

Old Lyme Rowing Association
MINUTES for Board Meeting of 9 September 2017

Board members present: M. Fagan, S. McTigue, T. Patten, M. Mergy, P. Fuchs, J.Carey, C. Fuchs, G. Hack, D. Dennison. Also B. Plage, men's Captain.

Meeting called to order at 7.10

1. Approval of the minutes. Updated minutes after some discussion about the Fish vs Philly. The minutes are amended to include the following paragraph:

"Head of the Fish vs Head of the Schuylkill discussion: In the past, BSS alternated between the Fish and the Schuylkill. BSS has not been to the Schuylkill as a club for at least 5 years. Our junior coaches strongly prefer going to the Fish, as this provides for much simpler logistics and lower cost for the 50+ junior rowers, as well as many racing opportunities. This year, in an effort to support the desire of the BSS masters rowers to race in Philly, we agreed that OLRA would subsidize the cost of boat rental for masters in Philly."

Tanya asks that we reconsider annually, the possibility of alternating each year. Although the question of what is "fair" arose since typically 8-10 masters rowers each year would prefer to go to Philly, whereas 60 people - masters and juniors - prefer to go to the Fish. The masters women prefer having access to our own boats/trailer as opposed to renting boats at the regatta because of quality of equipment rented in the past- it was a heavy boat. If renting secured them a good boat they would be happy with that, so Paul suggested renting directly from Vespoli on per race basis (\$250 per race). The board has approved giving \$250 total towards the cost of boat rental in Philly.

Will revisit this issue again next year.

Motion to approve minutes as amended Margo, Paul seconded.

2. New board member. We welcomed Sean McTigue as a new parent rep on the board.

3. Treasurer's report. Heather is away. The bank balance currently stands at \$81,740. 67 with a few outstanding debts to pay, for example, some coaching pay. The summer coaches bonuses were paid out already. More details to come soon

4. Boathouse update: ACTION EVERYONE: Tell Paul Fuchs if there are any outstanding issues before the final walkthrough before sign off the building. The reseeding had caused a delay.

The area in front of the boathouse has been reseeded, but looks very dry. The basketball court has been resurfaced and lines painted onto it, the original budget did not include anything other than blacktop, voted for this at last boathouse meeting.

ACTION EVERYONE: Paul asked that we stop and close the gate if we ever see it open.

ACTION: Margo to draw up a punch list for leaving and create a laminated sign for near the door

Greg has requested a second garbage and recycling can for the Boathouse.

ACTION: Put a sign on garbage cans for which day they need to be taken out.

Got official CO, school in charge of boathouse, now have more keys available (20 keys). This is temporary (through end of this season) until they have a security system that includes a keypad. Confirmed the hours and days that masters may row.

Lot of back and forth on new agreement between Region 18 and OLRA (Town owns boathouse and leases to Region18) Jim and Greg met with Ian Naviser and Hilde Heck. Very close to agreement, working out finer details. ACTION:Greg to resend draft.

Bathroom building - we are not responsible for daily lockup, park and rec staff unlock and lock it up, BUT ***There is a key, and if you use our key you must make sure to lock it up again.***

Bathroom building an enigma right now as to who will progress it. Aim is to make it year round facility. \$150k Town of Old Lyme budget item for that.

Plans for flex space: We are now ready to spend the money from the spring fund raiser to make improvements to the flex space. \$10k was the goal \$4400 was the final amount raised.

Goal was for rubber floor and TV to show video for coaching. \$2500 ballpark for floor. Need for rubber flooring for stretching and sitting on while watching coaching video. Epoxy paint floor or door mats. Maintenance Removable tiles, can clean annually. Bill expressed some concern about keeping the floors clean.

ACTION: Need to develop weekly cleaning schedule, which is part of town agreement.

ACTION : BILL to check if he has an extra shop vac, which he could donate or we need to purchase one for the boathouse.

