

**MRRA August 12, 2014 Monthly Meeting:**

Location: Boathouse

Start time: 7pm

**Attendees:** Carl Popolo, Linas Alinskas, Bob Lynch, Karen Scammell, Dottie Semonian, Robert Waters, Joe LaFreniere, Terry Freeman, Chur Masors, MG Jagers, Jay Feenan, Peg Landry, Joe Bernard (13).

**Agenda:**

- Safety message

- \*\* Planning for Textile River Regatta Sunday October 5th

- subset of this is to have a 20 min max discussion on whether we as a club are ready and interested to expand the TRR to a 2 day event in 2015

- other items as requested

**Notes from the Boat Captain:**

1. The Green Vespoli 2X is default rigged as a 2X. That means that if you switch it to a pair, you must return it to a sculling boat when you return this to the boathouse. The only MRRA boat that is default rigged as a sweep boat is the Swift 2X/-.

2. If you want to borrow boats for upcoming regattas, be sure to email: [boatcaptain@merrimackrowing.org](mailto:boatcaptain@merrimackrowing.org). Remember that you must minimize the time the boat is out of the house and return it fully rigged.

3. Remember to report any damage to equipment to the Boat Captain and [equipment@merrimackrowing.org](mailto:equipment@merrimackrowing.org)

4. You must use the ONLINE logbook. The only exception is when the internet connection is down, and in that case, use the paper logbook. If you are not in the online logbook, you are not OK to Row and need to email [secretary@merrimackrowing.org](mailto:secretary@merrimackrowing.org) to get any open issues cleared.

**Loosing Morning light:**

Need Bow lights to launch in AM and PM

Lights need to be returned to docking station, plugged in, Rowers need to be visible

White stern lights

Recommend head lights for individuals, encouraged members buy as a personal item

Joe L. has budget for small # of white stern lights.

**Morning Fog:** Members should review fog rules. If you cannot clearly see the bridge from the boathouse, NO ROWING.

Flip Clinic scheduled for tomorrow night, Weather looks terrible thunderstorms predicted.

Will reschedule, about 4 people responded, Joe L will contact people with new date.

All Launches are back to full use, repaired.

Motion to accept July minute meetings:

Motion to approve, approved by all in attendance.

**Hearing Recently Held:**

Regattas: Large tree caught up in 2 K start

Chelmsford Police, Dave Morley and Linas Alinskas worked to remove, unfortunately damage to launches, boats. Repairs added costs to regatta.

Jay Feenan was able identify where the trees were cut from. Photographed and Jay sent a complaint to the environmental police, City, Conservation commission, etc.

Letter sent to the home owner: Hearing was held last week.

Elderly Father of owner appeared in front of the commission.

Purchased the home for his son. Was very sorry, embarrassed. Actually Rowed in College.

Total damage to launch motors and course.

Father Agreed to pay what Jay asked with an additional \$1000 to put towards the course.

### **Regattas:**

Profit in the \$9500 range for both days.

NEMA: slightly more profitable, more entries.

US Rowing has approached MRRA for Masters National Head Race in 2015.

US Rowing holds the race annually, in the north east about every five years.

US Rowing asking the MRRA to bid for 2015 we would host Sat the day before TRR.

MRRA would need to budget and bid on the regatta.

Discussion:

### **US Rowing Masters Head Race, TRR going to two days:**

If we decided to bid for 2015:

Saturday Masters Head Race, would move Masters from Sundays TRR

The Biggest growth in the TRR is the Juniors, not Masters.

Textile River Regatta: Masters do compete on Sunday, the conflict some years has been the Green Mountain Head, this year not the same weekend. But this can change year to year.

Goal might be to grow the TRR to 2 days Saturday and Sunday the following year, 2016.

Programming of TRR, increased by revenue, increased the entries, kept cost down.

Real expense is the Police, Timing, course. Doesn't change very much for second day costs.

Would the US Rowing Masters Event take away from TRR or would Masters plan to race two days?

All in attendance agree we have an outstanding venue and outstanding date in September.

Especially just 2 weeks before the Head of The Charles Regatta.

If the MRRA doesn't bid on the US Rowing Masters Head Race, where might it go? And would that take away from TRR. Would it be worth while to bid and run next year 2015, with the plan to expand TRR to two days the following year. US Rowing Event would move and not be in the Northeast for 5 more years.

Aware that the way to make money for our club is to run regattas.

**\*\*Ultimately would ask membership, would need to commit to two day, will have vote at December meeting.**

### **Textile River Regatta Update:**

**Jay Feenan, Peg Landry and Carl Popolo:**

Peg Landry: Coordinating Volunteers:

Registration: Wilma and John Breiland will return

Start: on and off water Karen Scammell

Marshall's: Mark Romanowsky

Finish Line on and off water Erin Lallemand

Course: Need

Results: Need

Logistics: Inventory, equipment, need volunteers

Venders: Bernadette Chambers

Communications: Bullhorns, some discussion about purchasing new, NK rechargeable, replaceable with longer warrantee. Bob Lynch agrees to work with this committee.

Medals: Terry Freeman.

Joe LaFreniere: Would like the group present to consider adding boat launch site at DCR dock up stream.

Large parking area, grassy areas: sections to stage trailers, ramp could stay open.

Plan would be to put in 60 feet of dock, from ramp up the river.

Would decrease the congestion at "Time Square," past years more teams launching from the bath house, beach area.

Joe L. has a contract that would deliver the dock system a few days before the regatta, cost \$1700. Would need installation.

Joe L: Agrees to coordinate, staff, this area.

Carl Popolo also thinks might be a good idea to experiment: See how this works, would this be best if going to a two day regatta: Carl also thinks a couple colleges would like the opportunity to set up in this area.

Carl could directly contact the teams and recommend this launch site. Not likely appealing to Masters singles, maybe fours.

Toward the end of the discussion realize Will need a permit: This area is not part of the DCR that the TRR permit covers. About 45 days until the regatta, not sure this can be arranged.

Would need police: Would need permission: Think it would be about \$4000 cost in total.

Joe LaFreniere with see if feasible for this year.

### **Textile River Regatta: Web Site is Up:**

Will review events, last version of list, had a couple comments to review.

Meeting adjourned 8:33 pm