

Old Lyme Rowing Association  
MINUTES for Board Meeting of Monday, October 23, 2017

Board members present : Greg Hack, Paul Fuchs, Jane Montanaro, Sean McTigue, Tanya Patten, James Carey, Margot Fagan, Candace Fuchs, Diane Dennison. Also present, Bill Plage, Men's Captain.

Meeting called to order at 7.15

**1. Approval of the minutes:** Approved of the Minutes from Board meeting of September 11, 2017

**2. Treasurer's report.** Heather is having trouble with connecting electronically to the bank, which is unusual. As of 9/17/17 the bank balance was \$78,590.

The Profit and Loss statement reflects fall income from the Junior Rowing Program of \$13k. We have spent \$3500 on parts, and while there is a line item for coaching this does not yet show any outgoings for fall coaching pay. So we expect that the balance is actually lower by now as some coaching pay has gone out. This is a healthy balance, and we can begin to discuss how we will spend some of it in the near future. Report approved.

**3. Boathouse Construction Update:**

***Status of site work:*** Grass grew! Paul F. and Paul G. did a walk through, drainage area had a hump which was causing water accumulation issues this has now been graded and will be resolved as follows: on the North side of the boathouse lot line goes 2 feet beyond the fence, the fence is going to come out and public works are going to clear to the staked out lotline, they will remove anything in the way, then install pipe to remove water that's been collecting behind the boathouse, to drain into the lake. Public works will also be trimming trees and brush etc for the winter. After all this work is done the fence will be replaced.

The Site survey shows significant land that the town owns next to the launch dock, 20-25 feet, which should be cleared out too, making it usable. The motor boat launch is mostly on the town land but the end of the launch docks and launches have been in front of the adjacent home owner's' property. The home owner has an issue with this, so we will be taking remedial action in the near future.

The grass seeding had to be redone by another subcontractor, but no additional funds were used for this. Watering has been helping. The Basketball court has been resurfaced. All this means that the Boathouse portion of the project is now completed!!

There is currently no water available at Hains Park (poor water flow from the well), the town is responsible for solving this problem because the town owns the well.

We still have the old PVC docks that leaked, and were replaced under warranty. The intention is to reuse these as part of new launch dock. Some discussion followed about possible remedial actions to make the replaced docks reusable. Someone has also (intentionally?) sawed the end of the east dock that is currently in use. Luckily very low water level so it is unlikely to sink. Paul G bought a plastic welding tool, which he plans to use to try to repair the docks once the season is over.

***Review and distribution of signed (Oct. 6) boathouse use agreement between Region 18 and OLRA.***

**On October 6, 2017, Greg Hack and Candace Fuchs signed the Boathouse Use Agreement between Region 18 and OLRA. A draft agreement was received from Region 18 in May of 2017. This document was distributed to the OLRA Board and others for review and input. A subcommittee including Greg Hack (OLRA President), Candace Fuchs (OLRA Vice President), Jane Montanaro (OLRA Treasurer), Paul Fuchs (Head Coach), and Jim Carey (OLRA Board member and attorney) met to thoroughly review the document. Following that review, a number of suggested edits were presented to Region 18. Most of these suggested edits were included in an updated draft document. The subcommittee conducted further review and requested additional clarifications and edits, to put the final document in line with the operational needs of the OLRA and Blood Street Sculls rowing programs. The subcommittee found the Region 18 leadership to be a pleasure to work with, and very supportive of our rowing community.**

This document refers to lease between school and town. The important things to highlight are that it extends the season from March 1 to Dec 15th; that we can occupy the boathouse from 5.30am to 9pm, the early start time is especially important in the summer for the coaches to be ready for the 6am program start time.

The school and the town want no responsibility for clearing snow, hence the clause about no usage when there is snow but we need to clarify this point as we have had snow during the season in past years and have also needed to clear the snow away from the doors to gain access for maintenance and to prevent flooding once the stacked snow melts.

ACTION: Greg confirm details about snow.

This document valid for less than a year to give opportunity to refine it as we work with it. Much of the document is “boilerplate legalese”. All parties involved in creating the document want to ensure that all rights and responsibilities in the document are clear, so that future administrators of all the organizations will have a clear understanding of the agreements.

