

New England Interscholastic Rowing Association
Annual Meeting
St. John's High School Shrewsbury, MA
January 11, 2020

Minutes

Those schools attending were: **Bancroft** (Ceballo, Tongue), **Belmont Hill** (George, Richards), **Berkshire** (Carew-Miller, Mackenzie), **Berwick** (Kauffman, Weymss), **Boston College H. S.** (McKiernan), **Boston Latin** (Cahill, Fearon, Howard), **Brewster** (Lake), **Brookline** (McLaughlin), **Brooks** (Donoho, Jester, Smith), **Brunswick** (Falco), **BB&N** (Cotter), **CRLS** (Davie), **Canterbury** (Ruderman, S.), **Choate** (Guelakis), **Convent of the Sacred Heart** (Mutescu), **Deerfield** (Lichter, Onufrieff, Washburn,S.), **Derryfield** (Branch, Burnham), **DexterSouthfield** (Carey, Williams), **Duxbury** (Rosenblatt), **Eagle Hill** (no one), **East Lyme** (Mahon), **E.O. Smith** (Clark), **Fairfield Prep** (Feldheim), **Farmington** (Butterfield, Preskenis), **Forman** (Knowlton), **Glastonbury** (Peoples, Somosky), **Greenwich Acad.**(Erickson), **Groton** (Anderson), **Guilford** (Wilson), **Gunnery** (Lilienthal, Turner), **Hanover** (Hilton, Stevenson), **Hingham** (Kopp, Mulflur, O'Neill), **Hopkins** (Blanchard, Case, Dailis), **King** (Fishkin), **Kent** (Houston, Varga), **Lincoln**, (Palms, Voorhees), **Lyme/Old Lyme** (Fuchs), **Marianapolis** (Curtis, G., Murphy), **Medford** (DelloRusso), **Middlesex** (Harrington), **Milton** (?), **Miss Porter's**, (Neschke), **Mystic Valley**(Irvin), **Newton Country Day** (Millman, Spelman), **Nobles** (Balogh, Crawford, Reid, Steim), **NMH** (Jaworski, Kinder, Lai, Reeder), **Andover** (no one), **Exeter** (Leger, Moore B.), **Pingree** (Barrett), **Pomfret** (Wardlow), **Salisbury** (Curtis, Grover, Weinstein), **Shrewsbury** (Hastings, Noble), **Simsbury** (Askham, Carabillo, A. Carabillo, P.), **South Kent** (Benz), **St. John's** (Kostiw), **St. John's Prep** (Arsenault, Broderick), **St. Mark's** (Cavanaugh), **St. Mary-Bay View** (Evans), **St. Paul's** (Spencer, Vo), **Stonington** (Machin, Thornell), **Suffield**, (Coats), **Tabor** (Washburn, T.), **Taft** (Shotwell, Washburn, P.) **Thayer** (Evans), **Valley Regional** (Laundon), **Vermont Academy** (Naughton), **Winsor** (no one), **Worcester Academy** (Bartos, Cenedella), **Worcester Public Schools** (Binienda, Granum,), **Xavier H.S.** (Powell).

The annual meeting began at 2:35 with roll call and introduction of new coaches. A motion to accept the minutes of the '19 meeting was passed.

I. Review of the 2019 regatta

- a. The petite finals for second boats went well.
- b. Lane assignment changes for the finals caused confusion. The committee met at lunch and decided changes needed to be made based on the wind and previous finals results. Once finals had begun, we could not change the bow markers in the computer. We used an older assignment that was not in the bylaws, but was the best option at the time. Andy A. and Chris R. rewrote the bylaws to include the "Chevron" style lane assignment as an option. The motion to accept the change was passed.

II. Topics discussed at the COM meeting:

- a. The results platform of Regattaware is difficult to decipher. As long as we are working with Harry, we will continue the current format. It would cost an extra \$3000 and extra volunteers to switch. When the QRA changes it's format we will then make the change, too.
- b. We will use the eztexting format to send information regarding regatta changes, etc. to coaches. We will also look into posting on the Jumbotron.
- c. The warm up area continues to be discussed. The referees want the regatta to be a good experience for the athletes. They do not want crews to miss their race because they are too far away. We have more space than the colleges have for warm ups. We need to utilize our space better. Dug will work with QRA to buoy the area so that it is easier to navigate and to get the most out of the space.
- d. Dug will also work with officials to make sure crews are not sitting for too long before their race but are near enough to get to the line on time.
- e. Please make sure your athletes have enough water. Consider using jugs and refillable bottles. We will continue to provide water in launches for on the water needs.
- f. Gender issue policies are becoming more common. NEIRA will follow the schools policies. We want to be inclusive and fair.
- g. As decided at last year's meeting there will be a \$50 per boat entry fee with a cap at \$300 per school. Payment information will be forthcoming.
- h. We are looking into using Paypal as a method of accepting payments and donations.

