



NARRAGANSETT
BOAT CLUB

BOG Meeting Agenda

Date:	Wednesday, February 8, 2023						
Time:	7:00 PM						
Place:	Walter Hall; Zoom - https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83869656849?pwd=UHRWd1cxR2J1cmxPYWY4VkVrMC9iUT09						
Chair:	Kristi Wharton						
Secretary	Q Kellogg						
Advance Materials:	Agenda Provisional Minutes of January Meeting Secretary's Report Captain's Report Adult Program Report						
Agenda:	<p>Approval of Minutes – Kristi Wharton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 14, 2022• January 11, 2023 <p>Announcements – Kristi Wharton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winter Awards Party – February 18, 2023, Lynn Iler/Bruce Ackman's house• Light Lady retires <p>Review of Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretary's Report – Q Kellogg• Captain's Report – Eric Watne• Adult Rowing Program – Eric Watne• Youth Rowing Program – STEM to Stern - Vespoli <p>2023 BOG Orientation</p> <p>Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governance – Organization, Management, Strategic Plan – BOG Retreat• Committees – Safety, Communications, Regatta• Swim – requirement for class participants? <p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Award <p>Remarks for the Good of the Club</p>						
Next Meeting:	<table border="1"><tr><td>Date:</td><td>March 8, 2023</td></tr><tr><td>Time:</td><td>7:00 PM</td></tr><tr><td>Place:</td><td>Walter Hall</td></tr></table>	Date:	March 8, 2023	Time:	7:00 PM	Place:	Walter Hall
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**Narragansett Boat Club
Board of Governors Annual Meeting
January 11, 2023 7:00 pm
Virtual via Zoom**

PROVISIONAL

Board of Governors members present: Kiana Anderson, Ruth Berenson, John Duke, Pete Evans, McKenzie Gibson, Michael Hamilton, Q Kellogg, Daniela Roop, John Ryan, Eric Watne, Kristi Wharton

Board of Governors members absent: Tiffany Hogan, Andrea Arena

Other members present: Francesca Beaudoin, Carol Browning, Susan Burgoyne, Meaghan Delaney, Matt Eriksen, Anne Fleet, Eric Goetz, Dick & Barbara Green, Jonathan Haisman, Anthony Hayward, Virginia Hopkins, Eric Jones, Wes Kerns, Jean Lambert, Sherri Nelson, Jackie Pease, Chanika Phornphutkul, Dave Rand, Timmons Roberts, Chris Rogers, Charlie Whitin, Kit Wise, Marlene Yang

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Kristi Wharton, President.

Opening Remarks (Kristi Wharton):

Welcome and Happy New Year

Looking to accomplish this year:

- Need to get governance documents in order – sort out and update
- Boathouse maintenance
- Suggesting two new Committees – Safety, Communications – encouraging people to get involved.

As of January 1 we have a new Registrar – Liz Bessell. Many thanks to Deb Chute for all her great work and for helping get Liz oriented. Liz can be reached at programs@rownbc.org. Thanks to the Program Committee (Daniela Roop, John Ryan, Wes Kerns and Anne Fleet) for fielding applications, conducting interviews and making the final decision.

Sweeps & Sculls scheduled for July 8, 2023. Please get in touch with Kristi if you're interested in helping with the planning. It will be important to have more volunteers than previous years to spread the workload. Kristi will get this up on Regatta Central soon.

Youth Rowing Program Report (Daniela Roop):

See report (attached). Additional comments: We're one week into the first 5-week winter session, with another to follow. Start on-water rowing 3/20 and 3/28, depending on the group.

Treasurer's Report (Pete Evans):

See Treasurer's report (attached). Additional comments: We foresee substantial facility rehab over the next couple of years, both exterior and interior, much of it long deferred maintenance. Projected cost between \$125K - \$200K, depending on estimates and board approval.

Dues increase: Inflation alone would have meant a \$65 increase. The increase is seen as necessary to cover operating costs and set the club up to be able to adapt to future needs. Long-term financial planning is needed – investments and savings. We need to put money in reserve.

Questions:

Q: How do you see dues increases going forward?

