

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2009
Oberlander Lounge

Board Members Present: Buzz Congram, Peter Davenport, Deb Dufty, Jen Friend, Paul Gross, Heidi Lange, Win Piper, Brenda Sirovich, Karen Sluzenski, Dick Grossman, Bob Haynes, Liz Marshall

Board Members Absent: Elizabeth Glenshaw, Kristen Laine, Steve Perry

Guests: None

Call to order: 6:04 PM

1. *Executive Committee report.* Win Piper presented the minutes of the Executive Committee (EC) meeting, which took place on Friday, April 3. The EC meeting focused on: proposing a schedule for repayment of debt related to the Resolute purchase (2008), and revising the schedule of planned equipment purchases and priorities.
2. *Minutes of March 9 meeting.* Approval of the minutes was **moved** and seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
3. *Equipment budget and priorities.* A summary of the approved 2009 budget as it relates to planned loan repayment and new equipment purchases was presented. The 2009 budget currently includes \$10K allocated for the purchase of sweep equipment (\$3.1K to new motor already), \$3.5K on sculling equipment. We have not yet voted on how much to repay on the Resolute loan (no money has yet been repaid). The current budget assumes \$10K in fundraising for 2009. Board members discussed and debated the relative benefits of continuing to build club inventory while continuing to hold (interest free) loans) versus placing a priority on repaying all outstanding loan debt before proceeding with any equipment purchases.

We could be considered ahead of schedule on fundraising for the Resolute, which was purchased in spring 2008, and repayment of loans was scheduled over a 3-year period. The EC had proposed a priority order for an equipment "wish list" and presented this to the Board – including a good Four, a good Eight, two club Singles, and 4 sets of single Hatchet Blades. Paul proposed that sculling should move to the top the priority list, given historical inattention, and growing interest in sculling. Buzz and others concurred. Buzz proposed dropping the Perry and the Stetson – they're taking up space, and Mike Dilapia is not getting repairs done. Fours could be rented for nationals. The need for an Eight is no longer urgent because we will be able to rent 4 Eights from the high school – including the Gardiner or a similar quality boat they are purchasing. We do need to get from Dartmouth commitment for additional rack space.

This discussion resulted in the Board agreeing to the following for 2009:

- Sculling equipment should top the purchase priority list, including two Club Singles and factory second hatchet blades
- The Club should rent one or more Fours for Masters Nationals
- Track use of individual sculling boats
- Assemble an inventory list
- Trim the current sculling fleet; Buzz plans to row existing boats before deciding to get rid of some; the Smallcraft is in tough shape

- Possibly sell the Perry and Stetson
- Look for an Eight in the \$10K range; keep in touch with Dartmouth, which may sell a boat later this year; the high school only tends to sell low end boats
- Postpone decision regarding completing repayment of the Resolute loan (ahead of schedule), pending revenue / expenditure profile this season

A **motion** was put forward to revise the Club's acquisition priorities (with specific authorization of funds to occur in the future) as follows:

- Purchase 4 sets of hatchet blades + 2 recreational singles (not to \$7.5K)
- Sell the Perry and Stetson
- Remainder of equipment budget to go toward a good quality Eight

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

< 6:52 Bob Haynes left the meeting >

A **motion** was put forward to: Disperse all restricted gifts received for the Resolute now (~ \$16.5K) – this repays the first two donors in full. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

4. *Coaching - personnel.* The hope of the Sweep Committee after the last meeting was to be able to present a slate of candidates for summer / fall programs. There are good candidates; it's a matter of figuring out who fits where. In order for the Board to be able to vote its approval of a proposed group of coaches in a timely manner, we plan for a teleconference two weeks hence. Coaching compensation was not specifically addressed.
5. *Equipment upkeep.* Board members agreed on the need to develop a system to deal with urgent equipment issues. Specifically, we don't have people who can do urgent hull repair. Mike Delapia should be available during the summer (low demand from Dartmouth) and has consistently expressed interest, but he was not available to the high school during the academic year. Dartmouth is happy to have him helping UVRF. Buzz mentioned the need to educate athletes; he does plan to hold rigging workshops. He also proposed trying to get access to Fuller center bay to have one boat inspected every day, or week. The Board agreed it's worth approaching Dartmouth regarding having that bay available for repairs / inspections. Dick noted that Dartmouth keeps a lot of their small boats there, which could present difficulties. He thinks coach & rowers should be primarily responsible for boat inspection, e.g. the last session of each week on the water. It invests members in equipment. It was agreed to try the following approach:
 - Make boat maintenance part of each coach's job assignment – end of week inspection.
 - Maintain a logbook of needed repairs.
 - Consider: storing one boat in slings once a week (one day only) for inspection. Mike may be willing to partner with us – pick a day of the week ahead of time. Buzz will talk to Mike. Win will discuss as part of contract negotiation, starting with Steve (after Dartmouth is off the water).
 - Create a kit of spare parts for the Resolute. The "take it with you to the regatta kit". (Buzz)
 - Heidi to email Buzz regarding which boats we'll need when.
6. *Programming.* Ronin is almost up and running for annual membership. All changes to the programming schedule should be emailed (Heidi) offline to Win, who will meet with Dartmouth regarding the contract. A letter to membership "ice is out" is needed (Karen), once membership is open. All caveats will be on

the website. It will be important is for the coaches to set expectations on Day One. The UVRF Competitive Men's program is up in the air. Publicity for summer programs should be underway soon – Deb and Brenda will communicate past approaches to Karen.

7. *Safety*. Three dates for the Swim Test are set up. April 23, April 28, May 3. Tests to be given by UVAC staff. One UVRF "staff" there to monitor who will takes and passes the test. The swim requirement is: 10 minutes of treading water with rowing clothes on, followed by a 50 minute swim, and successful putting on of a life vest. UVAC charges are very reasonable. Karen, Dick, and Liz will each supervise one session. The swim test requirement is prominently displayed on website; Ronin registration will require Swim Test signup. No swim test, no row. Partial refund for swim failures.

We need PFD's for sculling boats. The Dock monitor is to be responsible for having a PFD in club boats going out. If a rower goes out without a dock monitor, he/she is responsible. Dock monitors will let us know if PFD's start disappearing. No safety video will be required this year. Boat lights are postponed until the fall.

All Board Members offered an enormous Thank You to Bob and Buzz for getting all motorized launches inspected and successfully registered with the state. Registrations were handed over to Jen Friend.

REPORTS from Committees:

Sculling Committee. Web page needs updating. Sculling committee met last week: 2 individuals have lost their rack space (failed to achieve minimum number of rows); reviewed rack policies so that they agree with swim test dates and policies etc. Policies to present to the Board next meeting including: review of PDF use; policy re borrowing boats for races; edits to sculling rackspace policy – will circulate to entire group. Sculling docks will go in April 26 at 2 PM. Club boats will not be available at that time.

Friends of Hanover Crew. Meets often. Paul Gross attends almost all meetings. Selectboard review is pending. Lots of issues will mean delays. Still need state permit. Dock proposal is joint from Hanover town and FOHC.

Meeting adjourned ~ 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sirovich
Secretary