

**Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2009
DMS Conference Room**

Board Members Present: Jen Friend, Peter Davenport, Dick Grossman, Karen Sluzenski, Liz Marshall, Win Piper, Deb Dufty, Heidi Lange, Karen Sluzenski

Board Members Absent: Buzz Congram, Bob Haynes, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Paul Gross, Steve Perry, Brenda Sirovich

Guests: Carin Reynolds, unnamed former member

Call to order: 6:00 PM

1. *Executive Committee Report.* Win Piper presented the minutes of the Executive Committee (EC) meeting, which took place on June 24, 2009. The EC meeting focused on: response to noise complaint from homeowner on the CT river; response to request for coaches to be able to give private sculling lessons using club launches; budget in light of program under enrollment; outstanding debt of former club member; recap of decisions made since June 8th meeting (insurance for Dartmouth Rowers and swim test requirements for HHS coxswains and rowers); CT River Joint Commission issue; new board member?
2. *Minutes.* Approval of the minutes of the June 8, 2009 UVRF Board meeting was moved by Peter Davenport and seconded by Deb Dufty, and the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. *Friends of Hanover Crew (FOHC).* Carin Reynolds gave an overview of the current plans and issues surrounding the Wilson's Landing Operational Plan being proposed by FOHC for the "Fullington Farm" property on Route 10. FOHC has been meeting weekly to move the proposal forward. To use the site for rowing an appropriate dock needs to be installed at Wilson's Landing and because the landing is a town property the Town of Hanover is the entity that needs to submit the request. The Board of Selectmen needs to approve the use of the dock. FOHC has been working with the Town of Hanover's Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) and the Upper Valley River Subcommittee of the CRJC. If the property is to be used for the purposes of outdoor recreation then each building on the property needs a separate exemption. If the property is to be used by a "private club" then only one exemption is needed for the whole property. FOHC will be formally asking for approval at the September 14th Board of Selectmen meeting. Once the public meetings start to happen it will be critical to have people who are supportive of the project in attendance.
4. *Complaint from Homeowner.* UVRF received an email from a homeowner on the Norwich, VT side of the river complaining about the use of megaphones by coaches early in the morning. UVRF has been in touch with the homeowner and indicated that make every effort not to use megaphones when passing in front of this residence.

5. *Outstanding debt of former member.* A former member appeared before the board in an effort to resolve an outstanding debt obligation for \$750 for past program fees. Following a review of the facts and discussion the board proposed that \$375 to be paid by 12/31/09 would clear the debt. Win will send a letter to confirm our understanding.
6. *Budgetary Issues.* Jen Friend presented an overview of our current financial situation. Program enrollments are down from last year, particularly in the club rowing programs. Memberships are almost on par with last year and donations to date are just under \$7K. We're hoping the Fall programs will have enrollments of 20 women and 8 men. If we proceed with the plan to put \$9K toward debt service we would just about break even. A recommendation to hold off on purchasing any new equipment was offered. We have a couple of boat repairs that are needed due to bows being damaged and had some vandalism on a single that may not be worth fixing.
7. *Safety/Swim Tests.* There are still some members who haven't taken their swim test yet. Coaches aren't boating members that haven't taken their tests. Dick Grossman will send an email to those members with a reminder and instructions. There was concern that not all scullers using club equipment know that they need to take a PFD with them and there isn't a place for a PDF to fit if foot stretchers are all the way forward. There was also discussion concerning flowrate and scullers – if flow is 15000 no club boats can be taken out. Guidelines for sculling clinics need to be sent to coaches.
8. *Private Coaching Arrangements.* The following notes were circulated to the board prior to the meeting, discussion ended with the desire to continue the practice but to formalize it. Win Piper will draft a policy that the board will respond to via email.

The Club has had an informal policy of allowing coaches to give private sculling lessons using club launches. We'd like to continue this, and we will ask any coach who is interested to sign an agreement, which will include just basic common sense provisions such as:

- the coach needs to have a valid NH boating license,
- the coach is a UVRF club member who also volunteers for the club,
- the coach abides by club safety rules;
- lessons can only be provided to club members;
- the gas can shouldn't be left empty or nearly so (and with heavy use, pitching in for gas would be nice);
- coaches may not give lessons during sweep session times and should (if there are more than 3 private coaches working under the auspices of the club) arrange to sign up for launch time
- and finally, all efforts need to be made to keep the early morning noise level down, particularly around the bunkered gray house on the Norwich side where resides the guy who keeps lodging noise complaints.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sluzenski
Acting as Secretary for Brenda Sirovich