

Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 9th, 2024
Coldwell Banker Lifestyles, 8 West Wheelock St, Hanover NH
Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Swanson, Marcie Jacobs, Kathy Harvard, Debbie Hannam, Roelof Versteeg, Tom Griggs, Susan Brighton

By Zoom: Elizabeth Glenshaw, Dan Ruml

Absent: Dylan Mroszczyk-McDonald, Doug Calvey, Martha Beattie

Guest In Person: Rowan Carroll (minutes), Liz Marshall

Marcie called the meeting to order 5.45pm

Debbie - moved to approve August minutes as amended

Tom - seconded approving August minutes as amended

Unanimously approved

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Executive Committee Updates: Marcie

Marcie has been using the executive committee both as a sounding board and as a way of getting an answer when there needs to be an answer prior to the next Board meeting. The EC only makes decisions when they absolutely have to.

The EC has been used most recently to agree equipment purchases, the equipment rental to Team Concepts, and to have a \$20 per session charge for non members to use club equipment for private sessions.

In the bylaws the EC can do anything and make any decisions that the Board can do.

Membership Trends Over Time: (Liz Marshall)

Liz went back to 2014 to look at trends in membership numbers, bringing in data from League Athletics and Regatta Central.

There is a complexity to analyzing the data because each person who created the programs (Erika, Carin, Nat, Liz) might have used different terminology and each year each program was slightly different so we are not comparing apples to apples.

The conclusion from looking at the overall membership numbers is that the junior membership is driving total club growth, adult membership has been fairly consistent over the past three years. There is some overlap within the junior numbers and we might be double counting a few of the juniors because they might join in junior spring and then again in junior fall, so count twice, whereas other juniors might choose to join as an annual junior member.

The data shows that UVRF has changed significantly after the pandemic in 2020. The data from 2021 and beyond is more significant for future planning than the pre 2020 data.

Since 2021 there has been an increase in sculling rack rental and sculling programs.

UVRF has more female members than male.

Liz will post these slides onto the drive and create a modified slide show for the annual meeting.

Board Nominations: (Susan)

We currently have 12 Board members, 2 are leaving. The nominating committee is Susan, Elizabeth and Martha. If anyone else would like to join the committee contact Susan.

The nominating committee has received some suggestions for new Board members. Susan will send an email to the Listserv to invite members to either suggest new nominations or to nominate themselves.

The goal of the nominating committee is to build a representative board. The nominating committee will encourage juniors to be nominated/nominate themselves. Board members do not have to be members of UVRF, everyone is in favor of having non-rowers on the Board.

The committee will present nominations at the October meeting.

Safety: (Tom)

Safety committee has been meeting to discuss updating safety policies. The extremes in weather over the past few years, the increase in junior scullers and the changes in sculling equipment (we now have pontoons) are a few of the items that the safety committee has been discussing.

Tom will give a presentation when they have finalized any changes to the policies.

Program Updates: (Susan)

Program survey was sent out to participants of all programs, results will be discussed in October meeting.

Martha is leaving the programming committee after this year, who is going to replace her? Should this be a paid position? Should we split the role into two? Program committee is talking with finance committee to discuss possibility of paid position. A clear job description is being created so that we know exactly what skills, time commitment, person we are looking for.

Straw poll to see who is in favor of a paid position with detailed job description - 6 yes, 1 no, 2 maybe

If we are going to hire a person it should be a broader discussion of what the person would do, who would direct them,

Dinner with Neighbors/Row to End Alzheimer's/Upper Valley Thrives: (Kathy)

Dinner with Kendal residents at the riverfront was a success. The goal was to make sure that there are people at Kendal who know who UVRF is, what we do, and understand our mission. Everyone who attended had a positive experience.

Row to End Alzheimer's - end of season Fall event will include a breakfast/brunch on Saturday 28th, with a community head race, brunch and row. Event will include juniors, masters, Dartmouth Rowing and CReW. Margie will advertise in the newsletter, And has been sending messages to the Listserv.

Upper Valley Thrives - Saturday 28th 10am-2pm - on Lyme Green, an opportunity to get in front of the community with an information table and an erg so people can learn about UVRF and our programs - Dmitriy has created a flyer that will be modified for this event.

Find a Home: (Roelof)

Debbie and Roelof met with Scott Hausler (Head of Hartford Parks and Rec department) on August 14. The aim of the meeting was to get information on what is happening with Kilowatt Park. Kilowatt Park belongs to Great River Hydro, which is a company which operates hydropower plants at dams along the Connecticut and Deerfield River. Great River Hydro itself is currently owned by Hydro-Quebec. Great River Hydro has to periodically (every 30 years or so) relicense its dams and plants with the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (<https://www.ferc.gov/>)). As part of this relicensing process the FERC looks at how Great River Hydro meets its requirements with regards to a number of things relating to community, ecosystem and so on, and Great River Hydro has to lay this out in its application to the FERC. This application is currently pending and can take a long while to get passed.

The previous owner of the dams/powerplant was TransCanada. They let the town of Hartford use Kilowatt park at no cost.

Hartford has a public boatramp there, as well as soccer fields. Kilowatt Park is also used for 4th of July celebrations and so on.

The town of Hartford had made an assessment of how much it cost them to maintain Kilowatt Park and they estimated this is about \$60K/year.

As part of the relicensing Hartford asked Great Hydro for \$60 K a year for maintenance and \$150 K a year for building infrastructure and facilities. This request has also been transmitted to the FERC and is currently pending.

The concept that Hartford currently has is that if they get the resources from Great Hydro, they would revisit the 2008 plans for the site (which are essentially very similar to the plans we have, so a mixed use facility) and develop a new plan for the site. Right now there are no details about this plan, but rowing could potentially be part of it and Scott was interested in organizing some kind of rowing demo for the community. The town of Hartford is currently starting a discussion with Lebanon, Norwich and Hanover to discuss the overall waterfront needs and requirements of the Upper Valley community. These discussions are being held by the town managers and related staff.

Finance Update: (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth emailed current financial reports to Board earlier today.

Equipment and Facilities: (Roelof, Peter, Dan, Doug)

Doug added shelving to the shed, and Roelof is adding a light - this creates a much neater, more functional space for storage.

Plan to start checking boats after the smackdown on Saturday.

Motion to adjourn - Roelof

Seconded - Susan

Meeting Adjourned 7.25pm

