

January 2005 General Meeting

In Attendance

Angela Ruel, Eric Girard
Dave Undercoffler – Somerville
Rich Stavros – Worcester
Joelle Bush -- Wayland-Weston
Justin Lednar – Shrewsbury
Jen Campbell, Ryan – Lowell
Ellen Minzner – G-Row
Joel Skaliotis – Brookline
Charles Kane, CJ Husk – Duxbury
Brian Dawe -- Bromfield
Dale Wickenheiser -- CRLS
Gillian Curran – Boston Latin
Jason – Powerhouse Timing

Meeting started at 10:45 am.

By-laws, Incorporation, and Board of Directors

- Eric presented draft version of by-laws and explained the intended structure of the organization. There was discussion about having members in the legal sense vs. the structure proposed by Eric.
- Joel presented draft version of by-laws. Individual articles were discussed and modified. The two versions will be combined and updated with the recommendations of the group and redistributed.
- Volunteers were solicited for the Board of Directors. The by-laws specify a minimum of 5 directors and Brian, Dale, Rich, Angela, and Eric. Reba was brought up as being interested and/or a good candidate, but was not in attendance to accept.

Short presentation by Jason from Powerhouse Timing about their services. They can provide online registration, timing, and/or online results. Timing would cost approximately \$500-\$600 dollars, and they would provide the Lynx system and personnel to run it. That would be for finish timing only. Online registration costs \$1.00 per entry, and provides online payment, payment tracking, roster tracking, per team schedules, ability to view the race field. Online results costs an additional \$1.50 per entry, and provides immediate online results.

Regatta Rules

- The rules committee (Dale, Rich, Reba) presented their recommendations for regatta rules.

- Definition of a novice was discussed at length.
 - 7th and 8th graders may compete as novices during both their 7th and 8th grade year, but upon entering 9th grade they no longer qualify as a novice.
 - Students who begin rowing in 9th through 12th grade are considered novices for one year after they begin rowing, regardless of whether or not they row the second season following their first season of rowing.
- Regatta will be governed by USRowing's Rules of Rowing.
- 30 second breakage rule. Actual breakage only, jumped slides and popped oarlocks do not qualify.
- Penalties for being late to the start
 - If a crew is not within earshot of the start at the first call to the line, they will receive a warning.
 - If a crew is still not within earshot at the second call to the line, they will be assessed a false start.
 - Two false starts will result in disqualification.
 - A race will not be held for a late crew, unless they are late because of broken equipment.
- Events schedule, participation permitting.
 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Boys and Girls Varsity Eights
 - 1st and 2nd Boys and Girls Novice Eights
 - Boys and Girls 1st Varsity Fours
- Medals and Team Trophy
 - State Championship Medals will be award in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Varsity events, and the 1st Novice event.
 - Ribbons or another form of recognition will be given in all remaining events
 - The general consensus is that, money permitting, generic medals should be awarded in as many events as possible in the future.
 - Events with six or more entries will have 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals.
 - Events with four or five entries will have 1st and 2nd place medals.
 - Events with three or less entries will have only 1st place medals.
 - A committee was formed to look at the formula for the team trophy points (Ellen, Gillian, Rich, Angela)
 - A committee was also formed to look into upgrading the team trophy (Joel), looking into better pricing and other options for awards (Rich, Joelle).
 - Additional memorial awards were also mentioned for events other than the team trophy and the 1st varsity events, which already have named awards.
- Setting and enforcing of registration and payment deadlines was discussed and everyone agreed, but no dates were established.

Review of Regatta Costs and Fees

- Insurance costs, USRowing vs. MRA. The decision was to try and go with USRowing in order to also get USRowing officials.

- Reba has already lined up three USRowing officials who have basically agreed to work the regatta in exchange for food.
- Dale presented a possible budget and fee structure for the regatta that was prepared by Reba.
- General discussion of regatta costs, like timing, insurance, safety, use of Regatta Point, QRA and USRowing membership.
- General discussion of ways to offset the costs. Do we charge gate fees or just cover the costs through higher entry fees. Also mentioned were advertising in a program, bringing in concessions.
- Further review and determination of regatta costs will be undertaken by the Board of Directors in order to set entry fees and policies for this year.

Regatta Volunteers

- The issue of volunteer levels for the regatta was brought up, and whether or not programs should be required to provide a certain number of volunteers.
- A volunteer staffing plan needs to be determined and distributed well in advance of the regatta in order to get adequate numbers of volunteers and to help spread the workload of running the regatta throughout the participating teams.

The idea of some sort of profit sharing between the association and the host school(s) was brought up, but was tabled because there is no measure of what the host schools have been and will contribute in terms of volunteers, equipment, etc. at this point.

Brian has taken the time to begin building a website for the organization and discussed a variety of features that are on the website already and presented a wide variety of additional capabilities that we can pursue going forward. Please discuss with and send to Brian any pictures, links, or other content that you think is appropriate for the site. The site is at <http://www.mpsra.org>

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm