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16 April 2004

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MEETING MINUTES

Date	13 April 2004, 7:00 pm
Place	Bellegarde Boathouse Lowell, MA
Attendees / Trespassers	GinnyL, JohnB, JaneiroS, RaymondE, LandryP, JWelch, MarkR, EdP, PaulM, JimStock, BobB, BobS, Wilma, Paula, LAlbert, JayF, BillMcGowan, Jeff, Secretary Carl

Item 1 Boathouse / Agreement / Access

Bill McGowan started off the meeting with an update and was joined by JayF in a tag-team status report.

As previously reported, about 35k has been spent on the boathouse, repairing and upgrading heat, electric and other behind-the-scenes item. Doesn't look like the deck has been repaired.

Bill reports that UML has \$350k to kick in. But there are presently meetings going on with the State to hammer out the areas of responsibility for all affected parties. The State is to send a letter to all groups telling them the cost of boathouse operation (and maintenance?). UML will want a b-plan to show ongoing maintenance for the house before kicking in their share. MarkR has talked to Steve Brown (Project Mgr for renovation). He and the State are waiting for UML to come up with the proposal before forking over any additional coin. Perception is that Dana Skinner (UML AD) sees UML being the main player in this whole process.

Access: The State wants to limit access on who comes in and out of the house. Issues of liability on State property. Whether or not UML assumes the responsibility for the house, the State is ultimately liable. Right now there are 5 keys to the front-door deadbolt -- 3 with Bill, 1 with the Monday class, and 1 with the State. The Club does NOT have a key since there is currently no

Read the **Secretary's Notes** at the bottom of this page for important username and password info to access the Members Only section of the web site. You only need this if you want to look at previous meeting minutes, since that's all that's in the MO section right now.

Agreement in effect and therefore.

JayF talked to Ray Faucher (DEM) to break the ice and let Ray know that there is value to having MRRA as part of all discussions. JohnB has a dialog with Ray as well, so at this time there does not appear to be a need for any Sicilian interventions. JayF will compose a letter in terms of the Club's requirements for access to the boathouse. Jay to meet with Ellen Mintzner (sp? role?) for historical perspective on what the club would like in terms of access. Jay has told Ray that we would like to participate in the development of the agreement, but it's not clear that we have bargaining position if it's perceived that our status is inherited from UML. Jay's best estimate is still that our assessment in the new agreement will be an incremental \$8k to \$10k.

And while it might seem logical that we could row while the house is open for other users, it was uniformly agreed that without an Agreement in place, it would be wise for us to suspend rowing until the Agreement is done, hopefully within the coming week or so. By general agreement, it was decided that there should be **NO ROWING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE** -- and we hope that the notice will be forthcoming shortly once the agreement is done.

Bill described the procedures for locking down the boathouse should you be the last to exit the building. There is a garage door lock on the center bay, so the procedure is to lock the deadbolt on the main entrance from the inside, make sure the lights are off, exit the house through the center bay door and then turn the garage handle to lock the bay door from the outside.

If you should find yourself locked in the boathouse without any means to exit, the Club decided that it is then your responsibility to phone in a breakfast order for the rowers who will be arriving the next morning.

In summary, the State's position is that boathouse access will be restricted until there is a user agreement; UML has a *de facto* agreement with the State, as does LHS via UML, and we are trying our best to stay in the main loop. To this end, the letter that Jay will prepare fundamentally must answer the question of what accommodations we expect as a club. Our needs will probably be used in the calculation of our new assessment for the year in a formula that is not yet defined. Access methods will likely be more restricted. This is not last year's boathouse.

At this point, the Secretary's head burst into flames.

Item 2 Club Access Requirements

Pursuant to Jay's need to write a position letter for the State, discussion turned to our real access needs, strictly in terms of hours of operation.

The following schedule is the average of countless proposals made by the members:

WEEKDAYS

Morning -- Dawn to 10am

Afternoon -- 3:30pm to dusk.

HOLIDAYS & WEEKENDS

Dawn till noon.

MOTION to accept this schedule as the official Club hours of operation was made by PaulM, Second by BobS – PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Item 3
Membership**

Membership Applications for 2004 are on up on the web site. All the paperwork you need to complete your application before the April 30 deadline is now available. Mail your checks and applications to the PO box shown on the application.

