

New England Interscholastic Rowing Association
Annual Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn, Worcester, MA
January 14, 2018 (Sunday)

Minutes

Those schools attending were: **Bancroft** (Barr), **Belmont Hill** (George, Richards), **Berkshire** (Carew-Miller, Mackenzie, Olson), **Berwick** (Weymss), **Boston College H. S.** (King, McKiernan), **Boston Latin** (Coloyan, Howard), **Brewster** (Ross), **Brookline** (Ruderman), **Brooks** (Smith), **Brunswick** (Falco), **BB&N** (Cotter, Guilmet, Holland), **CRLS** (Dimmock), **Canterbury** (Morin, Newman), **Chase Collegiate** (), **Choate** (Guelakis), **Convent of the Sacred Heart** (), **Deerfield** (Onufrieff, Washburn, S.), **Derryfield** (Loosigian), **DexterSouthfield** (Amos, Reid), **Duxbury** (Rosenblatt), **Eagle Hill** (Foley), **East Lyme** (Mahon), **E.O. Smith** (Clark, Sheil, T.), **Fairfield Prep** (Blaney, Feldheim, Ghavidel), **Farmington** (Preskenis), **Forman** (Knowlton, Marks), **Glastonbury** (Fearon, Somosky), **Greenwich Acad.** (Kress, Slavova), **Groton** (Anderson, Doggett), **Guilford** (Wilson), **Gunnery** (Poole, Turner), **Hanover** (Hilton, Stevenson), **Hingham** (Greenlee), **Hopkins** (Blanchard, Carr, Case, Dailis), **King** (Decker, Fishkin), **Kent** (Houston, Siepmann, Varga-Wells), **Lincoln**, (Gorriaran, Palms), **Lyme/Old Lyme** (Fuchs, Zubek), **Medford** (Dello Russo, Diettrich), **Middlesex** (Darby-McNally), **Middletown** (Breton, DeAngulo, Lacombe, Sheil, W), **Milton** (Hamel), **Miss Porter's**, (Neschke), **Mystic Valley**(), **Newton Country Day** (Spelman), **Nobles** (Crawford, Steim), **NMH** (Reeder, Washburn, T.), **Andover** (Hurley), **Exeter** (Leger, Moore B., Morris), **Pingree** (Kloman), **Pomfret** (Rossolimo, Ring), **Salisbury** (Ayer), **Shrewsbury** (Guba, Noble), **Simsbury** (Carabillo, A. Carabillo, P. Raymond), **South Kent** (O'Keefe), **St. John's** (Kostiwi), **St. John's Prep** (Broderick), **St. Mark's** (Corliss), **St. Mary-Bay View** (Basso), **St. Paul's** (Campbell, Spencer, Vo), **Stonington** (Page), **Suffield**, (Ciecimirski), **Tabor** (Finch, Pardo), **Taft** (Borken, Shotwell, Washburn, P.), **Thayer** (Taylor), **Valley Regional** (Laundon), **Vermont Academy** (Baldvins, Collins), **Winsor** (Stone), **Worcester Academy** (Baker, Foresberg), **Worcester Public Schools** (Stavros), **Xavier H.S.** (Belmonte).

The annual meeting began at 3:10 with roll call. A Motion to accept the minutes of the '17 meeting was passed.

I. Topics discussed at COM meeting

a. Sportsmanship

1. Please read the sportsmanship guidelines in the bylaws. We have the responsibility to teach and mentor our athletes and younger coaches. We should stress character and core values, and be as transparent as possible. We must be careful of social media.
2. It is our responsibility to make the fastest boats possible from the top down, and trust that others are doing the same. Please ask for help if you need it.

III. Regatta

- a. Review starting procedure. We will use USRowing commands and use a polling start instead of a countdown start. The starter will give the amount of time until the start in 2 min. increments. The starter will recognize hands until polling begins. You may adjust points during polling. The commands will be attention--- go. If the coxswain believes there has been a big problem with the start, they should not start. If we need a “quick start” there will be no polling. Once there is alignment they will start.
- b. The procedure to get prepared for the start is to stop the warmup 1 race before your scheduled race in order to give time to get into position.
- c. There will continue to be a coaches and coxswains meeting prior to the start of the regatta.
- d. We need to properly utilize the space given. Officials think it is enough. We do not want to penalize the kids for being late to the line. Referees are asking crews to line up in single file to enter stake boats approximately 4 min. before the start. Prepare the crews that they may have an abbreviated warm up or may be sitting before the start. Could we utilize the Concept 2 tent for erg warmups or have a central erg site?
- e. Coaches please instruct crews and practice backing and pinching.
- f. Please share trailers whenever possible. The parking and rigging space is very tight. It may be possible to have rigging space designated so that tents are not taking up rigging space.