A: This was estimated using a simple model, including future deferred maintenance projects and hiring a boathouse manager. Upcoming expenses and opportunities; start planning now. We have some large projects coming up over the next 10 to 30 years, including replacing pilings under the boathouse. Also, depreciation alone came to \$120K this year, and dues income was around \$140K. The membership is liable for more like \$200K per year to plan and save properly, which means we're heading for around \$1100 range, depending on BOG decisions.

Q: Is there anything that prevents us from putting some money into high yield savings?

A: Changes in interest rates are driving investment decisions. We decided on a rolling ladder of T Bill investments with a 4 to 4.3% return. The interest rate on our current debt is 4.4%, so it's a wash. But we'll be looking at longer term investments. Doesn't make sense to pay off the loan right now.

Q: The model used to estimate dues was based on current membership load. If we increase membership does that help? Or would we max out our facilities at some point?

A: Model was relatively simple. Didn't change membership numbers in the model. No evidence right now that dues increase will affect membership level.

Q: What is the upper limit before we start to lose members?

A: Currently our Programs are very successful but we need to make sure that members cover their own freight and plan for future should Programs not be there.

Q: Could you explain our debt situation? How much do we pay per year, and will that every go away? And where are we with Phase 2, Phase 3 planning?

A: We're through a lot of the planned expansion already. Our annual debt service is \$24K on \$234K debt, which terminates in a balloon payment. We have the assets to pay it off, but we could use the money now to build the fleet and take care of deferred maintenance.

Q: Is there going to be an option to pay in installments, like previous years?

A: Yes, though it's not being advertised. Write Pete an email to request this.

Other comments:

Next year, please give the membership a month or two notice on any increase. It was explained that because we didn't have a November board meeting, the dues decision was made in December, leaving little time to inform people. We'll be more on top of that next year.

We have money available for people experiencing hardship paying the dues. A portion of everyone's dues goes toward the "scholarship" fund, though "scholarship" is a misnomer. It's there to support anyone with a financial need, not just those in programs.

New Business

Safety at NBC (Discussion led by Kristi)

- US Rowing has changed the SafeSport requirements so now it's only required for anyone who is directly working with minors. All are encouraged to take the course anyway; not solely focused on youth.
- CPR / First Aid: there is a desire to have training available for members. It costs \$100 to get certified through the Red Cross. Amy sent out a link today to an app that provides free training.
 - Ira Garber and Amy Abbott are interested in getting professionals to the club to offer training.
 - Kristi proposed that we require CPR and First Aid certification for all coaches. Do we need a board vote? Pete says no. Eric Goetz says that from a governance standpoint it's not necessary to come from the board. Whoever oversees employees can make this decision.

- Swim Test: we used to require this but it became logistically complicated. We currently have a document that rowers sign that states they can swim, or their child can swim.
 - Proposing that we go back to requiring swim tests; there is a form included in the meeting materials.
 - The EP Boys & Girls Club will allow us to use their pool for free. We just pay for the lifeguard(s). They tell us their pool is “underutilized.” Contact: Martin DeCosta. This club partners with us for STEM to Stern
 - We should be doing the swim test with rowing clothes on. And you’d need to demonstrate that you can put on a PFD in the water after being afloat for 5 minutes.
 - Reactions:
 - Very tough to get a horse collar PFD on in the water; easier to carry a raft with a lanyard that inflates automatically.
 - Any chance we can get a shell into the pool, and do the swim test and flip workshop at the same time? We could explore this re: logistics.
 - Might be tough to organize all of that in one day; sitting in wet clothes, etc.
 - We will post a google sheet for signups; depending on how many sign up, could explore the idea of bringing a shell over.
 - What about doing flip tests regularly at the club?
 - US Rowing recommends doing the swim test with clothes on and putting a PFD on in the water.
 - This also pertains to all those in classes, especially juniors.
 - Two dates on the calendar for this at the moment: 1/21 and 2/4, starting at noon. Members of the Brown Women’s Crew Team who are certified lifeguards or safety instructors have offered to be there on 2/4. We currently have one lifeguard scheduled for 1/21.
 - Suggest that we require this every 5 years, not annually. We don’t have to make that decision now.
 - Classes: If you can’t swim without a PFD you can only row with a PFD.
 - It would be helpful to do a flip test for juniors in a pool as some were very nervous about doing it in the Seekonk.
 - You can also do the test elsewhere and get the form signed there.
 - When asked if members should get priority, Kristi said that we can get the pool for other dates and we should be able to take care of everyone. It’s important to get started getting people tested.
 - You can take the form and do the test elsewhere, get it signed by lifeguard.
 - This should also be required of guests; one member noted they were required to certify that they could swim when they were a guest at another club.
- Emergency Action Plan: a draft is included in the meeting materials. It needs more information and maps, but plan is to laminate and distribute. Positive reactions from the group when looking at the information. It was suggested that we add the phone numbers for Coast Guard and Harbor Master. Kristi added that we’ve been in discussions with Brown regarding traffic patterns on the river, and cooperating with them on the Emergency Action Plan.
- It would also be nice to have launch rescue course. Coaches should know how to pull people out of the water into a launch. We currently only have 2 stirrups, but Pete Evans says he has had an intern make 6 more and he has them at his shop. These should have a float on them or tied to the launches so they don’t sink.
- Jonathan Haisman has offered to chair a newly formed Safety Committee.

