat types, will make repairs easier.

No room for another boat in the boat house – inside space MRRA has been allocated is all that we will get.

Karen Scammell: As a group decide, put out to membership "What kind of club do we want to be?"

Equip Comm needs to lay out what the thinking is for next boat needs;

- * update the fleet.
- * retain the Learn To Scull people
- * provide race-able decent and sturdy intermediate singles
- * advanced racers tend to buy their own boat and then look for rack space
- * consider 4X that could be converted to sweep 4-; same hull for 2 different aspects of the sport (would be trade of current 4X)
- * Way to provide some type of equipment for sweep aspect of the club.
- * \$15K transferred from TRR 2012;

Equip committee to investigate and make recommendations on value of standardizing, having locally available parts, durability for community use. \$ Value of the boat for # of people who will row it.

New Log in system: will be tracking boat usage more conveniently.

Joe Bernard: Merrimack River Watershed Counsel: MRRA ha donated \$100/yr in the past. Joe asked to support the Water Shed counsel at a higher level, because of benefit of the river- > for Feb meeting agenda.

- Thinking for instance donate 1/2 Festival Regatta proceeds. \$1K - \$2K.
- What is money used for? River clean up, not sure what else, water quality checks, would borrow MRRA launches for activity.
- Joe and Watershed should make a presentation and then ask membership what they want to do about donation.

Get budgets to John Ballantine quickly, realistically the end of Feb. for March.

Equipment committee needs to get preliminary in place for Feb, boats, oars, etc.

Jay: updated the board on proposal to bring US Rowing Youth (HS) District Championships to Lowell this year.

Group has to find a way to fund the course and organize to one like TRR, budget, get volunteers and pay out to organizations who help US Rowing \$20,000 toward. Jay will be regatta chairman.

Financial model is to break even the first year, got a 3 year commitment for the regatta to come to Lowell. Trying to establish a regatta model that really works.

Schools would have to pay into maintaining the course, to use.

Date: end of May perhaps the 3rd or 4th week of May.

Karen: MRRA not donating but could potentially work, volunteer for some reimbursement

Meeting adjourned
Dottie Semonian