Do you need a swim test? If it's been 5 years since your last test then yes, you do. Secretary's records show the following people need a test: **Tim Barton, Marc Cajolet, Nishith Chasmawala, Wendy Gordge, David Grigglestone, Marketa Jemelkova, Kristine LeJoy, Cheryl Quince, Steve Quince, Ray Spiecker**

IF YOU NEED A SWIM TEST -- GET IT DONE AT THE LOWELL YMCA. It's fast and easy. Call ahead to make sure there's a lifeguard on duty to test you. (978) 454-7825 [Map](#)

**Item 4
Tax Status /
Finance**

JohnB -- Something needs to be done with our accountant, but most suggestion from the crowd are illegal in this state.

Questions for JohnB:

Account balances? Balance in account is \$8k less \$2k in dock bills which are current.

Are boats insured? Rower is responsible for the deductible. Insurance needs to be renewed. JohnB to follow-up on this.

**Item 5
Board and
Director
Positions**

Board & Directors open positions. Jay has tapped some people. Looking for other volunteers to step forward. PaulaK produced a piece of papyrus on which the board job descriptions were written. Anyone desperately wanting to be VP can [email Paula](#) for more information.

Secretary's notes: Don't forget that we're still looking for any and all written Club info that might be in your possession in a mighty effort to put together a Club handbook for future generations. See [last month's newsletter](#) for more details. Or read [Jay's letter](#) on the topic.

**Item 6
Dates**

Learn To Row. No dates until agreement. Someone signed up at the Xmas meeting to lead the charge, and Jay is going to find out who it was.

**Item 7
Scholarships**

Scholarship to LHS: MOTION – PLandry moved that the scholarships for LHS be the same or higher as last year. Second and passed. New qualification language: Student must be male or female LHS senior who has rowed or coxed for two rowing seasons as a member of the LHS crew. They must be attending college. The amount of each scholarship will be raised to \$250, one each for boys and girls.

MOTION to approve the new language was seconded by JohnB. PASSED UNANIMOUS.

Submitted by Carl Popolo, MRRS Secretary

- **USERNAME AND PASSWORD ARE REQUIRED TO ACCESS MEMBERS SECTION OF WEBSITE.** Meeting notices and minutes will continue to be distributed by email but are now also available on the website. The index is on a hidden page not available to the general public. The specific web page is here but you can also get there by bookmarking www.merrimackrowing.org/members -- This is a PROTECTED FOLDER, you will need to sign in with a username and password: username = **mrta** and password = **renovate** -- both username and password are entered lowercase. PLEASE NOTE that the password will probably change in May after the 2004 memberships have been processed. Members in 2004 will receive an email with the new password.
- **CLUB EMAIL ADDRESSES:** The following email addresses have been setup for your convenience: president@merrimackrowing.org, secretary@merrimackrowing.org, festival@merrimackrowing.org, treasurer@merrimackrowing.org, boatcaptain@merrimackrowing.org, boats@merrimackrowing.org, board@merrimackrowing.org -- the board@ address goes to all board members. As always, info@merrimackrowing.org and webmaster@merrimackrowing.org are also valid.
- **Membership documents are now available on the web site.** Follow the JOIN link from the home page to download and print your own Membership application, Waiver and, if necessary, a swimming certificate form. Paperwork and checks can be mailed to the address on the application, and your paperwork and check are due by April 30.

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

- **Lawrence Regatta** - Saturday June 5th.
- Inside track on an Alden shell for sale: ALDEN MARTIN FOR SALE -- I am selling a seldom-rowed Alden Martin with boat cover and oars in good condition. Wonderfully stable and strong boat for flat or choppy water. Tracks beautifully. Can handle any size rower. \$1150. I live in the Boston area. -- Jay Paris JayParis@nafi.com
- Alden: 2 Days Left for Free Oars or Rigging. Reduced Shipping Rates! www.rowalden.com. This offer has expired, but you can always beg.
- Tom Bohrer, 1992 Olympic medallist and CPT in Concord, MA has offered any member of the MRRA a 50% discount on the membership to his fitness website at www.tbfit.com.
- A group from MRRA is planning a trip to Craftsbury Sculling Center in Craftsbury, VT the weekend of June 25-27, 2004. Cost of the weekend program is \$530, plus VT tax. This includes meals, lodging and instruction. Information about Craftsbury's program can be found at their website, www.craftsbury.com. Any club member interested in becoming part of this group should e-mail or call member Paula Kosewski for more info. (vrkpmk@comcast.net home: 978-256-8431 cell: 978-771-7391)

Send your comments, critiques, ideas, facts, fiction, questions, errors & omissions and future newsletter ideas to me at SecretaryCarl@merrimackrowing.org.

-- Secretary Carl

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