

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
October 6, 2010  
Conference Room, Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, NH

**Board Members Present:** Paul Gross, Dick Grossman (arrived 6:00 PM), Karen Sluzenski, Brenda Sirovich, Win Piper, Bob Haynes, Heidi Lange, Peter Davenport, Buzz Congram, Jen Friend, Liz Marshall, Dan Ruml, Elizabeth Glenshaw.

**Board Members Excused:** Rowan Carroll, Dartmouth representative.

Guests: Lizann Peyton; Blair Brooks (arrived 6:35 PM).

*Call to order: at 5:50 PM.*

1. **Executive Committee report.** The Executive Committee met twice, once to address urgent concerns regarding club sculling safety, and the usual monthly meeting to plan the agenda.
2. **September Board Minutes.** Heidi moved, Buzz seconded, the September minutes passed unanimously.
3. **Club sculling into Fall –**
  - *Executive Committee meeting recap:* The Executive Committee met in response to one incident (flipped inexperienced sculler in bad weather), and issued new recommendations regarding Fall Club Sculling, following which there was a second incident of a club sculler rowing in the dark without lights. The Club Sculling policy was again revised to require a captains' test, require that Club Sculling take place only after sunrise and before sunset, not in fog, and following all safety recommendations. This was to last through September 30.
  - *Today we need to decide about further Fall Sculling:* Heidi formulated a comprehensive revised policy based on the current policy (referred to above) and existing safety requirements and guidelines that apply to all scullers, and presented it to the group. Several small revisions were made. Sculling proficiency will be required for fall sculling. To pass a Captains Test, a sculler needs to execute the moves correctly, the first time and, makes it plain the examiner that they would be able to do the same thing repeatedly. Win will work on language for examiners. This will be part of the revamp of the sculling curriculum and resource guide, to be in place by next spring. There was a discussion of the fog issue – the policy was left as is. A separate issue, deferred, relates to Monitored Sculling and Monitor Training. There was also a discussion of whether the fall youth program should have a limit on flow for rowing, also deferred.
  - **Fall Club Sculling will conclude October 22, when reinstated, as conditions permit.** Hold on discussion for private boat owners.
4. **Equipment Priority and Purchase Plan.** In preparing the draft Equipment Priority and Purchase plan, the Finance Committee reviewed the fleet. Dan Ruml circulated a list of current Eights.

*Sweep boats.* We own five eights. A depreciation schedule was presented. The proposal was to remove Eights from circulation when the value falls to \$4-5K, to keep the fleet fresh. This presumes adding \$10K per year to spend on Eights. The Sweep programs were budgeted to produce a \$10K surplus because that is the wear and tear on our equipment in one year. However, we also need funds for oars and cox boxes. Therefore, we cannot afford the Eight replacement schedule just based on program revenue. We also need Fours. Priority proposed is a DS Eight, followed by a DM Four. Elizabeth pointed out that Fours are harder to rent than Eights. Dan R put forth that once we no longer have to rent boats (~\$2k/year), we will have saved enough money to afford a set of oars per year.

*Small boats.* Doubles have been very popular; Dan proposed there was good reason to invest in top flight competitive doubles even though this will inevitably bring up issues related to eligibility for use. Dan R proposes getting rid of 5 assorted singles, mostly unused and 2 currently unusable, and invest the money in a new racing single. Win proposed a Maas double as a teaching tool and enjoyable boat that also rows pretty fast. Recommendation: First priority: Good racing double; second priority: durable racing single in exchange for selling off five old singles.

*Relationship between Sweep and Sculling Programs.* In general terms, there are separate allocated for Sweep and Sculling programs, funds that also need to account for motors, trailer etc. Without any strict division between the two funding streams; fluidity will be built in, in the event of directed donation toward one program or the other. Directed equipment donations are allowed.

Next steps: Next purchases are a new Eight, a good double, a set of oars, and a cox box.

The Finance Committee is authorized to look around. Motion to try sell 5 miscellaneous singles. Buzz moved, Paul Gross seconded, passed unanimously.

5. ***Friends of Hanover Crew presentation.*** By Blair Brooks and Lizann Peyton: Thanks given for support of UVRF community of FOHC efforts. It is expected that UVRF will benefit from Fullington Farm rowing use, should it come to be. FOHC is making targeted efforts toward parents, friends, families, lower school families, and would like to solicit UVRF donors. Permitting fees are very high and they are at a critical juncture. Board members asked questions about specificity of message to potential donors and these were answered satisfactorily. There was general agreement FOHC efforts at Fullington are the way to provide community public access for rowing on the Connecticut River. Specific questions were raised about joint v. separate v. coordinated fundraising efforts, and what the appropriate message to potential donors should be. Dick proposed that we sponsor the letter to the membership stating what our annual needs are but that this particular year, rowing in the Upper Valley will be most benefited by contributing to FOHC efforts this year. Karen proposed to put Board Members names on the letter. FOHC Board members left and the Board agreed to this approach. Outreach to big donors will be coordinated.
6. ***Fundraising.*** Annual UVRF Appeal. Given the above discussion, the Annual Appeal draft letter will be redrafted and submitted to the Exec Committee, with a deadline for a fast turnaround time. To be sent to 2009 & 2010 full membership; email reminder in December.

7. **Constitute Nominating Committee.** Membership: Dick Grossman (Chair), Karen Sluzenski, Dan Ruml.
8. **Request for funds.** Karen requested permission for several additional sets of shoes. Approved.
9. **Operations Committee Retreat Planning.** Heidi will solicit dates for participation.
10. **Prouty Request.** Heidi helped organize the Prouty this year, and there was a suggestion to add a rowing event. The race director and Hanover Town Manager both approved the idea. Heidi proposed meeting with the Operations Director of the event and with Dartmouth College and came to ask the Board's permission. The idea is to start small with the local rowing community (BYOBoat), a handful of sweep boats and a number of sculls. We would be asking for volunteers and equipment usage. Moved by Jen, seconded by Karen S, approved unanimously.
11. **Meeting venue.** Brenda is making efforts to move the meeting location to the Howe Library in the future. Karen also offered the Feldberg conference room.
12. **Informational items.**

Noise complaint - Our Fuller neighbor registered a noise complaint related to fall sweep coaching; apologies were made and feedback provided to the coaches.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sirovich  
Secretary