

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2009
Oberlander Lounge

Board Members Present: Win Piper, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Jen Friend, Peter Kermond, Dick Grossman, Brenda Sirovich, Kristen Laine

Board Members Absent: Buzz Congram, Deb Dufty, Liz Marshall, Bob Haynes, Peter Davenport, Dartmouth Rep

Call to order: 6PM

The board approved the December 2008 minutes.

Win Piper provided an executive committee update. Win and Jen met during the last week of December to discuss planning for the annual meeting.

Dick Grossman presented safety recommendations to the board. These recommendations are based on the premise of what the board should do out of fiduciary responsibility to the club and its membership.

- All boats (including launches) going out on the water in low visibility conditions (dark, fog) must have lights on the bow and stern.
- Any boat going out without a coaching launch should be required to carry a life jacket in the boat.
- All coaching launches must carry a safety (i.e. "Kippy Liddle") kit.
- A swim test should be required of all members.

The board discussed how to operationalize these recommendations. Members should be required to certify that they have read, and will abide by the club's safety recommendations.

More lights will need to be purchased for the club's sweep equipment and coaching launches. The board agreed that it would not be reasonable to purchase lights for the club's sculling equipment. The program runs mostly during the summer when low visibility is not a problem. Lights are expensive and difficult to secure. The current rules for club singles state that the boats may not be used before dawn or after dark. These rules will need to be strictly enforced.

Boats without appropriate lighting present a hazard to others on the water in low visibility conditions. The board agreed that anyone violating the rules on lighting would lose launching privileges for one week for the first violation, and for the remainder of the season for the 2nd violation, with no refunds of dues or program fees.

The life jacket recommendation pertains to boats going out without a coaching launch (primarily sculling boats). Some private scullers already have inflatable PFDs. The club's website has a link to several supplier websites. For club singles, the club could purchase "orange foam" PFDs. These are less likely to disappear and easier to put on in the water.

The board agreed that one safety kit per launch was appropriate. Boats will also have to be equipped with safety equipment required by the state of New Hampshire for commercially registered boats. Dick Grossman will get the specifications and forward them to the board.

The board agreed that swim tests should be required once every five years. Options were discussed for testing current members. The board agreed that current members should have the option to take their swim test in the Dartmouth pool. Future members will be tested at the boathouse. Dick Grossman noted that people can react very differently to being in open water vs. in a swimming pool. However it was noted that many of the current members have rowed for a number of years and this was unlikely to be a problem. The swim test will entail swimming 75 yards, putting on a life jacket and swimming back. Rowers will not be allowed on the water until they have passed a swim test. Dates will need to be determined and alternatives identified for members who cannot make any of the scheduled tests.

The board reviewed the slate of nominations. The board will be expanded to 16 slots in 2009 to reflect the needs of the volunteer structure. Nominees (and current board members) have been assigned to specific tasks. Brenda Sirovich presented the slate, which includes:

Peter Davenport-Sculling
Kristen Laine
Brenda Sirovich
Bob Haynes
Paul Gross
Karen Sluzenski
Heidi Lange

Elizabeth Glenshaw raised the concern that with the number of nominees equaling the number of slots, the members would not have a choice in the election. Other board members agreed that this was important, and that increasing the number of slots, while important from a club perspective, makes it more challenging to identify enough potential candidates to fill the open positions while still providing members with a choice. The board agreed that members should be reminded that nominations can be made at the annual meeting, and approved the slate unanimously.

Win Piper and Kristen Laine left the meeting.

Three amendments to the bylaws are being proposed for the annual meeting. These include: submitting the annual budget in March of the current fiscal year rather than December of the prior fiscal year; changing the notification requirements for the annual meeting from US Mail to email and posting on the

club website, and adding a provision to allow absentee ballots. Since a quorum was no longer present, these items were deferred.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Friend
Club Secretary