

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2009  
Oberlander Lounge

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

**Board Members Absent:** Paul Gross, Steve Perry.

**Guests:** None

*Call to order: 6:05 PM*

1. **Executive Committee report.** There was no interim Executive Committee Meeting. The Executive Committee was informed of the reluctant resignation of Kristen Laine. A letter of gratitude for her service to the club has already been sent by Win Piper as President.
2. **Minutes of April 13 meeting.** Approval of the minutes was **moved** and seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Enrollment status.** Is currently 75 families, ? 90 individuals. The number of individuals needs to be clarified for purposes of email, insurance, swim tests.

A few issues were raised:

*There has been one swim test failure;* the Board agreed to stand by its policy of requiring passage of the test in order to row under the auspices of the Club; membership dues may be refunded on a case-by-case basis. Dick, the Safety Captain, will follow up with the member.

*[The Board entered Executive Session for discussion of specifics of the above issue.]*

*One spring rower has not joined as a member.* Ronin is unable to require membership before allowing sign up. There should be a message at the start or end of program signup asking about whether the person has signed up for membership. Liz will contact those who are not members who have signed up for a program or who have paid their rack fees. Liz will also take responsibility for checking the membership list weekly throughout the rowing season, sending a list update to USRowing, and alerting coaches to any membership issues prior to sessions starting, CC to Heidi.

*One rower has joined but not taken the swim test.* We need to set up more swim test dates, immediately before the start of each session. The Board agreed to set up 3 dates – one before spring rowing, two before summer season. Subsequent dates to be arranged only if needed. \$600 is allocated in the budget for the tests.

*Spring Sweep session cannot be run at Dartmouth.* The Cheftain will allow us to hold spring session there. Spring session currently has 8 participants enrolled. Karen is sending reminders to membership about the session registration deadline; the roster will be notified on Wednesday of the location change. Concern was raised about the price of the 4-week session; we may want to revisit allocation of club costs to different programs for future seasons.

*Advertising* is underway in the Valley News (public notices and transaction ads). Flyers will be sent to the whole Board for distribution. Karen will also target the HHS parent email list. Juniors OK but no Juniors Only program.

4. **Equipment** – Two sweep boats are available for rental from Dartmouth: a DS millennium eight \$1200/season; DS millennium four \$1000/season. Currently we pay the high school \$1000 per season. The Club's current boats include: Resolute, Gardiner or equivalent, Parents, Hane, Northrup. Kevin C, Nag (learn to row). Dick G. learned by phone about the two boats -- Hunter (DS) eight, 1 year older than Gardiner; the four is a Vespoli bow coxed racer 10 years old, not quite as good as what we have. If possible, we could consider trading HS rental for Dartmouth rental, to reduce wear and tear on HS boats (they rent as a favor to UVRF). Learn to Row uses the Nag and Kevin C.

*Fours.* Our Fours are one men's and one women's. We have not budgeted for a Four rental. We need to discuss with the competitive women & men, based on enrollment, what the need is. The Fours that we own are better than the fours that we could rent from the high school or Dartmouth. We had deferred purchase (of a Four) in favor of making rental decision. Rental at event is a separate decision; the expense would fall to competitors. The Board also agreed we should look into rentals from other places: St Pauls e.g., Vespoli. Motion on rental of a Four was **Tabled** motion until next meeting. Buzz volunteered to advertise for a competitive four for the season; this was **moved** and seconded and passed unanimously. Most of our female rowers will fit in a lightweight boat. New coaches will also be queried as to whether they get any boats from their institutions.

*Sale of the Perry and Stetson.* Regarding putting ads in row2K to sell the Perry and Stetson e.g. for parts. The motion was **moved**, seconded, and passed unanimously

*Resolute.* We have used restricted gifts to pay back two of the three loans. We have not decided whether to revise the schedule of repayment for the remainder of the Resolute debt.

*Dartmouth contract issues.* Breakfast with Steve Perry is scheduled, prior to meeting with Shidara for contract talks. We don't yet know if we have the rack space to have three racks for sculling. The third rack would likely be on the apron. We are set for the fall, with one trailer, and storage for non-racing boats while traveling. The outstanding issue is a third rack for the summer and an additional sculling rack for the fall. A sculling person should be at the meeting with Dartmouth.

4. **Budget.** We do have \$4000 additional that had been allocated for a questionable previous debt to Dartmouth.
5. **Safety.** Enforcement is the major issue at this point. We need to make sure everyone has lights before dawn. Scullers: Dock monitors are responsible for non-owners; scullers w/own boats have been wearing lifevests. Signs in Fuller bays should be posted. Deb Dufty reported that USRowing would be very amenable to posting video online – they need a forum.
6. **Coaching.** Reference checks have been completed; offers proffered. NCIS is performing background checks (\$20/coach). Confirmed coaches include: Amanda Purcell (Women's Comp Summer); Rowan Carroll (Spring session).

7. **Scholarship.** The club does get yearly scholarship donations. In the past, the approach to allocating funds has been patchwork. The Board agreed we need a policy that is uniform and transparent. Deb Dufty volunteered to write a draft policy re: scholarships to discuss in Executive Committee, then with the full board.
8. **Fundraising.** We are overdue for thank you's out to donors from end-of-year appeal. Deb has a draft for the spring appeal. She is working with Beth Meyer, who has had interesting ideas for fundraising. Donations need to be made through Ronin to use a credit card — Liz needs content for the web for link for "donate to UVRF". A check can also be written directly to UVRF. Win Piper also advised that Beth Meyer has volunteered to assist with the FOHC fundraising campaign; no Board members had any issues with this.
9. **HHS/UVRF Operations.** The need for an operations committee was agreed upon – to deal with the nuts and bolts of HHS and UVRF, to meet at a minimum twice a year. Fullington farm site represents possible storage conflict. There is also a whole downstairs area that we need to move stuff out of. A boat-moving and –rigging work party is needed this Spring. UVRF must get boats out of the way to allow HHS to move back in to Fullington. A tentative work day Sunday May 31 afternoon was scheduled. Final date deferred until after discussion with HHS and Dartmouth – the latter in re: permission to keep rental boats from HHS on trailer in Dartmouth lot.
10. **Sculling committee** has met twice. They are working on guest policy, waiver signing; use of club boats. The biggest question remains: outside racks. Various possibilities were discussed for placement of a third rack. Purchase of two club singles and 4 sets of oars was deferred for one month by the Board, pending spring appeal. We'll paint the oars. Learn to Scull summer programs are pending. We need coaches to commit and then we can post: Heidi → Peter D → Karen S. Win wants to keep one of the Maas singles. We can, however, begin to advertise one Maas, the Smallcraft single for sale.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sirovich  
Secretary