

Old Lyme Rowing Association
MINUTES for Board Meeting of April 17, 2017

Board members present: G. Hack, M. Fagan, P. Fuchs, T. Patten, J. Montanaro, M.Mergy, J. Carey, C. Fuchs, D. Dennison

Others present: M. Shepatin

Meeting called to order at 7.15

1. Approval of the minutes from the board meeting of March 13, 2017.

2. Treasurer's report There is a current balance of \$66K. As anticipated, the balance is down on last month after paying the balance for the 2 new Vespoli VHP fours as well as paying off the balance on the 2013 Hudson quad, and USRowing annual membership fee.

Jane noted that she unable to check that everyone who is out on the water has registered and signed their waiver for this year.

ACTION: Maters Captains to please help to remind all rowers to register and sign the waiver.

3. Boathouse Opening Ceremony Date set for May 6, at noon. Town dignitaries and all donors have been invited to a ribbon cutting at noon. Lemonade, cake, and cookies will be served.

The first phase of fundraising achieved \$50K in donations, about \$44K of that was spent on the docks.

The second phase is close to \$50K too, and donations are still coming in. This money will be used in Hains Park for something that was outside the scope of the original project, so it cannot be used for the bathroom upgrades.

The plaques recognizing the donors will not be available on May 6th. It will probably be in a designated spot outside the boathouse, in the Park.

ACTION: Everyone attend the event MAY 6th at noon

4. Couch's report. Lots of kids are signed up for this LOLHS season. The first two regattas were cancelled due to unfavorable weather conditions, which will make qualifying for NEIRA more difficult in such a short season. The whole team is really appreciating the new boats and boathouse - thanks to all involved!

5. Boathouse update

a) A Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.) valid until May 8th has been granted for daytime use. Emergency lighting needs to be installed and some site work needs to be completed by then. The panel connected to the Valley Shore emergency center is working. A test call is sent to them automatically daily to test the system daily, which they have say that they are receiving.

ACTION Electrician to install lighting and stop beeping from the emergency contact panel. Contractor to complete site work.

b) Access. The number of keys has been increased to 7 - Paul Fuchs, Paul Gianquinto, Candace Fuchs, Greg Hack, Louis Zubek, Kristy Dorsey, and Bill Plage. Who can have access and when will become clearer once the lease has been worked out between the town and the school. OLRA board members have continued to meet with the relevant parties to communicate our needs. Jim will look over the agreement once it is finalized. There is a security system being installed and an electronic card key may be part of that system. Candace and Greg are sending out a weekly email with a daily schedule for boathouse opening.

ACTION: Candace and Greg will continue to send out weekly emails with times when the boathouse will be open.

c) Equipment log, Brian Corrigan has developed a Google calendar which is accessible via Regatta Central. The google account name is: **OLRABSS** and the password is **FredEmerson2**. Boathouse opening times, events and cycle group outings can all be found on this document. Candace has also put this information on the physical cork board in the boathouse. Work continues on Google forms to be used as an equipment log, using a QR code in the boathouse linked to a google document to log check out and check in of boats as well as capturing any comments, most helpfully any maintenance work that needs attention. The challenge with using this document format is that they are not designed to be opened twice in quick succession; work continues to find a fix. The goal is to have this log available by May 1st.

ACTION Provide a link to this google calendar on the website.

6. Summer and Fall programs. Registration is now open for our summer programs and people have begun to sign up. The US Rowing Junior Women's camp will be held here again this summer. They will be making a donation to the boathouse as well as providing coaching for coxes and coaches. Greg met with Don Bugbee to review all of the summer programs. Greg will make 150 brochures about the summer programs to distribute at learn to row day. The National Learn to Row Day will go ahead as usual, Candace is co-ordinating. Margot will register BSS with National Rowing as a participant in the National Learn To Row Day. Tatiana requested that the contact info for college kids registered for the summer is shared with the masters captains so that they can recruit subs for their boats when needed. In answer to a question about summer only adult residents or visitors to the area it was agreed that adults wanting to row with OLRA for the summer if they are members in good standing elsewhere may become associate members if they are only in town short term, otherwise a regular membership is required.

ACTION Greg to print 150 summer program brochures; Candace to distribute brochures; Margo to register BSS for LTR day with USRowing; Banner to be located in boathouse. Jane, Share list of registered college students for the summer, with masters captains.

7. Fundraising: Million Mile Challenge kick off day will be May 6th to coincide with the boathouse opening, the timing is TBD. It was noted that the masters who may participate in the challenge will also want to be more formal during the ceremony. Some LOLHS kids have SAT's that morning too. The fundraising goal item was discussed along with feedback from the

captains meeting. While kitting out the flex space is a universal goal, specific items were called out as priorities. A Basic flatscreen TV, Sound System, 2 new Ergs and flooring. The need for a new trailer was raised and after some discussion it emerged that the current trailer is a limiting factor in the number of boats that can participate in regattas (and it is aging) and will need to be replaced. The current trailer can carry 9 large boats. In light of the current restraint it was decided to advance the purchase of the trailer now and the fundraising can be used to support this. Paul described the trailer under consideration, which has carrying capacity for 12 large boats (more if they're smaller boats) and costs \$23, 600. J Carey put forward a motion to authorize expenditures up to \$25K for the purchase of a new trailer, all were in favor. The next goal purchase will be a replacement 8+, most likely.

ACTION Parent reps, captains and coaches to meet to plan the MMC. Paul to place order for the new trailer.

8. Summer and Fall coaching staff

Summer coaching staff will include: Hannah Paynter, Paul Fuchs, James Whelen. Others have been showing interest and hiring is ongoing. Progress is also being made for fall coaching staff recruitment. OLRA is still looking for additional year round coaching staff.

ACTION: Ongoing recruitment of coaching staff.

9. Masters rowing. Candace has been reaching out to new adult members to welcome them and ensure that they've signed up for the appropriate program. Adult LTR will be on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, and can include access to the ergs while the boathouse is open. 8 rowers from 2016 have rejoined as full members. We should try to reach out to other rowers too.

ACTION: Candace continues to reach out to new Adult members, All Masters to reach out to people who have rowed with us in previous seasons.

10. Equipment See above (point 7) for discussion about a new trailer that concluded with the decision to go ahead with the purchase of a new 12 boat trailer. The boat lifts are working well, but we will need to be mindful of safety and train people to never walk underneath them. Margo will instruct the masters women on this safety precaution as their boat (8+) is being kept high up above the novice boat, where it will stay for this season. The black eight is in need of repairs, Anne is getting a price for refurbishment. Getting another 8 remains on the long term acquisition list.

ACTION: Paul to order new 12 boat trailer. Margo to do safety training for masters women on usage of boat lift. Anne to get price for refurbishment of black eight.

11. History There are four work streams in progress: i) decorating the walls with memorabilia, ii) pennants; iii) archival materials; Fred Emerson materials to be received from Ric Ricci on April 28th; iv) recognizing all the people who have achieved great things, 3 Olympians as well as others, we have to decide on criteria for inclusion otherwise we will rapidly run out of wall space. Suggestion to have a list of the colleges that people went to after rowing with OLRA.

ACTION

12. New business

- a) Agreed to the purchase of an advertisement on the CPSRA t-shirts (Connecticut Public Schools Rowing Association)
- b) The JL store for BSS products is open
- c) Candace to order 50 polar tech fleece hats, Black with BSS logo embroidered on them.

12. Next board meeting: Monday, May 22, 2017

Respectfully submitted by
Diane Dennison
Secretary.