

MRRA Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Location: Bellegarde Boathouse

Attendance: (11) Chur Masors, Wilma Breiland, Karen Scammell, Carl Popolo, Dennis McCarthy, Bob Sengstaken, Dottie Semonian, Linas Alinskasn Andy Hutchinson, Joe LaFreniere, Terry Freeman

Meeting began at 7:05pm

Safety Message: Joe LaFreniere

- Be aware: The 'strainer' phenomenon is where water passes through downed trees or branches and creates a 'strainer' effect. **Avoid** strainers as you could get pinned against the tree and your boat by tons of water pressure.
- Wear a PFD, especially in these early days of the season when the water is **fast** and **cold**.
- Level II Status: Singles row in pairs and all larger boats OK....with caution
- See Current Rowing Restrictions: <http://www.merrimackrowing.org/current-conditions>

Accept February and March meeting minutes

Karen made motion to accept, Carl 2nd – 1 abstention – 10 in favor – Passed

Equipment: Joe LaFreniere

- Discussion re: approved purchase of 8 Sweep Oars and 4 new sets of sculling blades
- Sold Swift
- Have buyer for the other Swift
- Boats are rigged – thank you to those who came out for the Boat work day Sunday, April 22
- Small upgrades on shoes and such...contact EC if you notice anything needed repaired or replaced.
 - Rack notices sent – waivers issued
 - Notice of available permanent rack space by bay door

Programs/Membership:

Many opportunities to get your volunteer hours!

LTSCULL – Linas and Andy H.

- **LTSCULL begins May 29th – Tues./Sat.'s - will need volunteers – contact vp@merrimackrowing.org**
- Session I has 5 participants currently signed up and Session II has 1
- Coached by Marcia Beckett

LTWEEP: Terry

- Session I currently has 12 people paid on RC and 8 showing on the MRRA site
- Jonah Sakala will be coach and Scout Emerick coxswain – possibly Brittany Sollinger for boat 2
- LTSWEEP begins June 11th – Mon./Wed.

MSWEEP: Terry spoke re: program

- Session I started May 2nd – Mon./Wed. with 12 active participants
- Coach Alex will be leaving at the end of the month and will return in a couple of months.
- Replacement TBD –
- Karen mentioned Jenn Thomas as interested
- Lourenco and (new girl-I forgot her name) will be the coxswains

OPEN SWEEP: Karen

- Program begins June 5th – Tues./Thur. (6-8pm)/Sat.(8-10am)
- Currently 12 participants
- Coached by Mark Lewis

Back To Rowing Day: May 19th – 8-9:30am

- **Contact Andy Hutchinson at vp@merrimackrowing.org to volunteer**
- Send invite to past and present members

National Learn to Row Day: June 2, 2018 – 9am-NOON

- **Contact Terry Freeman at tdwfree@gmail.com to volunteer**
- Jonah Sakala will coach event

UPCOMING RACES:

- **May 12th and 13th – Lowell Invite**
- **May 27th – State Champs**
- **If you row, be off the docks by 7am**
- **Poor access to the river during the races**

Festival Regatta – June 24th, 2018 - Dottie

- **Looking for VOLUNTEERS – contact Dottie at dorothyfaynp@aol.com**
- Permits in place
- Jay – DCR?
- Registration **will not** be accepting paper waivers
- **Need apprentices for registration – contact Wilma Beiland @ [wbreland@comcast.net](mailto:wbreiland@comcast.net)**
- Police/Environmental Police and UML officers in place
- Already ordered: 4 porta-potties, Medals
- Buoys at 500, 1000 & 1,500 but no lane dividers
- Events: full schedule like past years with 1K and 2K racing depending on age groups

News: Karen & Dennis (with Mark Romanowski)

- Met w/ city of Lowell Planning Board: discussed bridge design phases – will take 3 years
- Bridge design has been sent out to bid and MRRRA needs to comment on requested single span design to enable race lanes without bridge supports in the course.
- Planning board showed Karen and Dennis 2 possible sites for a 'boathouse' between Lowell and DCR. Please note that this is all very very preliminary but encouraging as well!
- City can help with permitting
- Who else has dibs?

Motion to adjourn by Carl at 8:10pm – 2nd by everyone