NBC BOG Election (Anne Fleet, Chair of the Nominating Committee)

- Nominating Committee members: Francesca Beaudoin, Anne Fleet, Eric Goetz, Jean Lambert, Timmons Roberts, Kit Wise, Marlene Yang
- Committee members divided the work and took their jobs seriously. Process: asked for nominations via e-mail; then asked each nominee to submit a bio. They discussed candidates and worked to find balance and diversity. Good process; some nominees were surprised to be nominated and got them thinking about getting more involved.
- Proposed slate:
 - President: Kristi Wharton
 - Vice President: Matt Eriksen
 - Secretary: Q Kellogg (from at-large)
 - Treasurer: Pete Evans (from Lieutenant)
 - Captain: Eric Watne
 - Lieutenant: John Ryan (from Vice President)
 - At Large: Andrea Arena (returning), Susan Burgoyne, Meaghan Delaney, Michael Hamilton (returning), Jonathan Haisman, John Mulligan, Chanika Phornphutku, and Bradley Wentz.
- If you have comments regarding the nomination process, send an email to Anne. These will also be forwarded to the Governance Committee.
- Anne Fleet moves to approve the slate. Pete Evans seconds the motion.
- Voting: An electronic polling form was provided to each zoom account. We have 33 present (Dick and Barbara Green are sharing a zoom account).
- When asked about proxy voting it was stated that a person must be in attendance to vote, according to the Constitution.
- 97% Yes, 3% No; the slate has been approved.
- Welcome to all new BOG members.
- Thank you to all those who are going off the BOG for their service. These are Kiana Anderson, Ruth Berenson, John Duke, McKenzie Gibson and Daniela Roop. Recognition at the winter gathering.

Remarks for the Good of the Club

- 2023 marks our 185th year – looking forward to celebrating.
- The annual auction is coming up and we're looking for donations. Contact Eric Watne.
- The C2 Virtual Challenge sign up is open until 1/16, if you haven't already joined.
- Shout out to Timmons Roberts and Daniela Roop and all those who showed up for the clean up along the shoreline. Amazing effort. Maybe we should make this an annual event.
- We should try to have attendance like this at every BOG meeting – way more fun.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Secretary's Report

Membership as of January 31, 2023

(Prepared by Membership Coordinator)

<i>Membership Category</i>	2/4/2022	1/7/2023	1/31/2023
	<i>(Last Year)</i>	<i>(Last Meeting)</i>	<i>(CURRENT YTD)</i>
Regular	115	30	51
Spouse	10	4	8
72+	23	15	15
U23	5	2	2
Life	10	10	10
NonResident	8	2	2
Clubhouse	0	0	0
Total Members	171	63	88
Applicant Members to Vote on (included in numbers above)			
Type	Last_Name	First_Name	Comments
Regular	Weijts	Floor	Just moved to RI from the Netherlands. Rowed in Netherlands (3 yrs during my student time and restarted 3 years ago). Experience with scull/sweep. Would like to join a team to meet people in RI.



