



**Narragansett Boat Club  
Board of Governors Meeting  
February 8, 2023 7:00 pm  
Hybrid**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Board of Governors members present: In Person: Andrea Arena, Susan Burgoyne, Meaghan Delaney, Matt Eriksen, Pete Evans, Jonathan Haisman, Q Kellogg, John Mulligan, Chanika Phornphutkul, John Ryan, Eric Watne, Kristi Wharton. Via Zoom: Michael Hamilton.

Board of Governors members absent: Bradley Werntz.

Other members present via Zoom: Scott Whitney, Daniela Roop.

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by Kristi Wharton, President.

**Opening Remarks (Kristi Wharton):**

Board members should have completed Conflict of Interest (COI) and given to Q. Should be done every year. Please do this if you haven't yet.

We will be shifting the agenda around, putting BoG orientation after approval of Minutes.

Proposing to put all committee reports online with each committee to make them easier to find.

**Approval of Minutes (Kristi Wharton):**

Suggested changes/additions to December minutes: Be sure to include all reports that are referenced in the minutes.

Suggested changes/additions to January minutes: Dues increase is discussed to, but the amount of the increase is not actually stated. Suggest adding an aside stating the amount of the increase for clarity.

Dec minutes: Andrea moves, Michael second, unanimous approved.

Jan minutes: Pete moves, Chanika second, unanimous approved.

**Other announcements:**

Winter party coming up a week from Saturday.

Light lady is not retiring; Joan will continue to take care of the lights.

**2023 BoG Orientation:**

Going through Governance & Fiduciary Responsibility presentation originally put together by John Kennedy.

General points covered include:

- Making decisions for the good of the club, rather than for you as a person.
- COI especially important when thinking about strategic planning and financial responsibilities.
- The board should be a unified voice, set the tone, work together.
- We are due for a new strategic plan; think about sooner rather than later.
- Look at the Constitution and the Strategic Plan which was set into motion in 2018; a lot has changed since then.
- The BOG is all volunteer and we need to work together to get the job done. We don't have an Exec Director, but might want to consider this for the future.

- We set the culture; Tone at the Top; important to understand how members, class participants and club employees. Important to maintain a professional environment.
- Meeting format and decision-making/organization is discussed. Do we want to continue with the monthly reports to the board, which we are not always getting from committees. Need information to flow, so how to do this? Stagger committee reports so each committee doesn't report every month, but each committee reports every other month? Important we have the materials to think about before the meeting. Reports don't have to be long; they can be a few bullet points.

### **Secretary's Report (Q Kellogg):**

See attached Secretary's Report.

- Q reports that latest numbers are not reflected in the report dated 1/31/23. We now have 45 additional paid members, bringing us up to 133 total. Q moves to approve new member (Floor Weijts); Kristi seconds; unanimous approval.
- Discussion regarding lower paid membership numbers: We didn't give a discount paying dues by the end of January. Pete sent out a reminder a week ago and got some activity. Kristi can send out reminder. It's hard to plan if members don't pay dues on time because we depend on our dues for our budget. Incentive? For example, if haven't paid by April 1, there will be a \$50 charge? Kristi moves that she send out a reminder, and if not paid (or on installment plan) by 3/15 you'll need to pay a \$50 late fee. Was installment plan widely advertised? No, but we need to let people know. Some wouldn't support a \$50 penalty. Communication is important. Continue to remind people about why it's important to pay your dues. If we use the key fob it can be deactivated if haven't paid dues. No vote taken.
- By the way, regarding key fobs (Eric Watne). Approx \$5K to get it set up with ~300 fobs. Can also be used with cell phone. Annual fee of \$250 to allow for digital remote control over access. Works during power outages. Kristi asks Eric to put this back in motion.

### **Captain's Report (Eric Watne):**

See attached Captain's Report.

- Eric adds that Jonathan and he have been talking about current P & P, rowing in winter with captain's permission. Now that Jan and Feb are more pleasant than historically (climate change), we should write up policies for this rather than just captain's permission. Rowing committee will look at this and hopefully have something for BOG next month.
- Newly named boats need to be christened.
- Emma Powers has been doing a great job as fleet manager. When asked what her "longevity" is, Eric has asked her about her plans. Probably not around after this summer. New coach from Tabor may be able to take over from her and he's very handy with carbon fiber etc. Fulcrum is also right across the river and they can now do paint jobs.
- Jan Virtual Team Challenge. Celebrate fantastic job that NBC did. Finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the world out of 10,916 teams, 6<sup>th</sup> of on-water rowing clubs. As a team we rowed 21,770,000 meters, 101 team members, 215 km average per member, second highest per member in the top ten. Two members rowed over 1 million meters: Albin Moser and Charles Tansey. Almost 10 people rowed over 500 km (James McKinsey – 811 km, Rick Richards – 642 km, Ben Kerns – 534 km, Jean Lambert – 526 km, Eva Goodman – 500 km, Virginia Hopkins 500 km, Brigid Kennedy, Andy Washburn and Bari Harlam all over 400 km). Great team effort.
- 4702 HOCR fundraiser. We had 32 entries, giving us two tries in the drawing for the 10 guaranteed entries. Jean Lambert came in 5<sup>th</sup> in Women's Veteran out of 187, Ruth came in 9<sup>th</sup> out of 29 (Womens Sr. Veterans). Bill Middendorf (99 years old) came in 2nd in 90+ (out of 2 entries; other entry was 91 yo).
- Should be celebrated at the Awards Party Feb 18.

**Adult Rowing Programs (Eric Watne):**

See attached Adult Rowing Programs Report.

