

New England Interscholastic Rowing Association
Annual Meeting
St. Mark's School
January 10, 2009

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Houston at 1:10 pm. Those schools attending were: **Bancroft** (Baker), **Bay View** (Moser), **Belmont Hill** (Gibson, Richards), **Berkshire** (Courtney, Garbutt, Mackenzie), **Boston Latin** (Curran), **Brewster** (DeNitto), **Brookline** (Sisk, Skaliotis, Waite), **Brooks** (Krivacek, Palm), **Brunswick** (Falco), **BB&N** (Fiore, Kornet), **CRLS** (Wickenheiser), **Canterbury** (O'Keeffe), **Choate** (Coppolino, Swanson, White), **Concord H.S.** (Printzlau), **Deerfield** (Hamilton, Rosenblatt), **Derryfield** (Broderick), **Dexter** (George, Tucker), **East Lyme** (Mahon), **E.O. Smith** (Augeri, Bloom, A., Bloom P., Godlewsky), **Farmington** (Butterfield), **Greenwich Acad.** (Brisson), **Groton** (Anderson), **Gunnery** (McColloch), **Hanover** (Reynolds, Stevenson), **Kent** (Houston), **Lincoln** (Mercante, Palms, Shotwell), **Lyme/Old Lyme** (Laundon, Zubek), **Middlesex** (Mills E., Mills W.), **Miss Porter's** (Gosztyla, Saltzman), **Nobles** (Grant, Parfit), **NMH** (Jenkins), **Andover** (Washburn, P. Washburn, T.), **Exeter** (Smith), **Pomfret** (Anderson, Rossolimo), **Salisbury** (Curtis), **Shrewsbury** (Krause P., Krause R.), **Simsbury** (Carabillo, Collins, Raymond), **Southfield** (Fazen, Tisei), **South Kent** (Galusha, Murphy), **St. John's** (Borchelt, McDonald), **St. Mark's** (Harris, McBride, Porter, Rhyner), **St. Paul's** (Morgan), **Stonington** (Buck, O'Neill), **Tabor** (Ciraolo?), **Taft** (Baran, Harrington), **Thayer Academy** (Daylor), **Winsor** (Kane, Newell, Stone), **Worcester Public Schools** (Stavros). Guest schools in attendance were: **Boston College H. S.** (McKiernan), **Chase Collegiate** (Turner), **Newton Country Day** (Bode), **Valley Regional H. S.** (Laundon), **Town of New Bedford** (Lang, Morrissey), **Worcester Academy** (Dow).

The meeting began with Scott Lang, the mayor of New Bedford, introducing Matt Morrissey. Matt made a presentation introducing the New Bedford upper harbor development. This will include a state of the art rowing course and facilities. Matt may be reached at 508-991-3122 x11. The business meeting began at 1:35 with an introduction of new coaches of existing programs, programs applying for provisional membership, and guests.

A Motion to accept the minutes of the '08 meeting was passed, followed by roll call.

- I. Regatta
 - a. Row 2K
Please continue to send results to Row2K. Make sure to include in the posting whether it is 4's or 8's and boys or girls. This is the host schools responsibility.
 - b. Regatta Central
 - i. We will continue to use Regatta Central for waiver storage and registration. Please register and file waivers as early as possible to

allow time for verification. Any new developments will be sent out as soon as possible.

c. Operations

- i. Parking is always an issue on race weekend. There will be a parking marshal on Fri. from 12-8pm, and on Sat. 5-9am to assist with parking. Please follow their instructions and be considerate of others arriving after you. Share trailers when possible.
- ii. John Ermilio will no longer be the regatta director. Fred Borchelt of St. John's and Dave Baker of Bancroft will be co-directors.
- iii. The referees have requested that coaches make sure their coxswains and rowers know the traffic pattern for warm-ups, that they know how to back into the stake boats, and they know how to pinch (scull) to keep the shell pointed. Also referees will use the white flag to indicate which direction a crew must move.
- iv. Albin Moser (head referee) gave a review of the regatta. No one ran aground, and the races went generally well. We are planning to put a video coaches/coxswains' meeting on the website. It will include main points needed for the regatta. After viewing you may e-mail Albin with any questions.
- v. As always volunteers are needed. They will be required to sign waivers. Kids and adults are needed, but especially adults that can drive a launch.
- vi. Please remember and remind parents and students to keep the dock areas clear. **No tents or tables are to be placed below the wall by the North docks. Trailers without shells will not be allowed into the park.**

d. Lane assignments

- i. In '07 the EARC changed their lane assignment plan. In '08 the NEIRA changed the lane assignment plan for the heats, but not the finals. After much discussion in the committee of management and in the general meeting we decided that we would not change what we currently do. We rarely have wind issues for the heats. Andy Anderson presented the lane assignment schedule and it will be posted on the website.

II. Website

- a. Oli Rosenblatt has upgraded and will be running the website. The new address is www.neirarowing.org. This will be a very useful tool as we are adding many things including the following; instructions for Regatta Central, a link to Row2K for results, possibly school schedules, a history/stewards page, a video of the course, a video coaches/coxswains meeting, lane assignment schedule, meeting minutes, and access to the membership roster.

