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# MRRA Meeting Minutes

## 08-NOV-05

### MINUTES

**Date** 08 Nov, 2005, 7:00 pm

**Place** Boathouse  
Lowell, MA

**Attendees** MarkR, SeanM, JohnW, GinnyL, Joel, JohnB, AnnB, JayF, Wilma, PaulaK, KenS, ShirleyJ, CarlP

**1. Par-Tay** REMINDER - Next meeting is the Holiday Meeting, mark your calendar for TUESDAY DEC 13. Drink at 7pm, meeting at 8pm. Make fun of your fellow inebriated members by 9.

**2. Boats / Boatwash** Boats:

- Boatwash was a rousing success. Many MRRA items are now asset tagged, someone compiles a list of parts and repair requirements. Secretary is waiting for this list. Thanks to Boatcaptains BobS and PaulM for another year of holding the hardware together and improving our rack situation.
- Stretchers need a checkup, one sling broke this morning and the V2 took a minor tumble. No one was injured.
- MarkR: V2 needs to have its chips fixed
- Boat Usage report coming soon at the December meeting. Who will win this year's rowaholic award?

**3. Boathouse / Show Us The Money** Joel reports that we have received a positive response from Rep Golden's office, who was impressed that we had rallied the troops to call other reps and senators in our area. Having said that, Rep Golden's larger project is to bring a nanotech facility to UMass, so it's not too late to impress our other reps and senators on the wisdom of supporting the \$1 million allocation for the renovation of the boathouse. Call your rep and senator if you haven't done so already, tell them you support House Bill #4443 in a big way.

Secretary Carl received an engineering report from JayF that

was done back in 2003, it will be converted to PDF and sent to the Board for review.

At this time we do not know when or if the boathouse will be locked down for the winter. Jay marked three ergs with MRRA duct tape, so if the boathouse will close, we should be able to send 3 ergs home with members for the winter. Someone said that JimP said that we own 4 ergs.

#### 4. Docks

UML has called the Dockmasters, docks will probably come out next week. Final cost will be known after they assess the damage.

JohnB suggested that we reserve for dock repairs on an ongoing basis.

Joel suggested that we look into the distribution of costs related to the dock work, and this led to a discussion of the TRR status, ownership, operations, etc. The TRR directors should decide how TRR proceeds are distributed. Joe will write a letter/email to the TRR Directors to get a meeting where we can discuss transition and formalizing of the responsibilities.

#### 5. Elections

Jay will not be running for re-election this year.

GinnyL, relatively quiet to this point, sprang from her chair and forcefully pushed for the creation of 22 new MRRA jobs. I would show you the org chart she proposed, but we'd run out of web space. But the upshot goes like this:

- We need to formalize and decentralize some of the current jobs. By expanding the named positions, we can make each position responsible for a more narrow slice, and thereby make it easier on each person in each position.
- Specific examples:
  - **Boatcaptain** becomes ONE person, responsible for policy and control. Reporting to the Boatcaptain would be a Boat Repair person who has 3 or more able-bodied persons to buy parts, make repairs, build slings and racks, etc.
  - We need to formalize the **PR / Marketing** role and get serious about our outreach as MRRA. This would include press releases to the local papers, marketing materials for the boathouse, signage for membership, etc. Someone with good connections in rowing and the Lowell area would be the ideal candidate.
  - **Coaching / Instructing**. Formalize a position akin to a head coach who is responsible for LTR, membership coaching, library materials (e.g., safety video) and other efforts to make us better rowers.
  - **Safety Officer**, reporting to Boatcaptain
- Not all of these positions will be elected positions. We expect the elections in December to cover the usual suspects:
  - President

- VP
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Directors (CarlP to determine which seats are expiring this year)

While not elected positions, it's not too early to fill in the blanks for Festival Chair, TRR Chairs, LTR and other positions. Put your thinking cap on, and think about running for an office or filling a slot, or at the very least think about someone who you would like to nominate.

The Secretary's head exploded and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Secretary Carl, [Carl@merrimackrowing.org](mailto:Carl@merrimackrowing.org).

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