Boat acquisitions: Vespoli is donating a refurbished small 8 meant for middle school kids or lightweights, for STEM to Stern, and any NBC member can use it. Where are we going to put it? It's not really a racing shell. We don't have enough boats for STEM to Stern for all interested kids, to grow the programs. Brown gave us a boat which has never been used by S to S. Not enough boats for youth either. Eric: Johnson & Wales have a four that they kept at NBC. They rowed out of our club last fall, as a class. Sam Silverman coached them, paid by J & W. He wants to come back this Spring and has a couple of eights stored at Pete's factory. If NBC pays insurance, we can use them.

What happened to boat cleaning sign up? This didn't really happen due to low sign up. We'll take care of this before spring.

**Old business (Kristi Wharton):**

- Update governance documents: This was in the strategic plan, and still hasn't happened. Kristi asked Matt to join the governance committee, which is Eric Goetz, Tiffany Hogan, Rick Richards. Has asked Chanika to chair. Others are welcome to join. Want to make this happen this year. Bring documents up to date to reflect our current practices.
- We need to develop an organizational chart. Roles of each of us on the BOG? For those in a position, write down what we do, e.g., Captain, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.
- Strategic planning: Kristi proposes a retreat with the BOG. Go someplace for half a day, talk about what the club needs. Boathouse, programs, membership, secondary locations. Would love to see this happen before the summer, before we start rowing. March or early April. Scott Whitney offers his space. April 1, start right after rowing, will get food, come up with topics.

Safety Committee: Jonathan Haisman has agreed to chair this.

SafeSport no longer required for everyone by US Rowing. Club requires for all coaches and anyone interacting with kids. Do we want to require it for all? SafeSport does have a course for kids. Important for kids to know how to advocate for themselves. It was suggested that masters rowers that don't interact with kids shouldn't be required to do this. Do we want to have our kids engaged? Great to put in front of them so they know what their rights are. Discussion about how to make this happen. Requirement vs. suggestion, alone vs. in a group. Suggested that when juniors register include the link. We provide a link to the waiver, so we could add the link and make it part of the welcome note. Circulate periodically to all classes, members, parents. Do you have to be a member of US Rowing to do the course? There's a 30-min free training for parents, 15-min free training for youth (13 to 17); 15-min training for under 13. Kristi looked at other youth programs around the country and some require this for their programs. Question: required for youth doing summer program for a just a few weeks? It's not a big deal, 15 minutes, so yes. We have to document or track it if we require it.

Kristi moves that we require it of all youth and parents during registration – there's a separate course for parents. Jonathan seconds. Unanimous approval. Kristi will talk to Liz to put a line in registration and add it to the waiver. There was concern about Liz keeping track of this, but it's stressed that it's a signature on the waiver.

Communications Committee: Kim does Instagram. Not sure if anyone adds anything to FB. Kristi thinks website needs slimming down. Alden and Bradley are both on this committee. John Mulligan agreed to do a periodic newsletter for the club. Do this monthly while we're on the water. John isn't sure how we'll distribute this. We are awash in information via email etc. Would be nice to not have to hunt for emails. For example, there seems to be an annual burst of information on safety rules and gear. Some of this might want to live someplace rather

than in e-mails. John will plan to do a newsletter in the next few weeks, possibly headlined with indoor rowing feats and the awards party.

Is it useful to send out a blanket email to the membership to recruit people to committees? Or should it be by word of mouth? We should do both because people have skills we don't know about. Also, people have asked about a dedicated channel for official club announcements, rather than Google Groups, which doesn't necessarily represent everyone. Constant contact: why do we have this? It's one more place to maintain a database. Would be great to have one place we have lists/database. Deb Chute is currently keeping the membership database, but she'll be leaving in May. She derives it from QuickBooks. CC goes to lots of non-members in programs. That's all in Mindbody. CC can condense multiple lists and sends only one email to each person. CC list includes people who've simply made an inquiry. This includes those who haven't gone to classes, and also includes parents. Let's keep it; could also use for the newsletter. Can maintain multiple databases in CC.

Swim Test: Everyone has passed so far. Two questions have come up: How are we going to enforce it, and do we require it of all class participants. Lisa is now requiring it for BayView rowers. Kids do it for sailing. If they can't swim they have to wear a life jacket. People who can't swim usually ask for a life jacket anyway. It's terrifying for coaches when they realize that people who've capsized can't swim well. We should let people know how to do the swim test easily.

Jonathan moves, Matt second: Compulsory swim test (signed form by lifeguard) or wear a life jacket for anyone rowing at NBC. This includes guests. Forms can go between clubs. One opposed, all others in favor, no abstentions. Motion passes.

Annual Awards:

Awardees were voted on at the January meeting. They will be awarded at Feb 18 party. We discussed the awards we currently have and whether they adequately represent our membership. Possible addition of a "pursuit of excellence" award. John and Daniela have decided to recognize the junior team captains with a new award. Discussion to be continued at next meeting.

**Remarks for the Good of the Club:**

Michael Hamilton suggests we get out of the gate early on replacing the trailer area with a container so we can inventory and organize random equipment. Need a permanent place for secure storage.

Thanks to Kristi for getting the swim test going.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

**6:15 pm**

**Walter Hall, 80 Waterman St., Providence**

Respectfully submitted,  
Q Kellogg  
Secretary

## 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	<b>51</b>
Spouse	10	4	<b>8</b>
72+	23	15	<b>15</b>
U23	5	2	<b>2</b>
Life	10	10	<b>10</b>
NonResident	8	2	<b>2</b>
Clubhouse	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>88</b>

*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!