

[Members Home](#)
[Members](#)
[Meetings](#)
[FESTIVAL UPDATES](#)
[River Report](#)
[House Report](#)
[Forms and Policies](#)
[My Membership Login](#)

[2008 Member News](#)
[2007 Member News](#)
[2006 Member News](#)
[2005 Member News](#)
[2004 Member News](#)

[print this page](#)

MEMBERS >> Meetings >> Mtg Minutes

MRRA Meeting Minutes by Molly

11-JUL-06

MINUTES

Date 11 June, 2006, 7:00 pm

Place Bellegarde Boathouse
Lowell, MA

Attendees John S., Bernadette, Molly, Joe L., Jim G., Bob S., Mark Mc., Jay F., John W., Peg L., Jennifer L., Wilma, Ginny L., Chur., Bob L., Paul K., others.

Festival Wrap-Up All in all, Great Regatta! Kudos and all kinds of applause given to co-directors Mike S. and Jim G. on a fantastic feat.

So much did go well:

1. Finish Line, Start Line, and Timing were great,
2. Ending early was great (boat traffic was just getting heavy around 3ish),
3. Having full lunch break was great, as well as breaks throughout,
4. Spacing between events = great.
5. The list goes on and on...

And since so much of the Regatta did go well, most conversation was given to the:

Items that need some attention for next year

1. Suggestions from *attendees* include:
 - a. Port-o-potties: the women's bathroom got jammed periodically, mostly when eights were getting ready to go out and in the afternoon, when people wanted to change to go home. Perhaps if the locker rooms upstairs are opened next year, this won't be

an issue...

2. Comments/suggestions/follow-up items from *MRRRA members* include:
 - a. Bathrooms down at bath house – opened at 11am. Next year, request they be opened earlier...
 - b. Weedwacking going on by the DCR at the finish line made it difficult to hear and listen for the Finish Line committee...

[Jesus H... Clearly, we need to talk to The Man to coordinate this a little better, maybe even get them to do something useful for a change. Perhaps the work needed to be done on Saturday at time and a half because the coffee break ran late on Friday? Maybe they ran late because inspecting Jay's work in the fireplace room ran over?]

 - c. No police present even though Joe contacted 3 different entities...Joe thinks vacation time might be part of the reason, Ginny offered news she read about the police boats not making it on the river yet due to the floods. Either cause, they were definitely a no-show,
 - d. In addition to the usual 'thank-you' notes, send additional 'Thank You's' and Festival Regatta T-Shirts to the Power Boat Club volunteers as they were helpful, their boats and equipment worked great, and it's a good friendship to build and maintain,

[Secretary's note: PO Box was checked on last Wednesday; there were no thank-you notes from DCR for the boathouse cleanup, fireplace repair or grass cutting done for the FR].

 - e. Spacing between races was great, well paced and longer time seemed to also result in less wakes. Might be difficult for next year – how to play it if more heats? Caps vs. no caps might be an issue,
 - f. Ed P. commented on an official not quickly responding to a double that steered into a bridge. Official not responsible for steering boats away from obvious course issues, but most officials do. Ed's concern was that he reacted too slowly and the boat could have been alerted. He also mumbled and others noticed that as well. Seemed incompetent in action was the main concern, although he was well versed about duties. Perhaps an issue to bring up with officials next year.
 - g. Need a Clean-Up Committee like the TRR. Ginny suggested a "2pm –close" shift, where one or two people come afternoon only just to clean and close down. The boathouse was clean at 4:30ish, when it was emptying

out and members went home...however, crews came in used the restrooms, etc., and by 6 it needed to be cleaned all over again. Clean Up crew should have no morning responsibilities to ensure energy to stay 'til the end and leave the boathouse in tip top shape,

- h. Committee Chairs – make notes and send them asap to Festival Regatta directors as an attachment...

3. Suggestions from Officials:

a. 3 Course suggestions:

- Abutments in front of bridge should be marked. Molly discussed the history of this situation, at least in the last six years. 2 years ago and 4 years ago, buoys were placed in front of the abutments. One time small rubber ball buoys were used, another time small orange inflatable buoys were used. Both times, both rowers and officials complained b/c they drifted into lanes and had to constantly be moved. Rowers complained they had to row around them. The current is severe there, and one suggestion made by Jay is to try next year to use Styrofoam orange floats, set upstream about 50m from abutments. Course Committee will try this next year,
- Set Start Line buoys further apart
- Set Start and Finish Line buoys 10m or so above and below start and finish, not right on.

**MRRA
Business**

1. Boat Flipping Clinic hosted by CRI's Bob Eldridge

- Bob will demonstrate how to get in a boat once it has flipped, to CRI members and MRRA members alike. He will be securing a date with us shortly. Any equipment damaged in the process will be fixed/paid for by member of the club who damaged it.
- Will schedule it when MRRA members can be present and will be able to take out launches.

2. Boat Report/Race Report:

- Doubles: Several boats and leads were pursued including boats from the Durham Boat Club, Hudson, Vespoli and Wintech. Wintech seemed to have the best boat for replacing the Vespoli II – a heavyweight

international at about \$7,000

- Races coming up include Canadian Henley, Head of the Charles, Worlds. All must enter by end of July. Contact Bob S. if you are interested in learning more about racing opportunities.

3. Sweeps Week...

- has been cancelled due to lack of sign-ups. But great membership response, and Joe will be coordinating how to look at that for next year. Perhaps it needs a new format, hiring a coach, etc. Will investigate over the winter.

4. NYSP

- is now being run by MRRA's Mark McKenna

5. The Lowell High School's Learn-to-Row program is being coordinated by Jen who is overseas. Mark is running it with a fellow uml rower and will be directing both the NYSP and this ltr over the next several weeks...

6. Awards:

- Joe presented Appreciation Awards that will be given to Panagiatokas and someone else but I forgot who! He will be presenting the plaques to them. Also Tom Golden may receive one. Also UML may be presented one at the Holiday party for a Community Collaboration in running NYSP for so long with the boathouse (something like 15 years in a row...)

[Secretary's comment: I'd like to see the \$1 million before we go broke handing out appreciation awards to state reps. Enough chatter already, it's time to pony up and get it done.]

7. Attendance: Membership needs to be more attendant. It's good to see LTR and other non-obliged members and friends at meetings.

TRR

Jay F. reported on what's going on with the TRR planning:

1. Timing Committee (start line and finish line people) are biggest issue right now to work with – crucial and important to smooth sailing on race day,
2. Reduce # of Committees to divide and conquer more efficiently, (e.g. one Boathouse Committee chair person who owns concessions, setup, cleanup, signage, etc).
3. Forms sent out already for permits (although won't get them until last minute),
4. Police on calendar

5. Members/chairs send in any documentation to Jay and Carl – will help write the cookbook. If you know stuff, but haven't written it down, write and send it out. What you know is important – it's amazing how many details only you know if you have been doing a job for awhile. You can probably write the best description of your job.

[Carl's note: When in doubt, start with the [FR Committee Docs](#) and go from there].

[Carl's note: We need to decompile Polcari's manila folder of phone numbers and important scraps of paper]

Adjourned

Wrapped up with decision to hold next meeting where we can purchase beer

Submitted by VP Molly, vp@merrimackrowing.org.

>> [Back to Meetings index](#)

www.merrimackrowing.org >> [home](#) | [about](#) | [join](#) | [directions](#) | [events](#) | [links](#) | [festival regatta](#) | [EMAIL](#)

Merrimac River Rowing Association
PO Box 1909
Lowell, Massachusetts 01853 USA

©2010, MRRA