

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2008

Board Members Present: Win Piper, Jen Friend, Bob Haynes, Brenda Sirovich, Deb Dufty (left at 6:15), Dick Grossman, Liz Marshall (left at 6:20), Peter Kermond, Peter Davenport

Board Members Absent: Elizabeth Glenshaw, Kristen Laine, Dartmouth Rep

Guests: Blair Brooks, Dan Ruml

Call to Order: 5:55pm

Blair Brooks provided an update on Fullington Farm. The Friends of Hanover High School Rowing closed on the property in June. Their goal is to bring rowing out of the property in 2010. They are currently lining up engineering proposals and working on the permitting.

The first responsibility is to provide a home for Hanover High School. Their intent is to make the site available to other schools and community programs. How fast that happens depends on how fast the site can be made appropriate for a large number of boats. Parking will be a concern, as will maintaining the character of the facility.

Blair estimated their immediate fundraising need for permitting and engineering at \$100,000. The costs to upgrade the facility will be determined once they secure an architect, but are currently estimated at \$500-\$600,000. Upgrades may be done in phases.

The board discussed the opportunities that this project could create for UVRF. The club has a good relationship with Dartmouth, and the site works well for our current programs. The site does pose limitations on our ability to run programs targeted specifically towards juniors, and the demand for sculling programs will continue to exceed capacity. Deb Dufty noted her past experience in managing relationships between community masters programs and high school programs when prioritizing access to space. Bob Haynes noted that no one site has the capacity to meet all of the needs of an expanding rowing community, thus it is important to keep our options open. The time frame for the facility coming on line is a few years away, which both UVRF and HHS the time to consider the best options. The board thanked Blair for the update.

The Board went into executive session at 6:28, and returned from executive session at 6:35.

Bob Haynes provided an update on the club's tax appeal on the Norwich property. Bob and Dan Hershenson presented their argument to the board of civil authority citing the current restrictions on the club's use of the property and assessments on comparable

properties, including the adjacent parcel. An inspection of the property is scheduled for Saturday, September 15 and we can expect a verdict shortly thereafter.

Jen Friend requested guidance from the board on allowing members to use club boats for the Head of the Charles. Two members have asked to use club doubles for the Directors Challenge Parent/Child race. Members would be asked to obtain insurance for the boats under their own names to reduce the risk to the club of incurring a “per incident” charge from our insurer in the event of damage. The club sculling program is no longer active, thus taking the boats to the race would not deprive other members access. The boats will be transported on the UVRF trailer. The board agreed to allow the boats to be used provided the members obtain individual insurance.

Buzz Congram requested to have the fall rowing camp that he is running for HHS rowers covered under the club’s liability insurance. The camp has approximately 12 participants (some of whom are UVRF members), and will run in the afternoon. Students will focus on building technical skills. They will be rowing from the chieftain, on the Dartmouth course. Buzz acknowledged that he had a conflict of interest in this matter in that the savings on insurance would give him more compensation as the coach. Buzz was asked to recuse himself from the discussion. Several board members expressed support for Buzz request, as the camp would benefit junior rowers, for whom the club has no programs. In 2007, the club allowed Buzz to run the program under its auspices, however this was agreed upon well in advance of the program start.

There was concern expressed about the late date for this request, and the potential conflict of interest. It was agreed that any such future request must be made in a timely fashion and planned in the future as a UVRF program.

Brenda Sirovich provided an update on fundraising. The Resolute campaign yielded \$16,400 in pledges, and we need to confirm that these have been received. In the (July board) meeting, the board had recommended that the fall campaign target general equipment funds rather, however Kristen Laine would like to revisit the possibility of targeting fundraising towards the Resolute. The board agreed to have a follow-up discussion at the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Friend
Club Secretary