

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2014, 5:45 PM
Howe Library, Hanover, NH

Board Members Present:

Rowan Carroll, Erika Dade, Jonathan Edwards, Paul Gross, Dan Haedrich, Terry Harwood, Annette Kennedy, Louise Moon, Carin Reynolds, Dan Ruml, Janet St Germain

Board Members Excused:

Eric Brooks, Kevin Cotter, Sean Healey

1. Review of November 3, 2014 Minutes

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

2. Purchase of launch(s) and motor

Dan Haedrich is working on the purchase of two used Dartmouth launches. An offer has been made, taking into consideration the amount of work the launches need. Dartmouth will discuss and get back to us.

3. UVRF SafeSport Policy for US Rowing Athlete Safety Program

Erika provided the board with a revised draft for review and discussion.

Future amendments, could include an expanded section on reporting misconduct/abuse, particularly bystander language in support of younger athletes. An outline could be included on the Program Coaches' checklist to aid the coach's conversation with program participants at the beginning of each program.

In addition to reviewing the current UVRF SafeSport policy (new coaches should complete the SafeSport questionnaire), the following are included on the checklist for approved coaches: up-to-date certification for CPR/AED training, commercial boat license if driving a launch, and NCSI background check.

Terry will be the Safety Officer and that responsibility will be separate from Programming tasks.

A meeting will be scheduled with coaches in January to review new items and expectations, and to discuss the origin of the SafeSport policy and why we are doing this (it is required by US Olympics Committee/U.S. Rowing). We could also provide a link to the article that Dan Hedrich sent to provide context:

<http://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/water-activities/swimming/The-Sex-Abuse-Scandal-Plaguing-USA-Swimming.html>

We should maintain an approved list of coaches for Board reference, in addition to the list with bios published on the website.

Erika will make the additions to the policy as discussed and send to the board before Dec 20.

A motion was made to approve the SafeSport policy as presented, seconded and approved unanimously.

The Secretary will submit the UVRF policy to US Rowing (Terry will send the link).

4. Sweep Talk

Erika reported on the feedback from the survey sent to participants in the Women's Fall Sweep program. The response rate was excellent (17 of 18). Generally, 70% of the respondents thought the program was fine, and about 30% were very unhappy. Erika has encouraged rowers to offer recommendations for improvement.

The 2014 changes for the fall women's program succeeded in enrolling more participants at a lower fee, but did not provide a satisfactory experience primarily because of the fewer practices per week.

Erika has the survey results which are available if anyone wants to review them.

In the Men's program, eight surveys came back out of fifteen. All but one of the responses were positive and all were very constructive. Comments included improving the structure for seat racing. The lineup for the Head of the Charles was stressful and it was not clear how selections were made for the boat. There were several requests for more video and verbal feedback, and to fit in more miles.

Next year the Women's program will likely be smaller and the Men's program will probably be similar in numbers.

Next summer, Masters Nationals will be in New Jersey.

5. Sculling Talk

Dan Ruml was able to sell the Dirigo.

Painting oars: we should get a paint team together with someone to manage that, and get them done all at one time so that they all match (paint the white and blue, and use vinyl green). We should start painting in January. Terry will help organize in Erika's barn.

The Rusty (red and blue Peinert 26) is in good condition but needs a cleanup.

We should let Carin know of any suggestions for sculling or sweep programs at Kendal for the spring only. Carin will meet with Becky Smith and will include the

question of access for Masters scullers and potential sweep programs if we are interested in opening that up. This would give us a jump on summer rowing. This could be a quad or sculling program if coaches are not available. Scullers could use the larger boats early in the season when there are cold water safety concerns.

6. Annual Meeting (February 4, 2015)

The annual meeting will be on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 with the regular board meeting on the following Monday, February 9, 2015.

It would be great if we could get more people to attend the annual meeting. Brenda put together a slide show for Ann Bracken's party and this can be used for the annual meeting.

New board members: There are five board positions to try to fill. Suggestions for new board members should be submitted to the Nominating Committee (Rowan and Carin).

Raffle: There will be one raffle winner who will receive a \$140 credit toward membership, rack space, or sweep/sculling program fee.

Awards:

Awards to be presented at the annual meeting will include all or some of the following. Further discussion on recipients and awards will be put on the agenda for our January meeting. Send award recipient suggestions to Rowan before the meeting:

Starzinger (recipients of this award are added to a plaque that Paul made)

Oars on Fire

Lifetime Achievement Award

Rookie of the Year

New: Volunteer award. This could be a non-rower such as a parent. The prize could be a Learn-to-Row lesson.

Retire: Best Dressed award.

Louise will send out a checklist of tasks prior to the January 5 meeting.

7. Fundraising

The most recent version of the fundraising letter Terry drafted was approved, and will be sent to the membership via email.

8. Budget

There are two major expenses remaining – rental of boats and facilities, and the storage bill to Friends of Hanover Crew. All memberships are paid except for one. We need to track payments earlier to make sure people pay before rowing.

The surplus for the year is still okay in spite of a lower balance than previously thought. We did well in fundraising, with the Prouty being a huge part of that.

9. AED

Lebanon Crew coaches completed the CPR training, which included AED instruction. The AED can be used if a person is on dry land. Dan is storing the AED at his house during the winter.

10. Sign-in logs

Peggy has the sign-in logs and will agree to collect them next year as long as she is the only one doing this. Jonathan will pick them up from Peggy to count the number of rows for each rack holder.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Moon, Secretary