Action PAUL: Clean out room, purchase and install floor and return only whats needed. Purchase and install TV (not to exceed \$1000), brackets too. Purchase Blue tooth speakers which will follow the ergs to and from school.

ACTION: Boathouse committee need to fix door, and to add additional interior security on the barn doors. - Ask Nina. Paul has pics of the ones at Town Woods awaiting reply from Don Bugbee.

5. **LRT2 masters development** is working well and we are continuing to develop the program. Question of what's next after LTR2 because the idea is to be integrated with other masters which is a challenge with lots of different learning curves. Fall is a difficult season for mentors and coaches because it's the main racing season for masters. - numbers are tricky because we need a 4 or a 9 to practice.

6. **Fall juniors**, 46 kids on roster for this season.

We need to recruit more boys, 9 or 10 boys out of 46 kids. Same situation with school.

Had to let 3 kids go they couldn't keep up and the sign up says they have to be ready to train to row to race. This will reduce projected income slightly.

4 coaches, at the moment Paul Fuchs, Louis Zubek, Dale Hoxie and Caroline Muhsin. Phil decided against it in the end.

Paul and Greg recently met with East Lyme Rowing Association Board. They discussed inviting Scott Mahon (ELHS head girls' coach) to coach with us, in the hope that we could attract more EL rowers to BSS to strengthen our numbers, and to build our reputation as the top regional competitive crew. The ELRA Board seemed to think that we were thinking of merging with them, which is not the case. The ELRA Board seemed concerned that our fees were too high. Greg and Paul explained how our fees are very low compared to successful competitive junior programs, and that we are trying to compensate our coaches at a rate that is more appropriate for their efforts and skill set.

Racing - We will be racing at Mystic, Hartford, Worcester, Housatonic, HO CR, HOSR/Fish

Trailer: New trailer is temporarily kept at public works garage on Hatchetts Hill road. Will reside behind LOLHS in the future, after old big trailer is sold. ***ACTION: Hilde Heck needs to register the trailer, or transfer plates.

7. **Equipment Committee**: - to please discuss Black vespoli 8 in for refurbishment. Margo request.

8. **Historical Committee update**: pennant project going ahead. another track going up.

Peter and Hannah got approval for paint project - two plain panels/walls on office one in each oar design - but left before they were able to do this project, so need someone to complete.

Picture and text on three Olympians –Greg following up with Austin, Andrew Bolton, and Sarah Trowbridge

ACTION Bill: Fred Emerson pics, Bill to touch up pics, need historical committee to meet.

ACTION: Greg: to book banquet, OLCC November 4th or 11th. Historical Committee thinks we're around our 50th anniversary, banquet ('66 is start date)

ACTION: Margo: Google folder scanned one folder for each decade, Margot will scan the rest. Can also put together a power point for the banquet.

9. **Fundraising committee**, needs to be convened soon. All funds will go to Region 18, in the Spring. We aim to streamline the process, and do easy fun things.

10. **Other new business.**

Uniforms are now sold in office: there are hats (winter as well as baseball caps), tanks and T's. Some tech tanks of each size. Get access from key holder, check MUST be made out to OLRA.

Revisit bylaws for 3 missing members of the board. LOLHS Head Coaches can appoint 2 board members who can vote as junior reps at every meeting. **Jim to investigate what other multi age clubs do **

Legal aspect, reviewed by lawyers in the past, most recently during updates on 501(C)3 status, nothing wrong with how we're operating but could still decide to change this.

Paul and Greg have done demos with Sports Recruits, a new resource developed by former Wesleyan athletes, to support athletes and coaches in the recruiting process. Fee \$1800 annually, minimum of 10 people (bottom price), which seems like a lot for the 3 or 4 kids who may be interested annually. Can decline for BSS, will share presentation with parent reps.

Happy birthday Candace!

11. **Future Board meetings:** *Next meeting to be held on Monday, October 23*, (and the following one on December 4).

