

MRRA April General Meeting Tuesday April 14, 2015

Location: Boat House:

6:15 PM Safety Video
Meeting 7:00 PM

Attendees: Kent Springer, Mary Theresa Freund, Denise Bergeron, Erinn McLaughlin, Barbara Sherman, Sharon Morris, Jody DeCarols, Terry Freeman, Cindy McGrath Howard, Sheila Rourke, Dottie Semonian, Bernadette Johnson, Bob Sengstaken, Mark Romanowski, David Morley, Joe LaFrenniere, Karen Scammell, Bob Lynch, Jen Lown, Wilma Breiland, Dennis McCarthy, Jay Feenan, Bob Bowen, Mary Lynch, Carl Popolo, Lisa Doucett (26).

Safety Message: Joe L. Introducing the new Safety Committee Chair: Dr. David Morley
Safety Committee recommending PFD (Personal Floatation Devices).

The club owns a couple PFD's. Safety Recommends individuals purchase this piece of equipment.

Water temperature is 46 degrees today

Rowing restrictions on MRRA Web site, will be updated regularly by the Boat Captain.

At this time Big Boats only

Recommend to carry PFD and a cell phone on board

Safety prefers to have individuals wear PFD, Inflatables, and recommends you check CO2 cartridge each season.

If you have any questions about your own personal unit, Safety is available to review.

PFD's can be purchased at West Marine, Woburn

Or Cabbalas hunting supply for about \$69.

Current conditions can be found on the MRRA Website.

At this time:

Water flow rate is high, need to look for debris, Safety Wires are not in place above the falls

So rowing is not permitted below the boathouse.

Accept March Meeting Minutes:

Clarification: December meeting members Voted on budget and programs approved the budget and approved the programs.

Members want clarification that Budget and fees were agreed upon.

Budget and Program Fees were approved. All in attendance vote **Approved**

Equipment committee has been discussing possible purchases.

Chair Dennis McCarthy:

Purchase HW 1X "A Boat"

Discussion about purchasing a Wakeless launch

Need to verify Dock space will be available - also needs a trailer (would not be able to purchase a 1X) this year If a Wakeless is purchased, would deplete the budget.

Plan to keep the Carolina: Work being done by Joe L, Linas A. and Bob S. New seats, hull work, installing bilge pump etc.

Chur stored the Carolina in her yard this Winter, Thank you to Chur.

Equipment Committee will also purchase pontoons for the single sculls. This should help our LearnTo Row Programs.

Discussion about having enough dock space was discussed, thought is the TRR purchased additional dock sections that could be added to make room.

National Park Dock: Has been Approved, High Profile Docks, will need a transition from high to low, plan no longer requires pilings.

Barbara Sherman, Chur Masors and Tim Wheatley will be monitoring Gas, and purchasing when necessary.

Jay Feenan: Speaking with Peter Murray UML: Boat house user Group Meeting

More launches may be purchased by UML

Some discussion about a Common Launch Pool

Peter is actively looking for a new Head Coach/ Boathouse Manager.

He would want this individual to be involved in the purchases and decision making.

MRRA will need to decide whether to purchase Launches or potentially rent from UML.

Boat Wash on Sunday, equipment was cleaned and rigged.

Need Oars painted, sanded, sweep oars, will announce work party time

Programs:

Jody DeCarolis and Terry Terry Freeman

Working on Promoting of our Learn to Row programs

Advertising as Lowell Community rowing.org

New Banner installed on the fence outside the Boathouse

Program managers need to get updates on costs and program meeting times

Will ask Carl Popolo to update Web site.

Alex Gavriel is coaching, Learn To Programs

Masters Sweep is arranging their coaching

Saturday June 6th National Learn to Row Day from 9-noon

Member are encouraged to attend

Boston Olympic 2024 Lowell group may be attending, an invitation will be sent.

Boston 2024 knows about UML, LHS and Festival Regattas and may be attending events

Acknowledging Jay Feenan:

The MRRA wants to acknowledge Jay Feenan for his years of service. Members briefly reviewed Jay's contributions to the club in roles as Olympian, board member, TRR Regatta director. The group also appreciates Jays ability to facilitate lasting relationships in the City of Lowell.

Jay was presented with a hardwood directors chair from Standard Chair in Gardner MA.

The MRRA logo and inscription are engraved on the back of the chair.

TRR/ US Rowing Head Race:

Brief update by Carl Popolo, Coming to an agreement on even schedule and income sharing

Saturday National head race and SundayTRR, schedule 50 events on Sat, not just masters.

Sunday 43 events with income sharing 93 events this year (possibly more)

May cap some events, using last years TRR events data.

Think revenue for TRR will be the same this year, if goes to two days TRR in year 2 and 3 would be more income

Income comes from Revenue for entries, about 50% of revenue comes from parking, team tents and vender tents.

The Regatta Directors intend to start organizing early. Plan is to meet in May.

Motion to adjourn:

7:58 pm