February 2023 Captain's Report

Acquisitions -

Old News: We took delivery late 2022 of two new 4X's and two new 2X's from Hudson. They are smaller hulls (light and light-mid) These will be available to appropriately rated members for on-water rowing once the water is turned on at the boathouse. We also purchased a lightly used Hudson 2X/- that is mid/heavy. These boats will be formally christened at a later date.

Dispositions – We have sold 5 older Van Dusen 1X's and continue to strategically move hulls no longer being used to make room for new acquisitions. As 2X and 4X hulls are very popular and useful in teaching sculling we have not currently been marketing those for sale, but that will continue to re-examined this as new hulls arrive and space constraints/boat usage is evaluated.

Boat Repairs – We have taken 5 Zephyrs to David Clark at Fulcrum Speedworks in East Providence for refurbishment. These are workhorses given their use as entry level sculling instruction, and we want to insure they last and reflect well on the club. We also have the two Pocock 4's at Fulcrum (Watne & Sandstede) for some repair/refurbishment work. Given the additions of the two new 4X's we are likely going to rig the Watne as a 4- in order to have the capability to have two straight fours on the water at once.

Bow/Cox rating – The Rowing Committee has reviewed and updated requirements for bowing NBC 2X's and 4X's and coxing NBC sweep boats. These will be discussed at the next Rowing Committee meeting and rolled out to membership once adopted.

Sculler Rating – Congratulations to Bari Harlam who has obtained an "A" sculler rating

Respectfully submitted;

Eric Watne – NBC Captain



February 2023 Adult Rowing Programs Report

The **Adult Rowing Programs** started January 2023 with 6 programs;

- 4 indoor rowing programs at NBC led by Lisa Evans, Amy Abbot & John Ryan that meet twice weekly
- 1 indoor rowing program led by John Ryan on Saturday's that coaches clients of the RI Lions Club institute for the blind. John has been coaching between 3 and 6 vision impaired adults. Their hope is to get on the water this summer.
- 1 indoor CrossFit program that combines challenging erg sessions and CrossFit strength training at Phillipsdale CrossFit.

All of the above sessions were fully subscribed. Session one ended last Saturday (2/4) and the second 5-week session started Monday 2.6.2023. All sessions are again mostly fully subscribed, and we have added a '5-pass' CrossFit option for folks who want to try the activity but not commit to the full 5-weeks. The CrossFit program has been challenging, and based on feedback and participation is popular. We will explore an option to make this training available all year as there are clear benefits to strength training even once we return to the water.

NBC women under the direction of Robin Gross met last week to discuss sweep rowing. I plan to have a similar event for NBC men to gauge interest and determine structure for a men's sweep program.

Additionally we hope to start to firm up our spring on-the-water coaching offerings.

Finally, the All-American Rowing Camp is returning to NBC this spring April 21-23. A notice was sent to membership, and I believe the AM camp is fully subscribed. Any interested members should reach out to Alan Harlam.

Respectfully submitted;

Eric Watne – NBC Adult Rowing Programs

Indoor & Outdoor VIP Rowing Program

We are please to announce that the **RI Lions Sight Foundation (RILSF)** in partnership with the **Narragansett Boat Club** has agreed to sponsor a ***Rowing Program for the Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) of Rhode Island***

Current plan is as follows but is subject to change depending on level of participation;

- Saturdays from 10 - 11AM-ish
- First session will be from 1/14/23 - 2/18/23 (Tentative yearly schedule is below)
- 6 Max VIP's per class. (If steady interest is higher, there is an option to use a larger facility)
- Participants will be required to sign a waiver provided by NBC.
- Participants must be able to climb stairs as facility is on an upper floor
- Participants must be at least 17 year old.
- Transportation assistance can be provided with RIDE vouchers if needed.

If interested, please contact Ken Barthelemy by text or email you will be added to the list. You will be contacted directly to confirm your spot in the class.

If needed, participants will be staggered from week to week until we determine what the steady demand will be and determine any adjustments that should be made.

**Location: Narragansett Boat Club, 2 River Drive,
Providence,02906 <https://www.rownbc.org/>**

Tentative Yearly Schedule

- 1/14 - 2/18/2023
- 3/4 - 4/8
- 4/29 - 6/3
- 7/15 - 8/19
- 9/9 - 10/14

We look forward to the success of this new program!