- III. Membership
- a. Provisional membership applications have been received from the following schools: **Boston College H. S. in boys 8's, E. O. Smith H.S. in girls and boys 4's, Valley Regional H. S. in girls 4's and Worcester Academy in girls and boys 4's.** All motions to accept these schools as provisional members passed.
 - b. The following schools were up for full membership; **Cambridge Rindge and Latin, Convent of the Sacred Heart, and Farmington H.S.** All motions to accept these schools as full members passed.
 - c. **A reminder that you must send a representative to the annual meeting each year.** Failure to attend two years in a row will result in loss of membership.
 - d. **Each school must be a USRowing member.**
 - e. **A reminder for scullers, that if their school is not a USRowing member, they must be a member.**
 - f. **Each boat wishing to be seeded must have at least 3 separate races. One must be with a full member school. The other 2 races may be with provisional members. This is a change in requirements.** We realize that it is very difficult for provisional members to get races in the very established race schedules of many full member schools. A motion to change this requirement was made and passed.
 - g. **A Reminder that any scratches must be made by noon on the Sunday prior to the regatta.**
 - h. Some ideas for finding coaches include; posting openings, talking with collegiate coaches about graduates, and checking with community rowing programs about their alumni.
- IV. Seeding
- a. Staggered elections for seeding committee members have been adopted. Girls' 4's committee member Lisa Stone was up for re-election, was nominated and re-elected. Boys' 4's committee member Booth Kyle's position needed to be filled and Ben Hamilton was nominated and elected. Girls' 8's committee member Julie Stevenson was up for re-election, was nominated and re-elected. Boys' 8's committee member Lawrence Smith was up for re-election.. The nominees were Lawrence Smith and Mike McDonald. The candidates were asked to leave the room. Lawrence was elected with 24 votes to Mike's 5.
 - b. **Please remember to report all results in a timely manner to the seeding committees and Row2K.**
- V. Committee of Management
- a. Committee terms up for re-election were Lawrence Smith B8's's and Andy Anderson G4's. They were both nominated and re-elected.

VI. Treasurer's Report

- a. We collected approximately \$15,000 in membership dues. We have had many good years in a row, so we have a small cushion for expenses. We must be prepared for the bad weather year in which gate receipts are not as good as they have been. We had approximately \$30,000 in income and \$27,000 in expenses. We had a one-time donation of \$5000 for a special award and announcement in the program.
- b. The QRA billing remains inconsistent. The Committee of Management proposed that we pay QRA \$4,000 each year to keep our account up to date, so that we do not have to pay a very large bill all at once. We have a balance of \$46,641. We will be using some of this to purchase large buoys to mark traffic patterns, and pay dock masters.
- c. Bill Miller donates money to the NEIRA as well as doing the programs. Please send him the information for the program in a timely manner.

VII. Old Business

- a. The mentoring program will continue. You may contact anyone with whom you have a relationship or one of the following volunteers: Ann Carabillo, Lawrence Smith, Chip Morgan, John Brisson, Pam Krause, Lisa Stone, Peter Washburn, Eric Houston, or Tom White.

VIII. New Business

- a. There was much discussion on the issue of weighing coxswains. Could we weight the night before and bring our own sand? Could we use the honor system? The lake officials were upset when schools from other regattas dumped sand and bags into the lake. The decision was made that we would not weigh coxswains for many reasons, but primarily because it does not promote good health practices among our adolescent athletes and the process is very cumbersome.
- b. The question was raised as to whether 8th graders or younger students should be permitted to participate in the NEIRA regatta. After much discussion we decided that the NEIRA would not change it's bylaws to prohibit younger students from participating. It is the individual schools' responsibility to make this decision and the NEIRA would accept the schools' rules.
- c. There was a request to standardize starting commands for NEIRA races. We would like avoid legislating too much. Therefore we will encourage the use of "attention go" or "54321 attention go" for all races. Please let visitors to your course know what the commands will be for your race.
- d. The NEIRA encourages all coaches and programs to honor our sport and it's history. Make sure to show good sportsmanship. Make sure you and your athletes, and your equipment are well prepared for racing and the regatta. Attend coaching clinics whenever possible.
- e. Referees needed. Please contact Albin Moser. He will be running a referee clinic in Feb. or March. Encourage any candidates to assist with races and attend the clinic.

- f. Lisa Stone will be running a girls sculling camp out of Winsor. Information is on Row2K.
- g. Chase Collegiate of Waterbury, CT is looking for races at their site (B&G 4's). Highlander indoor regatta on Feb. 8th, registration on Regatta Central.
- h. Narragansett Boat Club will be running a summer sculling camp. Information at rownbc.org.
- i. East Lyme H. S. is looking for coaches. Contact Scott Mahon. Saint John's H.S. is looking for novice coaches.
- j. Founder's Day Regatta will be on 5/3/09.
- k. Concord H. S. is looking for a race for April 18th.
- l. A motion was made and passed, to clean up some wording in the bylaws.**
- m. The date of the 2009 regatta is 5/23/09.

Thank you to St. Mark's for hosting the 2009 NEIRA annual meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Collins
Secretary, NEIRA