Jim Carey noted that important changes were made to the language regarding intentional, reckless, and/or negligent acts and associated responsibilities.

**Although it is not in the Agreement per se, OLRA specifically asked for and received permission to continue to host the US rowing development camp in the summer, and Region 18 understands that we receive some money from USRowing for this. Further, we discussed occasionally lending boats to other teams, in the spirit of collegiality that is rowing's culture. Region 18 understands that this will take place from time to time.**

Overall the consensus is that it is good to have these relationships formalized. Thanks to all parties who have worked hard to achieve this.

#### ***Access to Boathouse***

We clarified that the security issue of having doors that cannot lock (barn doors) has been reiterated in a meeting with the school, as we do not want to leave the boathouse unsecured during the winter. John Rhodes, Region 18 Facilities Director, has taken responsibility for resolving the issue of how to lock the doors and they're looking into a solution. A school carpenter was there to put up a TV and they were discussing a solution.

Future consideration for entry -- we are unlikely to ever get keys for ALL the masters (70 + members currently on the roster), but the system we have in place at the moment has been working for the most part. The plan is that the security system will be enhanced to include a keypad with individual codes and eventually security cameras will be installed too. We will be informed of when this is happening and the current estimate is that the timing will be after the fall season is finished.

#### ***Update on Flex space***

A TV was bought and came in under budget, the school district came to hang it, very promptly, so it is now usable for coaching. The speakers have not been purchased yet.

Flooring options were researched and the best two options were presented to the school. The school then took ownership of that process since they're going to install the flooring, and their supplier came in slightly more expensive, but with advantage of them taking responsibility for delivery and installation. We had budgeted \$2500 for the floor and this quote is coming in at \$2471.90. Paul has

sent details on how many tiles we need etc to the school. Once we have agreement we can go ahead and place the order with B&T tile. ACTION: Heather to facilitate payment to B&T tile.

ACTION: Greg to communicate details to Heather.

ACTION: Clean out of the flex space in preparation for new flooring.

### ***Signage***

No updates the boathouse signage. The plan is to reuse the same sign, repainted in same green as the building, with gold leaf lettering, and to put it up outside above the doors. It is currently over the central door on the inside.

Sophie said she'd be happy to do the signage on the new trailer, she will put both BSS and LOL. She has indicated that she is wanting to try and get it done before HOF.

### ***Future plans for bathroom building and other enhancements of Hains Park***

The bathroom building is no longer part of the boathouse project and is now the responsibility of the town Parks and Rec Commission. Other money raised is to be used for other improvements to Hains Park, for enhancements outside of the original scope of the project. We would like clarification on how the fundraising money is to be utilized.

## **4. Fall LTR2**

We have a nice bunch people who have continued to row with us. 2 raced at coast weeks. Some are bringing along family members to row, too.

## **5. Update on fall juniors**

Kudos to Paul, and other coaches for great success this racing season. The most recent of which is : for the HOC fours were: Boys 11 out of 85, Girls 25 out of 85.

Paul had a meeting today to encourage the kids to recruit their friends because lots of our current team members are high school seniors.

On the coaching front, Dale seems interested in coming back next fall. Andriel Doolittle has taken a coaching job at Ohio Wesleyan so will not be coming back next summer. Louis and Caroline are only just managing twice a week, so we may have to do some coach recruiting for both seasons next year.

## **6. Equipment Committee**

The New Vespoli side-load trailer was delivered and is in service, final registration still needed. While the school says that the registration has been done, Paul still needs the new plates. Both the paperwork and plates may be in the crew mailbox - ACTION: Paul to find Registration. Registration of old trailer needs to be sent to new owner in Maryland, along with bill of sale. Also need to finalize paperwork and registration of the newest launch. ACTION: Greg and Paul to follow up that paperwork is completed.

The equipment committee will meet soon to discuss and plan for the next steps. Heather had been maintaining a specific equipment planning document - 5 year rotating plan of equipment needs, and as we purchase some new things others are added to it. ACTION Heather to send around summary doc.

