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Organization

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MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

Date	08 June 2004, 7:30 pm
Place	Bellegarde Boathouse Lowell, MA
Attendees	JayF, PaulaK, BobS, BobG, EdH, GinnyL, JoeL, BernadetteJ, AnnB, JohnB, JeffB, JimS, AshleyB, WilmaB, ChurT, JohnW, BobB, MarkR, ShirleyJ, MikeS, LizA

**Item 1
Boathouse /
Agreement /
Access**

President Jay called meeting to order.

- The agreement has been 'semi-OK'd'
- MRRA lawyer says everything looks OK
- There appears to be no reason to prevent its being signed
- General OK for club to use all hours
- MRRA should maintain current lock-up procedure.
Afternoon hours remain to be clarified – a volunteer is needed to open at 5PM
- Combination lock needs to be installed on internal door
Key card system would be ideal but it is expensive

**Item 2
Festival
Regatta Update**

Mike S

Bad news: Cambodian community split from the Asian Water Festival and organized their own Festival. They chose the same date for their Water Festival as our Festival Regatta.

Good news: Our two events can successfully coexist. The Cambodian event does not need to use the river AND their activities will be mostly center around the pavilion. Our event needs the river and our activities center around the boathouse.

Mike S will attend a meeting including city representatives and organizers of the Cambodian event on June 9 to clarify our respective 'spaces' and hopefully obtain a permit for our event. He expects that we will be asked to end our spread down the boulevard at the traffic light which will make parking a major issue. Two potential locations have been identified – the construction site and the bowling alley. Both will be contacted to obtain permission. There is Cambodian-controlled parking (cost = \$6) but Regatta attendees should not fill up Cambodian parking spots (Regatta starts several hours earlier than Cambodian Festival) leaving no parking available to those attending Cambodian Festival. MRRA should show evidence that we can deal with our own parking needs.

Several Festival Committee positions remain open. Mike S recruited a few more people to fill the some of the openings from those attending, but more remain. See the summary of Work Opportunities in [last month's minutes](#) and VOLUNTEER! It is one of the requirements of membership in the club.

A decision is still pending whether or not Festival T-shirts will be available. There were SO many problems with the T-shirt vendor last year that no one wants to see a repeat of that this year.

[Editor's note: If you would like to volunteer to coordinate the production of shirts with an outside vendor, [write to Carl](#).]

Mike S queried members present about adding more races to the Festival Regatta schedule. This could be possible if the Club constructed a fixed start. Several considerations (Time, Cost, Logistics) were raised since it is only one month to the Regatta. Generally, membership present felt that we should maintain the status quo.

Item 3 Financial

Treasurer John submitted MRRA 2004 Profit and Loss, and Budget statement. ([Spreadsheet here](#)). Major differences between 2003 and 2004 are indicated.

Under the hopefully-to-be-signed-soon agreement, it is likely that the Club will be assessed \$4000 quarterly for our use of the boathouse. The resulting shortfall in revenues could be met by an across the board assessment to club members of \$50.

MOTION: To assess all current individual and family members an additional \$50 (student members are not included in the assessment).

- Shirley J moved
- Bob S seconded
- 20 votes in favor
- 1 vote opposed

[Secretary will leave an envelope at the desk for your checks].

Item 4 Dock Repair

JimS volunteered to make necessary repair to dock.

Item 5 Boats, Status & Policy

POST MEETING UPDATE: Read the two Policy Documents regarding boat usage here on the web site:

MRRA Boat Policy (PDF)

**(MS Word
version)**

**MRRA Boat Rack Policy Proposal
(PDF)**

**(MS Word
version)**

Boat Captain Bob S provided copies of his proposals for a boat policy and a boat rack policy (see links above). He tried to address the issues raised by membership over the years with respect to these two topics. He emphasized that he was trying to take active rowers and active members into consideration. Copies of his proposals accompany these minutes. He invited membership to read the documents and provide feedback.

He, also, raised the controversial issue of scheduling boat use for membership to mull over and provided feedback.

In the interest of clarification, the Hudson lightweight single, the Vespoli heavyweight single and the FluidDesign double were identified as the Club's 'Class A boats'. Bob S polled membership present on their feeling about restricting student members to certain boats, restricting student members from using the 'Class A' boats, and restricting student members from transporting boats to races. It was generally agreed that these restrictions should be enforced. However, it was also agreed that a special testing procedure should be implemented where student members could apply for access to the 'Class A' boats and/or to transport boats to races.

A list of all club boats and their respective weight classes will be available in the boathouse soon.

There also seems to be a shortage of oars.

MOTION: To purchase 2 sets of new oars.

- Mike S moved
- Liz A seconded
- Passed unanimously

Remaining on the topic of oars, better organization of club oars vs. private oars is needed. Members present agreed that private oars need to be VERY CLEARLY LABELED, and that some system should be implemented where private oars are segregated from club oars. Perhaps something painted on the walls designating where private oars are stored vs. where club oars are stored.

Should the Club buy a car top rack to transport boats to races? Jay F remembered that the club owns a rack – it just needs to be located.

Item 6 Policies Committee

There was no report available from the Policy Committee.

Item 7 Cleaning Committee

Under the soon-to-be-signed agreement for boathouse use, the Club is responsible for 'monitoring' the bathrooms. Volunteers are needed for a Cleaning Committee to perform this duty. Jay F has an explicit list of things to check in the bathrooms.

Miscellaneous

Jay F received a round of applause when John B asked that Jay

be recognized for his efforts to establish and maintain a dialogue with the state to reach our agreement to use the boathouse.

Substitute-Secretary Chur's note: I was pressed into duty in my former role at the very last minute and was totally unprepared. Therefore, I would like to give a great, big, special thanks to Wilma B for supplying me with paper, without which taking the meeting minutes would have been impossible.

Secretary Carl's Note: Did I just hear Chur nominate Wilma to be Secretary? I think that's what I heard. Second! And my sincerest thanks to Chur for jumping in at the last second to reprise her role as Secretary to take notes and keep the rest of you from getting rowdy and out of hand. -Carl

SECRETARY'S NOTES

- 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. Bookmark 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 June after the 2004 memberships have been processed. Members in 2004 will receive an email with the new password.
- The LINKS page on the web site is growing. Add your favorite rowing links to the site by sending them to webmaster@merrimackrowing.org.

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

-- Secretary Carl

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