III. Membership

- a. No new schools applied for membership.
- b. **Mystic Valley's** provisional membership was extended again due to the fact that they are still looking for a permanent coach. A representative was in attendance.
- c. **Bay View** will be changing their designation to **4's**.
- d. All schools must be **current** USRowing members.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- a. QRA regatta costs approx. \$9,133.00 after subtracting gate fees of \$19,000 (Total QRA bill for running the regatta is \$29,000).
- b. Total NEIRA 2019 costs \$40,000 (includes all costs at regatta not covered by the QRA, USRowing membership, insurance, conference costs, live streaming, legal fees due to non-profit status paperwork etc).
- c. Income from dues \$19,153, Vendors \$7,802, and sponsors \$5,147 for a total income of approximately \$31,000.
- d. Reminder...QRA runs the NEIRA Championships. They take the gate and an additional payment to make up the difference.
- e. Membership dues will remain at \$300 as they have for many years.
- f. Cost continues to go up and things have changed a lot over the years. We have added the Jumbotron, live streaming, the conference etc.
- g. We are working to increase revenue through sponsorship. Tony Genna has

worked very diligently to create a sponsorship package. You will be receiving a packet from a sponsor three times this spring. Please utilize this if possible.

- h. Steve McKiernan (BC High), Adam Askham (Simsbury), and John Thornell (Stonington) volunteered to help Tony with sponsorship.

V. 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: **B4** Remained the same. **G4 Liz Cavanaugh, Lisa Stone. G8 Sally Morris. B8 Steve McKiernan, Tyler Page** (no longer coaching).

Nominees were: **G4** Liz Cavanaugh, Tote Smith. **Liz and Tote** were elected.

B8 Andy Hilton, Wiley Wakeman, Steve McKiernan, Harrison Soebroto, Albert Leger, and Colin Campbell. **Andy and Wiley** were elected.

B4 Remained the same. **G8** Deb Vo and Patrick Houle. **Deb Vo** was elected.

c. Please make sure you schedule as many races as possible. 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. Make sure you schedule NEIRA races in April and May. Later races carry more weight for seeding purposes.

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. The seeders will send the seedings to the COM for review and they will then be sent out. Final seeding will again be sent to the COM for review and then sent out 1 week before the regatta. Preliminary seedings are just a guideline. If you see errors or have questions please contact the chair of the seeding committee within 24 hours of the preliminary seedings coming out. The chair will formulate a response, send it to the COM who will then send a resolution to the coach involved.

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.

g. We will look into the possibility of a spreadsheet for results that could be utilized by all coaches.

h. Races should only be run if safe to do so. If a race must be cancelled for safety reasons we may waive the 3 race rule.

VI. Committee of Management

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

b. Committee terms up for re-election were **Kate Spelman, Spencer Washburn, and Ann Carabillo**. The nominations were: Kate Spelman, Spencer Washburn, Ann

Carabillo, Adam Balogh, Dale Hurley, and Andy Hilton. **Kate Spelman, Spencer Washburn, and Ann Carabillo** were elected.

VII. Conference

- a. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to share their knowledge at the conference.
- b. Thank you to Greg and St. John's for hosting this year's conference and annual meeting.
- c. Dave Payne from Sparks Consulting attended the conference and meeting.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Please share trailers when traveling to the regatta. Do not arrive with one shell on your trailer.
- 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.
- d. Coaches and Coxswain meeting on the morning of the regatta at 6:45 AM.
- e. Do not place extra tents in front of rented tents or place tents below the wall by the north dock.
- f. Spencer Washburn, Taylor Washburn and Dug Stowe will put together safety guidelines. Make sure to use heel ties appropriately.

IX. New Business

- a. Interested 4's schools contact Lincoln Turner regarding the Founders Day Regatta to be held on 5/3/20.
- b. Lisa Stone is running for NE USRowing rep and would like your support.
- c. Kent will be offering a technical rowing camp for experienced boy rowers during the second week of August.
- d. The date of the 2020 regatta is 5/23/20.
- e. The date of the 2021 annual meeting and conference will be 1/9/21.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Collins
NEIRA Secretary