

MRRA Members Meeting and Social

July 11, 2017 7:00 PM

Bellegarde Boat House

Attendance: Karen Scammell, Tom Barrington, MG Jagers, Chur Masors, Kat Flinner, Wilma Breiland, Lisa Doucette, Daile Tripp, Steven Freund, Mary Theresa Freund, John Murphy, Bob Lynch, Peg Landry, Mark Romanowski, Mary Lynch, Sandy Bell, Terry Freeman, Jody DeCarolis, Bob Sherman, Barbara Sherman, Carl Popolo, Dennis McCarthy, Andy Hutchinson, Linas Alinskas, Tony Szczesiul, Stephen Margiotta, Matt O'Brien

7:13 PM Meeting called to order

Safety Message Mark Romanowski: Please be aware of the course you are rowing and how you go down and up the river. Consider the river is divided in thirds and always row on the starboard 1/3 of the river. When you cross go 90 degree across to the other side third. Leave the center of the river to the power boats and no-mans land for rowing. This is especially important returning to the Boathouse. Do not cut the corner from the bridge to the dock. Secondly, when rowing, pay attention to environment every 5th stroke. Keep three points of reference in sight- the bow, the shore, the stern.

Discussion of navigating Mother Rock and other hazards by the Vesper Island. One will have to row more towards the center to get around Mother Rock but pay special attention for other boats and hazards. Have to be in the middle of the river there, but be especially careful. About 100 meters past Mother Rock there are series of rocks on the Tyng Island shore. Learn to read the water and the flows. Look for the slick on the water, if you see it get away from it because it is often branches and stuff. Beware of branches and floating debris, especially after rains.

Accept June meeting minutes. Motion by Karen, second by Peg - Vote passed

Festival Regatta Summary:

Thanks to every one, Especially Dottie and Everyone who stepped up as a committee chair. It was a great effort and successful.

Everyone was needed to help and we had a lot of help. Festival Regatta was the biggest since 2004 with 225 entries. The water marshals were fabulous in getting events started on schedule. We anticipate making between \$8,000 – 8500. Have gotten some feedback,

- Karen suggest no concessions. Not make much money. Most entrants seem to come self sufficient.
- Consider bring a permitted vendor for food (food truck)
- No consistency on the start because not set buoys.
- Welcome packet did not say launching only at the boat house. Check the web site. Some went to beach and were turned back.
- Possible set up a 1000 meter course only – would possibly allow more boats and no bridge involvement.
- Will contact coaches and programs who attendd to see what they would like for next year.

Committees

Safety: Flip clinic went well, thanks to Joe LaFreniere

Unfortunate accidents on July 4th resulting in the death of a Jet skier. Environmental police have been on the water consistently after the accident. There are a lot less jet skis on the river and they are better behaved.

Rowers should still call in and report dangerous jet skis and boats on the on the river.

Equipment: Jay has offered to hold a rigging clinic in August and maybe again in the fall. Most likely on a Saturday morning possibly 9 am. Will announce time when set.

Social committee: Thanks to those who brought food for today. Learn to Scull will have 7-8 rower taking Boat Handling test.

Lean to Sweep: 14 Participants in session one, Look to have a few more for session two.

Masters sweep: Down to 11. Weather, water and jet skis have meant some missed water workouts

Textile River Regatta - October 1st: Peg Landry reported that LRRRA is on board. We are in early planning stage. Wilma and John are willing to do registration and results. Anyone interested to step up as a committee chair, please see Peg. Always looking to have more people learn the different committees and is a good idea to “train” for one year and then take over the following year. Remember there is plenty of help from the MRRA and other groups, so you do not have to do all the work!

Noted that we have a number of long term members who have been running it for years. We need new people to shadow and learn what running the regatta entails.

There was a conversation about organizing volunteers. Peg stated that she expects the leader in each area of the regatta to coordinate their own volunteers. It was mentioned that newer members experience frustration about no knowing how to volunteer. It would be good to devise a clearer way to coordinate volunteer. Nobody offered to step and be a volunteer coordinator.

Make sure we stake the no parking signs for the whole boulevard.

New Boathouse update:

Karen reported that things had been up and down. The sellers seemed to be reluctant to sell after three years. We insisted that be a part of the lease. They eventually agree to include that in the lease but have held firm on the price. The lease terms will be \$3,500/month plus taxes, hazard insurance, water and sewer. The monthly cost will be about \$4,200 a month.

We currently pay \$1,400/month. We would close half the gap by finding a partner to rent the riverside bay for \$2,000/month.

There will be two bathrooms and one shower. We will get porta potties for summer ; plenty of room for parking and outdoor storage on 1.4 acres

Karen and Jay meet with Westford Community Rowing. They were positive about being a tenant. Have others who have approached about renting space for a kayak.

Westford Community rowing has 8 eights, 4 fours, a quad, four Zephers and a couple of double sculls.

They currently have about 60 masters sweep and 60-70 high school students. Four launches. They anticipate having the competitive sweep and High School teams train on the Merrimack and keep Learn To on Old Forge Pond.

The next step is to show the property to Westford Rowing and understand their timeline for joining the building, to happen over the next week.

John Murphy has offered to be the program manager for the move.

Karen reported that the MRRA Board met before the members meeting and approve a motion to enter into agreement conditional on review of lease.

Karen asked for a straw vote on making the move to the new boathouse. It passed with nobody speaking against.

Meeting adjourned for social time and refreshments at 8:10 PM