

April 19, 2016 Board Minutes

7:02 Open Meeting – Parent was asking questions about the new food tent passes and cost. This plan will not rollout this season. It was explained that the food cost for last season was a higher expense than equipment which is an issue for the team. The cost of \$35 per Varsity rower for the season to food supposed to be just the athlete but entire families are also coming to eat from the food tent. We are going to shift non team members to eat smaller portions, only after the team has eaten as a first step to lower the food expense and will revisit the additional charge next fall. The second question was about the Pittsford Travel. The bus has decided to be a mandatory item, exceptions to be discussed and granted only by coaches. We are shifting to travel like other varsity sports for away regattas by having a team bus so arrival time is the same and coaches can have control over who is attending. Parents can be chaperones to travel on bus with child and all their fees would be covered. More information will be coming out about this regatta in weeks to come.

The meeting was called to order at 7:26 pm at the Acadia Library.

Board Members present: Laura McClendon , Sean Obrien, Ellen Sherry, Mary Hanratty, Kim Ferraioli, Scott McDonald, Jason Shoen, Rob Partlow, Nancy Paulsen, Paul Ennis and Joe Castaldo. Also present: Mike Gilbert and Dave Clayman.

1) Coaches Report:

- a) Coach Sean shared we had week 5 on the water for spring training which is very positive than past years since we have more favorable weather
- b) We are waiting on new oars for Varsity and refurbished equipment for the Modified program. The refurbished oars that volunteers will be painting are not yet ready but hopefully in coming weeks.
- c) Maintenance issues with boathouse are being addressed with Burnt Hills.
- d) Shen has rented one 8 boat from burnt hills and one quad is on loan from Aquaduct marina for the entire season until new boats can be purchased. (\$500 & \$175 respectively)
- e) Decision to sell an unused launch that's sitting dry dock was made to highest bidder. We expect this purchase to be min \$500 (already have that offer) and would pay for the 2 boat rental for a "wash" in the above expense).
- f) The Saratoga invitational heats are expected to be finalized by them tomorrow for distribution Wed or Thurs to club. Line ups are being worked on by all coaches and will come by Friday.
- g) Coach Mike shared that the Albany scrimmage went very well. The Varsity girls performed well and were ahead of their varsity. The freshman girls kept pace with their 2v and Shen 2v kept pace with their Freshman . The quads raced on water for the first time. Sean shared the boys did okay against Albany and it started to get them in competition mode.
- h) Attendance has been about 80% so far overall, very few days when all kids were here. We are hoping after all college visits and other sports ending this will increase to full attendance. Kids have been good about notifying coaches for appropriate practice planning.
- i) Coach Dave & Scott – 10 quads are in usable shape and the program currently has 53 mods. Attendance has been good. We have 4 coaches on the water every day.
- j) Mods will be racing 2 boys and 2 girls quads at the Saratoga Invitational since little water time for mods so far due to later season start and there are 15 brand new to the Mod team. Good news is all new kids passed swim team.

2) Financial Report – Nancy gave update and handed out an overview financial report . The debits are not up to date since the banking account was compromised and difficult to access. She will continue to update and a suggestion to discuss one area each meeting and "drill down" for better knowledge of all.

- 3) 5th Grade Recruitment – Nancy reported that Okte one hour crew training set up for Wed May 4 with assistance from Maureen Mansfield where erg and rowing will be introduced at 5th grade PE classes. ½ the class will erg and other ½ will do exercises like winter mod training and then switch stations. A video prior will be shown for expectations and further exposure of Shen Crew w/in the schools. Chango to be planned next on Tuesday May 31st. Three coaches (Sean, Sarah & Scott), Nancy and Kim will be running the program.
- 4) SPAC concert series – Laura gave update that 45 people are now trained and 60 showed interest. Additional training programs are set up and being communicated on weekly newsletters. The link for sign up went out this Monday and people are asked to sign up for first choice concert first then we will open for multiple concert sign up.
- 5) Food Tent – decision to hold off on food tent passes for this season. Rob & Lisa will be using the committee and food tent volunteers to serve portions in effort to cut down on waste and making sure rowers are fed first. For kids with end of day races, food being held aside in coolers will be put into place to insure they get fed. The need for a change as discussed in open session is to shift team expenses from food to new equipment. The cost we are charging is for the athlete not an entire family. Staggered start times should also help alleviate expenses.
- 6) Pittsford race – Discussion to make bus & team travel mandatory and shift crew to other varsity sports and crew teams. Benefits of team bonding, having all kids arriving/leaving at one time so coaches have better control of attendance and relieving parents of having to travel and cost savings associated with this was discussed. A topic of debate was if a parent is planning on going to the race and getting a hotel room and would like to save on cost by having the child stay with him/her was heard. A limited amount of parents and families can travel on the bus for additional savings and if chaperone all expense paid other than athlete cost. This is a new shift for crew to mirror other varsity sports to begin with this event followed by summer regatta and will be preview of away race of fall (ie New Hampshire).
- 7) Summer pricing – Kim asked for vote from board to review the summer program pricing for freshman/varsity programs. The coaches would like to make it more competitive of 6 weeks and adding in a summer regatta to summer. This year would be Philly 7/23& 24 which would be included in the program fee making it more “all inclusive” type of program. \$495 would be the new summer price to include the regatta. The varsity rowers would still go to Henley at additional cost to be arranged at a later date. Coaches recognize this is the first year and some families may have previously booked vacations so unsure of numbers but estimating 30. Buses and 30 hotels are reserved since Democratic convention is being held and rooms will book fast. The last weeks in August will be optional bonus sculling w/out fee of those participating in summer program for those interested.
- 8) Virtual Yearbook – Idea of putting a virtual yearbook on our website with bio of kids (only using first name & last initial) of student accomplishments. There are many alumni that have moved on to great things. We’d like to capture these success stories. Profiles of current team of honor roll, interests, other sports and all accomplishments to be captured for legacy.
- 9) Date for Board election Vote and Annual membership meeting. Joe confirmed bylaws state first Tues of June so it will be set for 6/07/16 at boathouse at pick up time to try to capture attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.