

Upper Valley Rowing Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2013
Murray Meeting Room, Howe Memorial Library, Hanover, NH

Board Members Present:

Eric Brooks, Kevin Cotter, Erika Dade, Paul Gross, Joanne Hayes, Rosi Kerr, Louise Moon, Carin Reynolds, Dan Ruml, Janet St Germain

Board Members Excused:

Christopher Bordeau, Rowan Carroll, Jonathan Edwards, Sean Healey, Liz Marshall

1. Review of August 5, 2013 Minutes (Louise)

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Quad Policy

Dan and Carin spent a substantial time rewriting the quad policy following our last meeting. This was circulated to board members for the required approval of 3/4 of board members:

The quad policy was a motion by Carin and seconded by Dan. The policy was made by 11 of our 14 Board members. Paul, Carin, Rowan, Jonathan, Liz, Kevin, Louise, Rosi, Erika, Eric and Dan voted yes. Joanne, Janet and Dartmouth did not vote on the final version. The proposed Quad Policy is the approved Quad Policy.

In the future the Executive Committee will make a decision on approval of a policy and bring to the board to review and vote.

3. Motor repair

We have had problems with the motors, identifying the problem, and getting them repaired. Several trips have been made to Fairlee Marine only to find that the problems were not fixed. We found someone else in the area (Asa) who identified the problems right away and fixed the motors. He also comes to our location rather than our having to take the motor elsewhere. One of the problems is the fuel, specifically the ethanol. The motors need to have stabilizer added, which the coach who is filling them with fuel should do from now on. The stabilizer is available at Dan and Whit's.

Paul will follow up with Fairlee Marine to get an itemized bill and ask for a refund since the motors were not fixed.

In the future, if there is a problem with a motor, there should be a limited number of people who can contact the repair person. Erika and Carin are authorized to do that now.

4. Work Day for end of club sculling season

This is scheduled for Saturday, September 14 at 9:30 am (a change from the original late August date).

The club boats need to be de-rigged, washed, and stored somewhere. Janet will send out an email to club members to volunteer.

The green trailer is used for full-time storage; the silver trailer for races. Blue Bayou is going into the master program in the fall so it will stay but will not be available for club sculling.

The Fullington barn might not be done in time to store the boats. We might be able to store them at the new boathouse and use Alice's place but timing may be a problem. Bob Franco's might be a possibility but we will need slings and racks on which to put the boats. Erika will check on the latter.

5. Use of racing boats – requests/reservations

A draft of the quad race reservation policy was provided by Erika. Basically, it is the same as for the doubles except that there must be a qualified toe. Lineups with more UVRF members have priority over those with fewer. UVRF members who wish to race a quad at a regatta must: (1) have a qualified Level A racing toe; (2) submit their request to the UVRF president or designee; (3) reserve a quad using the racing boat reservation calendar; (4) assume liability for the insurance deductible if the boat is not traveling on a UVRF trailer.

Motion to approve the policy was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

6. Sweep Programs (Erika)

There are 11 men and 13 women enrolled but there are very few coxwains so they are coxing themselves to fill in the gaps.

Carin and Peter are coaching the Fall Junior Racing program. There are 19 juniors signed up, two of whom are coxswains (coxswains don't pay a fee); therefore 17 are paying for the program. We need two coaches for the program. We would like to afford to pay two coaches but need 20 people to break even. Carin is volunteering but board members believe UVRF should pay two coaches since it is a big investment of time and effort even if it causes a shortfall.

Motion was made, seconded and approved by all except Carin, who abstained, to pay both coaches.

Note: Summer juniors paid \$50 for membership; fall juniors who haven't been members, only have to pay a \$25 membership since they have little or no opportunity to use club boats at the end of the season.

7. Sculling updates

Quad toe clinics were offered and they had a great time. This provided an opportunity for other people and combinations to use the club boats and to expand the number of toe certified people.

After club sculling is finished we usually get complaints about the program ending. We do not have any flexibility in extending the club sculling season because of our contract with Dartmouth. It was suggested that we could offer a continued opportunity for people to row by having a single quad available in the late afternoons until the end of September at no additional cost. A qualified toe will row with three club members on each of the 10 days. Any members who have learned to scull are eligible to sign up. Board members Dan, Erika, Rosi, Kevin, and Paul volunteered to toe.

Janet will post and create a signup for the quads.

Also, we need evening dock monitors. Janet will add a link to signup genius.

8. Budget (Paul)

Paul provided a budget report. UVRF is in good shape with revenue and expenses in control.

We have had some good developments this year – family memberships doubled and there were increases in individual memberships (10 more); increase in number of juniors. Lebanon kids have made a difference with their enthusiasm and support.

We were more flexible this year to meet the demand and having some good boats has helped.

The big question is, with the cut in rates, will we be able to make up the gap with fundraising? We still need to fundraise and to develop a strategy for this.

9. Fundraising

Fees don't cover our costs. The general public and even some rowers do not have any idea of the cost of running the programs and maintaining the boats and equipment. It costs about \$19,000!! In mid-life, boats lose about \$2,000 a year so we have to prepare for fleet replacement.

Strategies were suggested. We need to have a fundraising committee.

Some suggestions:

If every person paid a certain amount, we would have enough to...

Sponsored scholarships to row

Target a group, including local businesses, for learn to row as a great way to experience teamwork (challenges as well as solutions, working

together, etc.) and contribute to health and wellness
Junior programs
Parent/child rowing
Dartmouth's health connect

10. Other

- a. Dock training at Kendal. UVRF is responsible. A Kendal person must be there but we are responsible for taking the dock out.
- b. Safety plan, access and grading of access road. There needs to be a safety plan for masters and junior programs to pull people out if there is a problem.
- c. Club rowing with Dartmouth students, perhaps using our club boats, was brought up as a way to respond to requests for rowing opportunities by students, both undergraduates and graduates, and to extend the masters program for everyone's benefit. Dan has a meeting scheduled to discuss next Wednesday. Rosi will try to join.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm, seconded, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Moon, Secretary