

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
10/15/08  
Oberlander Lounge

Board Members Present: Win Piper, Peter Davenport, Kristen Laine, Dick Grossman, Brenda Sirovich, Jen Friend, Liz Marshall, Deb Dufty, Buzz Congram

Board Members Absent: Bob Haynes, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Peter Kermond

Call to order 5:57 pm

The board approved the May, July and September 2008 Minutes.

Deb Dufty provided a comparison of US Rowing Safety recommendations vs. current UVRF practices. She noted that the club is now largely in compliance. The board discussed the practicality of some of the recommendations. US Rowing's recommendation of having one PFD in the launch for each person in the boat under a coaches charge could overload the launch and create an unsafe situation. Dick Grossman noted that if the club's launches are commercially registered, the Club also has to comply with state regulations, some of which may differ from US Rowing's recommendation.

US Rowing also recommends that clubs consider giving a swim test. The club currently requires all participants to attest to their ability to swim. The board discussed how this might be accomplished. It was noted that the sculling committee had drawn up safety guidelines for scullers earlier in the year.

Deb recommended forming a safety committee. Dick Grossman agreed to serve as an advisor to the committee. Jen Friend recommended that the committee include both sweep rowers and scullers in order to capitalize on the work previously done by the sculling committee.

The board agreed that a safety committee should be convened. Deb will take the action item of forming the committee.

The board discussed the nominations process for open seats on the board. Board members whose terms end this year include: Peter Kermond, Peter Davenport and Bob Haynes and Kristen Laine. In addition, Brenda Sirovich, who was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Julie Stevenson, can only be appointed to this seat until the next annual meeting. Peter Kermond has indicated that his other responsibilities will prevent him from seeking another term.

The board reviewed the language in the amended bylaws which reads: No board member shall serve more than 2 consecutive 3 year terms....The board discussed how this language should apply to board members who were seated at the time that the bylaws were enacted, and agreed that it should apply beginning with the term the board member

was serving when the by laws were approved. Brenda Sirovich motioned that for the purposes of bylaw article 3 section 4 the limit would be applicable beginning with the term a board member was serving at the time the bylaws were approved. Peter Davenport seconded the motion and the board approved it unanimously.

The board discussed the skill sets that were needed under the new volunteer structure and identified the following: finance/accounting, fundraising, organizing/coordination, and primary contact with Dartmouth for daily operations. The board discussed the possibility of recruiting board members to fill specific job descriptions. Deb Dufty said that she would circulate the board job description that was used when the club went to an all volunteer structure for review. The nominating process will need to vet skills as well as commitment.

The board then discussed planning for 2009 and the timing of the annual meeting. Although the club's first year as an all volunteer organization was very successful, program plans were put forward after the annual budget, and the programming was continually adjusted throughout the season creating significant rework for those involved. Jen Friend outlined the planning steps for programming and operations that needed to be accomplished before a meaningful budget could be developed. The board discussed the timing of the annual meeting and budget submission. The prior annual meeting was held in December, but the board agreed to revert to the February date set forth in the bylaws. The bylaws state that a budget must be submitted one month prior to the end of the calendar year. The board recommended amending the bylaws to state that the budget will be presented in the March board meeting.

Kristen Laine outlined fundraising plans for the annual campaign. The board agreed to a general solicitation that would include information about recent equipment purchases and give members the option of making a general donation or targeting their gift towards a specific fundraising objective, including the Resolute.

Buzz Congram suggested that the club prioritize a new recreational level sculling boat as one of the equipment acquisitions for next year.

The board discussed the role of the executive committee and how best to ensure that the full board is apprised of any decisions made by the committee in between board meetings. The board agreed that future board meetings should include an executive committee update to.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Friend  
Secretary