

Minutes of the MRRRA Members meeting – Tuesday April 11, 2017

On the Boathouse deck

Attendance: Tom Barrington, Dottie Semonian, Wilma Breiland, Chur Masors, Steve Quince, Karen Scammell, Bob Sengstaken, Kathy Swensen, Bob Lynch, Mark Romanowsky, Joe LaFreniere, Dennis McCarthy, Mary Lynch, Kent Springer, Linus Alinskas, Andy Hutchinson, Michelle Collier, Betsey Shew, Bob Sutherland, Mary Theresa Freund, Peg Landrey, Mike Carenza, Andy Riatto, Barbara Mack, Carl Popolo

Called to order by Karen at 7:05 PM

Safety Message. Mark Romanowski - Water is 47 degree, water is cold, running very high, and is very dirty. Do not be in a hurry to get out there. It is best to wait a little while longer before heading out.

March meeting minutes, voted to accept as posted, passed.

Equipment update Andy Riatto

Will be selling the two Swift singles and purchase 2 Fluid Fleet, a mid weight and a heavy weight. Got a good deal but Bob S. is going to try to talk them down a little more.

Planning for the rowing season – Rowing Readiness Day. Saturday April 15, 9 am

- need to put up outdoor racks, rig boats, physical inventory of locations for club, get skiff out,

UML launch issue and higher fee for UML sweep boat rental

Chris Pucella, UML Boathouse Manager, increased the following after we had verbally been given the same pricing as last year:

Sweep boat rental increase from \$1400 to \$2000 for rowing season thru Aug 31

Launch rental from \$2000 to \$4000 for same period.

It was noted that we can likely buy a skiff type launch for \$4k.

We will likely get a launch with a partner program at the new boathouse, if that happens.

A plea was made by Joe LaFreniere to consider a wakeless boat, even if they cost up to \$20,000.

SAFETY COMMITTEE – Mark Romanowsky

Met tonight. Looking at all the safety factors of who can row and when they can row. It is both a matter of the conditions and your own competency. See Dennis or members of the safety committee if you have any questions about your ability to handle conditions. Equipment, it is still dark early in the morning, make sure you use lights on bow and stern or on your head. If rowing in cold condition make sure you have some kind of PFD. If you use the fanny pack put it on and use it, especially in the cold. Individuals need to invest in their own inflatable life jackets. Highly recommend if you are going to row when the water temp is below 60 degrees. Also if you go out early in the season use the more stable boats. They will put up signs about safety information and where to row on the river.

Social Committee – looking for some members. Non-rowing events have not been very successful. Will concentrate on rowing events but need members.

Regattas:

TRR committee - Peg Landry, Carl Popolo, John Ballantine

Have made a plea for someone to be the director. Nobody has come forward. Plan on hiring Lowell Regatta Rowing Association as we did last year.

Wilma Breiland wanted to make sure that all know that US Rowing membership is required for all athletes competing in the TRR: either the Basic (\$7.75) or the Championship (\$65) memberships. This is required even if the club is registered with US Rowing. The TRR is registered as an US Rowing regatta and thus both US Rowing membership and online US Rowing waiver are required. Note that the US Rowing waiver is not the same waiver as our club waiver since MRRR has its own insurance.

Festival Regatta Dottie reported working on and is in good shape.

US Rowing Regional Masters on July 8th Lowell Regatta Association is sponsoring. If someone wants to volunteer to help that will be greatly appreciated. Tom B. noted that if anyone wants to compete in this or any US Rowing championship regatta they will need to get the US Rowing Championship level membership. It costs \$65. The basic US Rowing membership, at \$7.75 is OK for TRR. The Festival Regatta is not a USRowing registered regatta so one does not have to be a US Rowing member or have signed the US Rowing Waiver.

New Boathouse

Karen reported that she has a draft lease agreement for the new boathouse. She just got it. We need to have it reviewed by a lawyer, need to talk to town about the ramp, and talk to the railroad. There are a lot of details that need to be worked out. It was brought up that it must have an option to purchase. We have dock sections. Want to get partner programs to sub lease. They are looking at May 1, signing. We have notified UML. We will rent will be \$3,500 a month. It was stated that we need to be really sure of a long term presence before we walk away from the UML Boathouse. Will set up a time for a site visit for members. There was a basic affirmation that this is a good step as long as all of the details can be worked out.

Secretary Tom B. asked people to pay attention to all of the paperwork and fees that must be taken care of before anyone can be checked off as ready to row. Please contact him if you have any questions. Carl was asked to add a place on the My Membership web page that will state if the member is "Ready to Row". He said he would.

Motion to adjourn 8:03 PM