

Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, April 1st, 2024
Coldwell Banker Lifestyles, 8 West Wheelock St, Hanover NH
Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Swanson, Kathy Harvard, Marcia Jacobs, Susan Brighton, Debbie Hannam, Roelof Versteeg, Doug Calvey, Dan Ruml, Dylan Mroszczyk-McDonald

Regrets: Joe Paduda

By Zoom: Martha Beatie, Tom Griggs, Elizabeth Glenshaw

Guest In Person: Rowan Carroll (minutes)

Guest By Zoom: And Morse, Mickey Elsberg, Margie Elsberg

Marcie called the meeting to order 5.45pm

Debbie - moved to approve March minutes

Kathy - seconded approving March minutes

Unanimously approved

PRESIDENT UPDATE: (Marcie)

Per letter of Carin there was some asbestos found in tiles in the old IGA where the juniors were erging. While this did not pose a risk it was decided to vacate and find alternate locations, which were found (Burnham, tanks, old CCB). Middle school will not get on the water till Mid April

Focus this meeting: getting on the water safely and addressing our top priorities

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

SAFETY (Mickey)

Board members need to be compliant with safe sports - many are not yet - needs to be done asap. April 30 is the deadline. Apart from that Peter and Doug will get launches equipped. Work day is April 13 weather permitting. UVRF emergency action plan is posted on the trailer - people need to be reminded of this, especially in the beginning cold water. Needs to be reviewed by members - need to promote this in the newsletter.

We are all aware of the Saugatuck event where 3 boats swamped as well as a launch when a storm came up and 19 people needed to be rescued. Kathy: We should use this as an opportunity to review our procedures and do some possible learning from evaluating what we would have done if that had happened to us. We also may want to communicate to parents about this.

There are lessons we can learn. From what we understood there were two errors. First, people should have looked at the weather. Second, students left the boats and climbed in the launch - never leave the boat should be reinforced. In NH we have lighting which comes up - this is something we can have people be more attentive to. People should know what to do in the case of emergency.

Margie volunteered to review and edit the safety procedures so that they are more clear both for coaches and for members. Martha was asked by Marcie to work on a coaches orientation.

Kathy: do we have a waiver associated with the membership where people acknowledge that they have read our safety procedures. Action item: review the text for signing up for membership and report back (Marcie/Erika)

Carin has all coaches confirm that they have read the safety instructions

FACILITES (Doug and Peter)

Work Days:

April 13th - launch work day, back up April 20th.

The hope is to get the docks in at Kendal before then, but may not be possible depending upon the weather. Peter will talk to High Country as to when it is possible. We need volunteers to help with this. We have two launch trailers, we need to put in 7 boats at Wilson's Landing with are then driven to KRP. It would be good to mark the launches to show that they are UVRF rather than Hanover High, Erika made stickers in the past, Doug and Peter will check if she has any in stock. If not research waterproof sticker to mark launches as UVRF.

April 20 is another proposed workday.

April 23rd - launch inspection. Doug and Peter will take care of that, this includes the inspection of the boats and the kippy kit, lights and whistle and so on.

PROGRAMMING (Martha)

We are missing a coach for the women's spring program, unfortunately the one they had recruited now has a conflict, Martha is working on a replacement.

Possible additional sculling program to teach people sculling skills. Could/Should we add sculling formally to the men's and women's sweep programs? In 2023 many of the programs ended up with sculling component because of the number of participants, should we consider that the sweep program has a sculling component in the description - a hybrid sweep/sculling program. Is there a way to make it easier for members to get certified to toe quads and bow racing doubles.

We have advertised three times on the listserv for coxswains, we have had three new to UVRF experienced coxswains signal interest. We are optimistic that we will be better situated with coxswains this year compared to last.

Program use of equipment has taken priority over equipment use by non program participants. If equipment use fee users do not have boats available to them we will have to reconsider the equipment use fee for non program participants.

Set up a Zoom call to discuss how people can get certified for doubles or quads.
Rowan to set up and invite people through the listserv.

Thanks for Roelof for setting up the equipment use website.

Rowan will continue to send equipment use confirmation email, booking sheet and password to members who sign up for equipment use. Automatic email confirming payment gets sent to uppervalleyrc@gmail.com and prompts sending the information.

FINANCE: (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth sent out finance reports by email earlier today. No questions from Board. Spring program payments have not yet hit the bank account, not much to report this month.

We have a four month reserve in the checking account because we have a lot of front end expenses before any membership or program fees have been paid.

FUNDRAISING: (Debbie)

Where do donations come from?

2022 \$133,000 raised. \$74,000 of this money was raised by the juniors (Prouty matching funds and Byrne Foundation). \$38,000 was raised for the Chuck boat from 101 donors of which 20k was from 2 donors each making a 10k donation.

2023 \$111,000 raised, \$76,000 of this money was raised by the juniors (Prouty matching funds and Byrne Foundation). 9 donors donated over \$1,000.

The Byrne Foundation is not going to be donating funds for very much longer.

2024 \$11,000 raised so far. \$8200 to Jasmine Rogers Scholarship Fund. 87% of the \$11,000 is restricted gifts.

We need to solicit more donations. We need a fundraising committee. Big question - how do we raise more money?

We need to raise money to cover the CREW costs, adult scholarships, junior scholarships. CREW costs could be included within the umbrella of adult scholarships without making it a specific CREW ask.

It is important that the board lead the club membership in fundraising and demonstrate to the club that the board has 'skin in the game' when it comes to fundraising. The Board members make an enormous contribution in terms of time and skills but sadly this is not as visible as it might otherwise be to the membership at large. We could have a Board led gift to sponsor a specific item. Suggestion is to have a Board led gift this year to contribute towards adult scholarships, this would include CREW adults and all adult members. This request for adult scholarship donations would be a gift to reduce the deficit from membership fees not covering 100% of the club running costs that membership fee would ideally cover. Each year the Board led gift could change, these gifts would promote a culture of making donations to the Club.

Could we get earned income from additional programs? What other income generating opportunities could there be?

OTHER BUSINESS: (Tom)

Dams are currently undergoing relicensing. The Wilder Dam (and their sister dams) is undergoing a relicensing process, there is a period for comment until April 26th. We have an opportunity to weigh in on the impact of the companies that run the dams - bank erosion, water flow rate, future management of the river, etc. Look up Connecticut River Conservancy to get more information on the process. The proposal is for a future river management with less variation in flow and river levels.

Motion to adjourn - Roelof

Seconded - Doug

Meeting Adjourned 7.30pm