

## **MRRA February General Meeting Minutes:**

Tuesday February 9th, 2017

Locations: Chelmsford Police Station:

6:30 PM

Safety Video:

Attendees: Bob Bowen, Liz Albert, Chur Masors, Linas Alinskas, Mark Romanowsky, Stephanie Birchenough, Jody DeCarolis, Terry Freeman, Susan Mathais, Kent Springer  
Joe LaFreniere, Dottie Semonian

7 PM General Meeting

Attendees: Jay Feenan, Bob Bowen, Liz Albert, Chur Masors, Linas Alinskas, Mark Romanowsky, Stephanie Birchenough, Jody DeCarolis, Terry Freeman, Susan Mathais, Joe Lafreniere, Dottie Semonian, Kent Springer, David Morley, Alex Gavriel, Mary Theresa Freund, Steven Freund, Bronwyn Chapman, Carl Popolo. (19).

Accepting the January Meeting Minutes  
First and second, all accept.

Agenda:

Presentation by Jay Feenan, Terry Freeman  
Membership/ Programs:

Committee Sign up sheets: Sign up sheets passed around. All encouraged to volunteer on committees. Boat house location site, Equipment, Safety and Social.

Social: Dottie Semonian (Board liason): Kathy McGowen, Erin Lallemand, Sandy Bell, Chur Masors, Susan Mathais. (Volunteering at this time, all welcome.)

Jay Feenan: Discussion how cost for programs has been determined.  
Dividing up costs, equipment, insurance, across the programs  
Spread sheets were reviewed during the last BOD meeting  
Budget: Reviewed, P&L.

Masters Sweep: From club prospective, shows a loss on spread sheet.

**Budget:** Some errors found in the allocations.

Costs: Insurance, launch, boat use, coach and coxswain

**Cost** are high for number of participants if only 8-10.

**Cost:** \$50 coaching, \$20 to coxswain (each session).

Discussion: Looking at ways to reduce costs.

Increase number of participants, more revenue if program increases to 14.

Creating more opportunities for this group to row three times per week instead of twice, (perhaps some sessions without coaching.)

**Accounting:** Some participants didn't pay the full amount.

If they paid program would only be slightly short. Plan is to review and collect the outstanding amounts.

**Allocation:** Payment to UML \$10 K for space, 4K for membership.

Space, rack fees cover 50% club boats cover the other 50%

Some of the general costs may have been spread out to the sweep.

**Recent Board Meeting:** Discussion about using Regatta Central.

Regatta Central has expanded their services: Has a page where clubs register their programs. Regatta Central collects the fees, sends bills for programs.

Program Managers were collecting money and trying to set protocol for no rowing until fees paid.

Club discussion: Liz Albert worried about our privacy, if using Regatta Central.

Joe LaFrenniere suggesting we think about using Regatta Central.

Would reduce the burden on Carl Popolo.

May reduce web site managing.

All agree, need some better handling of payments due.

**Would like to see Paypal payments limited to cost of the program.**

Partial payments for membership and program fees are hard to follow by accounting.

For example: Masters Sweep fee \$300, but payment may have been \$100 in March, \$200 in May. Would prefer one payment of \$ 300 before the rowing begins.

**Change in Fees for 2016: Chur Masors:**

Learn to Scull: \$275 for 6 weeks, will run 2 sessions

Chur already has been receiving inquiries about program for this Summer.

Joe LaFrenniere: Would like to discuss offering 2 need bases scholarships

Or offering a no cost, **Learn To Row Day** as a free program

Thinks this would help “sell the MRRA.” as more charitable, would like to see more Community outreach.

Jay Feenan: We have done this by offering Learn To Sweep program, run for very low cost. Offer Learn To Row Programs.

Joe L. Obtained Permits for TRR and Festival parking.

Was questioned on where the money goes, made Joe L think about this more.

Mark Romanowsky, obligation to the State, was **Learn To Row** program, bring rowing to the Lowell community.

Perhaps adding what we do for the community on the web site.

Non Profit plus Charitable organization. We have recently run “Pulling for Polcari.” Event, Charitable. Give Scholarships annually to high school students.

**Boat House Location Committee:** If you wish to join, please see Alex Gavriel at the end of the meeting

**Budget: Review :** Jay Feenan would like to discuss the cost of insurance and accidents with equipment.

Historically cost was less when the MRRA owned less equipment.

MRRA owns equipment with a value very close to \$ 100,000.

Deductible is now \$1000, was \$ 150 years ago.

Protocol has been: “You Broke it, You Pay to Fix it.”

Review of the budget, there has been \$2000 put aside for possible loss.

Jay Feenan: Suggesting MRRA Members that use club equipment might be interested in paying something (like \$25). This could be put aside and the MRRA would provide “Self Insurance.” This could reduce the deductible. Make damages less costly to individuals.

Joe L: suggesting-

Social Committee: send out dates for possible Cross Country ski night at Carlisle

State Park: Tuesday night for the Lantern Loop. Tuesday 5-9 PM

A few members went last Winter and enjoyed the experience.

Meeting Adjourned:

7:55 pm