We plan to replace the Vespoli Performer 8+ . We are thinking to purchase a lightly used “small” hull 8+ that would optimize our versatility for boys and girls boats. A new 8 would cost approx. \$35K, Paul has been looking for a refurbished boat in the \$25K range. A 2012/ 2013 refurbished 8+ should be around \$25k for a V1 small E hull, same hull as the black boat. The board voted to allow Paul to place a deposit on a boat, total price not to exceed \$27K, which can be revised after reviewing 5 year plan. Used boats in good condition can be sold quickly as they become available, so we don't want to miss an opportunity.

ACTION Paul to pursue purchase of next boat as agreed.

Other items on the equipment list are: to refurbish the existing black Vespoli 8+, to repair Filippi 2x, and repair the damage to 'No Quarters' .

It was also noted that the two new Vespolis have scratches in them too, cross wise - which indicates that it was a loading/rack issue— so please remind people to be careful in handling the boats on the racks and the trailer. The Masters women have noticed that it is a lot tighter to get their boat in and out of the racks in the boat house, Paul said that the boat above has just recently been rigged for the first time.

There was some discussion about the naming conventions for new boats which was deferred to the next board meeting as an agenda item to decide on an OLRA naming policy. In the process of the historical committee's work they often come across people who remember fondly a quad named 'cookie jar'. ACTION: Candace to research. It was suggested that the grey eight be named “Bow First” because it is the only boat that goes into the rack bow first. it was also suggested that we should always have a boat called Emerson in the boathouse. Paul noted that some identification besides a description of the boat, model, make and color would be helpful, because it would be shorter and better suited to use in regatta spreadsheets ACTION add an agenda item for next meeting

Need to get old equipment out of the boathouse, either by selling or donating and have to get permission from Region 18 to donate or to sell any equipment.

ACTION: Equipment committee -Anne, Heather, Louis, Bill and Paul F to meet and discuss all above.

## **7. Historical Committee Update**

The pennant project is complete. Old Lyme historical society has an archivist who could scan them, and then the documents become the property of the historical society. This option gives us an electronic copy of it. This option has the advantage that otherwise stuff might get lost and they have new archival space in the grange. However questions of ownership were raised. Would they own the License for usage of the materials too? if this is a likely outcome there was some reluctance to relinquish ownership and incur future costs to access and use the materials. ACTION: clarify legal position

Bill has some of best pictures and to research how to best enhance the quality of the images for display. HC to put together a display for the banquet.

ACTION Bill and Candace to meet before banquet.

## **8. Fundraising**

The aim is to simplify the fund raising process. OLRA will have a separate fundraiser from the school, because any funds raised during the school season by LOLHS students needs to be deposited by the school and then given to the rowing program from there (clarify the name of the fund--- Rowing Activity Use Fund or something to that effect).

For OLRA Greg suggested a letter writing campaign akin to the one run by the Arlington-Belmont club. Paul suggested a social evening event, such as a pizza evening to do the writing together. We can send out to current OLRA members and friends who have given in the past.

For the LOLHS season a couple of fun events for the kids such as a Spring car wash, were discussed. The feeling was that the ergathon has not been successful during the Spring season. Erging during an on water season has proved difficult to do. A subcommittee is to be formed and to meet separately, soon, in order to have information ready at the parent meeting at the beginning of the Spring season.

ACTION: Parent reps, Greg and Candace to meet to discuss fund raising

## **9. Other New Business**

***Banquet***

15 RSVPs have been received so far, typically about 80 people have attended. ACTION: Paul and Greg to resend invitation soon as a reminder to RSVP.

ACTION: Jim was asked to put together of pics from the season to run during the banquet, summer and fall.

### ***Parent handbook***

A suggestion was made to compile a document for distribution at the Spring parents meeting spelling out the expectations and responsibilities of crew families, such as all the costs - uni's, food tent, fundraisers as well as the time commitment involved.

ACTION: Parent reps.

ACTION: Paul to seek clarification on whether Uni's will be purchased by school or by parents next spring season.

### **10. Future Board meetings:**

The next board meeting will be on Monday, December 4.

ACTION: Determine date for Annual Meeting in January 2018, and January Board meeting.