

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2009
DMS Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jen Friend, Paul Gross, Dick Grossman, Heidi Lange, Brenda Sirovich, Liz Marshall, Karen Sluzenski, Deb Dufty, Peter Davenport, Bob Haynes, Buzz Congram, Elizabeth Glenshaw

Board Members Absent: Win Piper, Dartmouth Rep

Call to order: 5:50 PM

1. **Executive Committee report.** The EC met on Friday, October 9. All items discussed are on tonight's agenda. Since the previous meeting, the only allocation of club funds was \$240 to cover the cost of the Women's competitive Eight entry that was scratched due to injuries.
2. **Minutes.** The minutes from the September 24 Board meeting were **moved** (Jen), seconded (Peter D), and unanimously approved.
3. **Singles purchase.** Since the last meeting, negotiations with Craftsbury have led to the possible purchase of two club-reinforced Maas 24's. Paul Gross inspected both boats and found them to be in very good condition, and were as billed by personnel at Craftsbury. **Motion** to approve the allocation of \$6000 to purchase the two boats was made (Jen), Elizabeth seconded, and it was unanimously approved. We will send check for this amount and follow up with tax exempt status.

In other sculling issues, two former club members who no longer row have boats stored outside at UVRF – Liz will follow up with these former scullers regarding the disposition of their singles.

[Deb Dufty arrived at 6:05 PM]

4. **Competitive Sweep program goals.** Heidi reviewed relevant EC meeting content – the EC met (on 10/9) with Heidi (Programming) and two coaches (Brian Conley and Dick Grossman). The recent history of the competitive programs was reviewed, including decision-making regarding scratching of the women's 50+ Eight lottery entry due to injuries. The EC also reviewed an issue on the Men's Competitive team related to the decision that 6 of 7 paying participants will row in the Head of the Charles, in addition to 2 subs. The EC meeting concluded with an agreement that the club's expectation that the goals of the competitive program are to field competitive entries, to (as possible) maximize racing opportunities for all rowers, to foster competitive experience, and to race as many participants as possible at each regatta. Heidi has revised the "goals" statement for the competitive program accordingly. Coaches will have final authority.

A lively discussion ensued regarding the goals of the competitive programs and the role of the Board in oversight of the coaches. In the case of the women's competitive team scratch, the coach (Brian) ultimately returned to the decision made at the outset of the program – subs would not race. The Board endorsed the competitive program goals outlined during the EC meeting. Board members agreed that the Head of the Charles presented the most serious potential problem – because of limited entries and very early deadlines. Some clubs elect not to enter this race for related reasons. It was resolved that the Board (Heidi) should provide feedback to coaches (Brian) about de-emphasizing the HoCR, and emphasizing participation. However, it was also agreed upon that we won't get good coaches if the Board micromanages the Coach's decisions. It was also agreed that there will be a several day period at

the start of the competitive session during which the coach will assess the readiness of each participant; the club will make arrangements on a case-by-case basis in cases in which a paid participant is not at the appropriate level to participate fully in the competitive program.

5. **Annual meeting planning.** Nominations are the first priority. Rotating off at the end of this year are: Dick, Win, Jen F, Buzz. Deb is also stepping down from her Board position. A nominating committee needs to be constituted and will also be charged with receiving feedback on the performance of current Board members in their positions. Candidates will be solicited in November, with a list to Board in December. The nominating committee will consist of: Elizabeth (chair), Dick, Brenda, Jen F.
6. **Fundraising.** The Board discussed alternative fundraising strategies. It was agreed that those with a history of giving or new members or non-internet users would receive a paper fundraising solicitation. Otherwise, our year-end fundraising solicitation will be sent via email. Paper letters will be “personalized” – e.g. thank you for your contribution or welcome to the club. Target Thanksgiving for the mailing.
7. **End of Season wrapup.** The Long Row will take place on October 31 after last race = Head of the Fish. Heidi will ask captains to organize for sweep women’s program. We would need to have a launch. Then we need to put the boats away. A Save the date notice will be sent out for Sunday, November 1, 1:00 PM. However, scheduling will also depend on Dartmouth.
8. **Safety issue raised.** The pair was taken out by a woman and her daughter (not a member) with SCULLING blades. This year, club sculling has continued well into the fall – in contrast to past years – because of increasing interest of club members in racing in the fall in club boats. Next year, we need to set specific dates for club sculling, possibly with the option to RENT boats after end of season. For this year the double will be derigged. Heidi will address the specific issue with the member who took out the pair.
9. **FOHC.** The Selectboard has received 32 letters in favor of the FOHC Fullington Farm proposal, 25 against. The next Selectboard meeting is October 19, 2009. The deed of gift for Wilson’s landing was reviewed: it was deeded to the town as a public boat launch, fire dept, recreation. Dick will send email soliciting Selectboard input around to Board. FOHC is also looking at alternative sites, including the area around the Hanover sewage treatment plant, and area that UVRF looked at this area 10 years ago and found to be excessively shallow with a delayed thaw. Dartmouth is also reportedly putting together a response. It is anticipated that proposed FOHC improvements to Wilson’s landing will make it a better launch for all boaters.
10. **Sculling.** Several members are likely to lose their indoor rackspace at the end of the year. They will get letters end-of-season. We will store the boats for the winter.
11. **Meeting location.** Jen will follow up regarding the availability of the Med School conference room as a long term meeting location.

12. Mission statement rewrite. Deferred.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sirovich
Secretary