

MRRA Monthly February 10th, 2015

Meeting Location: Chelmsford Police Station:

Attendees: Linas Alinskas, Joseph LaFreniere, Dennis McCarthy, Chur Masors, Terry Freeman, Sharon Morris, Jody DeCarolis, Lisa Doucette, David Morley, Jennifer Lown, Mark Romanowsky, Bronwyn Chapman, Dottie Semonian.

January Meeting Minutes: Accepted

Safety: Joe LaFreniere: Sent email to the board, new law all coaches have CPR certification. We have made sure coaches have certifications. Joe also would like to suggest coaches have US Rowing Level II coaching status.

Update TRR and US Rowing: Joe L speaking with AJ, US rowing official. Has a conference call scheduled, working out an agreement. National Masters Race, now more general to National Head Race. More unsettled details at this time. Regatta to be held, Oct 3rd and 4th. Joe L. has received parking permits.

Karen reaching out Senator Eileen Donoghue regarding US Summer Olympics 2024. Discussions about Rowing events in Lowell. Asked that she would contact MRRA if any discussions are planned.

Update: Wednesday March 11th at 6 PM, Lowell City Hall, hearing for Lowell Boston Olympics 2024, all invited to attend.

Committee Updates:

Equipment: Denise McCarthy, reviewed needs more members for the equipment committee. Reviewing boat usage. Looking at purchasing a MW or HW 1X and reviewing purchase of 2X. Setting aside money for future purchase of wake less launch. \$6000 this year and would add more money next year. Also mentioned : Constructing "A Frames" would provide additional storage for boats, like the 4X. Also provides an area to place a boat when coming off the water to find gate locked and slings gone.

Discussion with Dave Cormier, UML last year. Dave didn't address. Dave has now left UML for position in Westford. Equipment will reach out to Peter Murray regarding "A frame construction."

Membership Programs:

Plan same Learn To Programs for Sculling and Sweep rowing.

Discussed a Novice Clinic, instead of a 2-4 week class, to help decide if people are really interested. Jody DeCarolis mentions, Other clubs run a 3 hour clinic, would show both sculling and sweep rowing.

Learn to Row Day is Saturday, June 6th this year

Learn to Scull typical starts the first week of June. Last year did not have enough interest to start until the second session.

Discussion between members, decision to add a 3 hour Novice Clinic to Lean To Row Day.

Other clubs charge \$10 and get individuals to commit to program. Used KC Lombard as coach last year. Suggest this year either hiring a coach or having MRRA members run the clinic.

Money collected to go to paying for coach.

Other discussion about membership: What are the reasons individuals don't try the Learn To Row Programs? Swim certificate requirement, cost, realizing the physical requirements?

** Swim Certificate is required. Have heard from individuals not always easy to find a pool with hours that are available. In the past members have gone to UML Recreation Department or Lowell YMCA for swim test. Some have had to pay for the test, others have not.

Discussion about: Contacting YMCA or UML to see if a time could be arranged for swim test
MRRA also has members who are certified lifeguards. Could we arrange testing on the Beach?
We will have to determine if we have enough members, individuals to make this worth the time and effort.

General discussion: We won't likely get new members "off the street." Last year Learn to Row Day very successful. Mark Romanowsky and other members reviewing with the group, that most new members have been referred and mentored by current MRRA Members. "Bring a Friend to Row." Advertising did not necessarily lead to more members last year.

This year: Will purchase a new banner for the Fence, larger this year, new Logo with "Lowell Community Rowing/ MRRA." Dottie Semonian will order.

Rack Policy: Working on draft. BOD will review. Hope proposed copy of Rack Policy will be available in March for members to review.

Once BOD reviews, will forward to member for comments

Club will put final policy into effect in Spring.

Safety Video March and April Meetings: 6:15 PM
(Joe LaFreniere will bring projector)

Meeting Adjourned: 7:46 PM