IV. Treasurer’s report

- a. The regatta costs have gone up recently due to the fact that we have included the livestreaming, the large screen for watching races at The Lake, a one time boys 1st 4 trophy update, and an increase in costs due to the location of the conference and meeting. We will go through another year to see how things sort out. If needed possible increases in revenue may come from more vendors, getting more aggressive in seeking out sponsors, increased dues, parent ads, and finding another location for the conference.
- b. Membership dues will remain at \$300 as they have been for many years.
- c. Benefits of membership dues include; access to NEIRA schools for races, possibility of competing in the championship regatta, and the conference.
- d. See treasurer’s report for details.

V. Membership

- a. The following schools applied for provisional membership: **Berwick Academy, Duxbury, Eagle Hill, Forman School, Guilford H.S., King School, Pingree, St. John’s Prep., and Suffield Academy.** Motions passed to accept all as provisional members.
- b. **Mystic Valley** was up for full membership, but no one was present. Their provisional membership will be extended for one more year.
- b. All schools must be **current** USRowing members.

VI. Seeding

a. The nomination process was done online prior to the annual meeting. The voting was done by paper ballot and submitted on the day of the annual meeting.

b. Committee member terms up for re-election: **G4 Carly Borkin, Oli Rosenblatt** (moved to boys), **B4 Patrick Guelakis, G4 Mark Raymond, and B8 Ann Carabillo**. Nominees were: **G8 Taylor Washburn and Matt Hastings. Taylor was elected.**

B8 John Martin and Ann Carabillo. Ann was elected. G4 Dan Gorriaran , Liz Cavanaugh, Tote Smith, Laura Darby, and Parker Washburn. Liz and Parker were elected. B4 Will Shotwell, and Lincoln Turner. Lincoln was elected.

c. Please make sure you schedule as many races as possible. Please let teams know if you will not be bringing a boat level to a race as they may be counting on it for seeding purposes. You must have at least 3 different races, against 3 different schools (at least one must be a full member), on 3 different days. These races must be head to head.

d. Send all results to Row2k and choose NEIRA racing. Please indicate which level and gender and indicate which regatta. Please also send the link to the seeders, whose contact information is at the back of the membership roster.

e. Preliminary seedings will be sent out 2 weeks before the regatta and final seeding will be out 1 week before the regatta. Preliminary seedings are just a guideline. If you see errors or have questions please contact seeders as soon as the preliminary seedings come out. Do not wait until the final seedings are out.

f. It is the responsibility of the home/hosting school to report results and should be done within 24 hours. **It is the responsibility of all schools to make sure the results are posted and correct** and again, in a timely manner. If you correct already posted results, please inform the seeders. Also, if you row at a non-NEIRA race please inform the seeders.

g. Please review principles of seeding in the bylaws. Remember that later races count more, times don't count, and margins are used as a last resort. All results are counted and there is no advantage for not submitting results.

h. Schools scratching late from the regatta may incur penalties. Please review bylaws. The scratch deadline is the Thursday before the final seedings are sent out. If there is a scratch the next seed will be invited if possible.

VII. Committee of Management

a. Again, nominations were taken online and voted by paper ballot and submitted the day of the annual meeting.

b. Committee term up for re-election was **Sally Morris**. The nominations Sally Morris. **Sally was elected.**

VIII. Conference

a. Thank you to coaches who volunteered to share their knowledge at the conference. We are looking for possibly newer coaches to volunteer for future conferences. Co-presenters are welcome.

b. St. John's H.S. volunteered to host the 2019 conference.

c. A straw poll was taken as to whether we should continue to hold the conference on Saturday or change to Sunday. It was about even; 40 for

Saturday and 43 for Sunday. Stay posted on date possibilities and a change in the bylaws.

IX. Old Business

- a. Please share trailers when traveling to the regatta. The parking is very tight.
- b. All schools must be current USRowing members to compete in the regatta.
- c. Please begin the online waiver process as early as possible. Archive athletes when possible.

X. New Business

- a. Kent School will hold a technical rowing camp for experienced boys the 2nd week of August.
- b. Contact Lincoln Turner regarding the Founders Day Regatta. It will be only NEIRA 4's.
- c. Dexter/Southfield is looking for coaches and faculty. Contact Dan Reid.
- d. Ergzilla Erg race for juniors will be held the 1st weekend in March. More info to follow.
- e. Lake Quinsigamond sculling program will be held in June.
- f. The date of the 2018 regatta is 5/26/18.
- g. As of now, the date of the 2019 annual meeting and conference will be 1/12/19, or 1/13/19.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Collins
Secretary, NEIRA