

## **MRRA Members Meeting**

**Date: Tues, Feb 14th**

Time: 6:30 pm -- Viewing of Safety Video (required to watch this every year)

7:00 pm Regular meeting at

Location: Chelmsford Police Station, Training room.

1 Olde North Road, Chelmsford MA

Minutes

6:30 view Safety Video :

7:00 PM meeting called to order

Attendance: Tom Barrington, Karen Scammell, Kathy McGowan, Barbara Mack, Terry Freeman, Jody Decarolis, Cindy McGrath, Andy Railto, Andrew Hutchinson, Chur Masors, Linas Alinskas, Michael Carenza Schoz, Dennis McCarthy, Carl Popolo, Jay Feenan,

Acceptance of minutes from November 8, 2016 and January 10, 2017

Karen gave the Safety Message: Make sure you have a recent physical and have your doctors approval to row. Also check to see if all of your vaccines are up to date, especially tetanus.

Karen explained that this would be a working meeting and asked the group to break into two groups, one to discuss Equipment issues and the other to discuss Programs. This is in anticipation of putting together a budget that will be approved at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Notes from the Program committee:**

Karen announced that we will be using Regatta Central to list and register for the Learn to Scull and Learn to Sweep Programs. It is hoped that this will lead to more people signing up

Minutes of Membership/Programs breakout session:

Chur happily announced the Linas Alinskas will be coordinating the Learn to Scull. Terry Freeman will continue to coordinate Learn to Sweep. Jody Decarolis will coordinate Masters Sweep.

There was a conversation about pricing of the Learn To programs. We discussed the possibility of adding a \$35 provisional membership fee to all of the Learn To participants. This would both increase revenues as well as lessen the cost of becoming full members if any of the Learn to participants wanted to race in the late summer or fall. After much discussion it was decided to not do this. It was thought that making the entry into rowing to expensive. Carl also notes that it makes setting up the registration on the web site more complicated. (However, said that he could do it if necessary.)

The group decided that we would keep the fee at \$125 with a discount to \$99 each if you bring a friend. This is for a four week, 8 session classes. The maximum size for Learn to Sweep is 18, and for Learn to Scull is 8.

Masters Sweep will be at the same rate of \$325 for 20 week sessions.

The group discussed various ways to improve visibility of the Learn to Programs.

#### Minutes of Equipment Committee Breakout session

The group reviewed the rowing usage stats that were available. Action is for Carl to send usage stats for 2016, since these were cleared from the Boathouse logbook when the new year was reset.

Discussion then was about the current equipment and which boats to sell. There is general consensus that we have too many doubles right now and that singles would be used more.

Discussion then was around what weight class. More info will be sent afterwards to this group on the member weight distribution. The general feeling was that we need more Lightweight boats, that our current demographics favor lightweight men and women.

Discussion generally agreed that the boats purchased should be singles, and we should sell the Vespoli 2X (heavyweight) and one single. Singles that might be sold include the P1 (oldest boat owned by the MRRA), the Vespoli HW 1X and the Swift MW or HW 1X (one is in worse shape than the other).

General consensus is that to purchase a Hudson would be preferable, but that the Wintech is a good boat and the 2 that we have, have been rowed successfully by many in the club.

This group needs to reconvene to discuss more about boats to sell and which weight categories to buy.

Initial idea: Sell Vespoli 2X MW (white, located in the river side bay, top double-double rack) and single and buy 2 singles this year

Notes submitted by Tom Barrington, Secretary

Meeting adjourned about 8:10 PM