

**Coventry Lake Community Rowing Inc.
Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Date: 3/18/2025

Location: Millbrook Place

Time of Meeting: 7:00pm

CALL TO ORDER:

Board members in attendance: Courtney Rossignol, Rob Miller, Steve Simko, Heidi Diehl, Dan Eddy, Jill Lillis, Sophia Bokshan, Mackenzie Bond

Guests in attendance: John Cromie, Linda Byam, Annabelle Williams, Chrissy Williams

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES:

Dan advised that the only issue he saw with the Minutes from the last meeting was that he had indicated that he would like to be considered for a two year term in the upcoming election. Jill moved to accept the minutes from the 2/4/25 meeting with that change. Heidi seconded the motion. No discussion, none opposed, motion passed.

OFFICER'S REPORT(S):

Treasurer's Report - Rob discussed the Treasurer's Report; however, the report did not require Board approval as it had previously been approved at a prior meeting.

Rob specifically discussed the increase in insurance premiums and how that has impacted our bottom line.

Dan explained "Active" members and "Inactive" members and how they are tied to our insurance premium. By having 50 or over active members our premiums increase. Dan will be managing the member list to help keep track of active vs inactive.

We finished the year with an operational deficit of \$8,082.16, which left \$3,555.44 in our account.

Rob explained that we expect to get some of our expenditures back once the season starts and Pam can collect money from athletes/families for the gear they had previously ordered, but was paid upfront by CLCR.

Rob explained that travel expenses, specifically the trip to Florida for Nationals, was recouped via fundraising.

Courtney asked if there were any projections for future expenses. Rob advised that he can add an estimated column in the report.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

Pam provided the Board with a copy of her Operations Report prior to the meeting. Courtney read them aloud. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

There was some discussion related to the Operations Report mentioning the home regatta on 5/3/25. Jill advised that the regatta is getting big and we will need a lot of help to make it run. Steve asked whether the regatta will produce any revenue for CLCR. The short answer is that we are not sure yet. There was an inquiry whether we could have a food truck at the event. Courtney will look into this.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fundraising Update: There were no fundraising updates. Heidi advised that the wreaths raised approximately \$1,200

Patriots Park Master Plan Update: In addition to what was in the Operations Report, Rob advised that there may be a possible vote by the Rec Commision coming up, though this is not entirely clear.

Spirit Wear Store Update: Steve advised that we are just waiting on Board approval of the most recent graphic update that was sent to the Board on 3/11/25. Rob moved to accept the latest graphic update. Heidi seconded the motion. No discussion, none opposed, motion passed.

Steve advised and discussed that there is a fundraising element as an option provided by the vendor. The options are to mark up the price of the item by 5%, 10% or 15%. The price provided to the customer will reflect the markup. Once we reach a certain threshold we can request that the vendor issue a check to CLCR for the value of the markups which have been incurred. Dan

suggested that we have a mark up of at least 10%. Rob moved to mark the prices up by 10%. Heidi seconded the motion. No discussion, none opposed, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Courtney reports that the Scholarship Committee has not received any new requests to review.

OPEN DISCUSSION/OTHER TOPICS:

There was no open discussion

ELECTION OF 2025-2026 DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:

Mackenzie Bond will be graduating and not returning to the BOD.

Rob, Courtney, Jill and Dan indicated that they would be interested in being re-elected to the Board and serving a two year term

Steve and Heidi indicated that they would be interested in being re-elected to the Board and serving a one year term

Sophia indicated that she would be interested in being re-elected to the Board. As a youth, her term would be one year.

John Cromie indicated that he would be interested in being elected to the Board. As a youth, his term would be one year.

Prior to the meeting, in per Operations Report, Pam indicated that Janice Carlow (adult captain) has expressed interest in becoming a member of the Board. She is unable to attend tonight's meeting. Her term would be one year.

Rob motioned/nominated those who have expressed interest to the Board. Chrissy seconded the nominations. No discussion, none opposed, motion passed.

This fills up the adult portion of the Board at seven members, but leaves two vacancies for the youth. Rob indicated that Pam would reach out to members of the youth program.

Officers positions were filled next:

Courtney nominated Rob as Treasurer. Heidi seconded the nomination. No discussion, none opposed, motion passed.

Courtney nominated Steve as Secretary. Rob seconded the nomination. No discussion, none opposed, motion passed.

Dan nominated Courtney as President. Heidi seconded the nomination. No discussion, none opposed, motion passed.

Rob nominated Jill as Vice President. Mackenzie seconded the nomination. No discussion, none opposed, motion passed.

NEXT MEETING:

Future meetings were discussed. We will continue to meet on Tuesdays at 7:30pm; however, Courtney requested that we move the meetings to the third Tuesday as opposed to the second Tuesday of the month. Nobody had a problem with this. Meetings will continue to be held virtually with in person meetings being held from time-to-time.

Next meeting will be held on 4/15/25 at 7:00pm. This meeting will be held virtually.

Rob moved to adjourn the meeting. Heidi seconded the motion. No discussion, none opposed, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm



Operations Report

1 message

coach coventrylakerowing.com <coach@coventrylakerowing.com>

Tue, Mar 18, 2025 at 11:05 AM

To: Steve Simko, Robert Miller, Daniel Eddy, "jill lillis@m", Nick and Laura Grassi, Courtney Merrick, "Sophianbokshan@", Mackenzie Bond, Deven
Cc: "jpcarlow"

Hello from Mexico,

Janice Carlow (adult captain) has expressed interest in becoming a board member. She is unable to attend tonight's meeting, but if there is any adult who wants to step down, she is interested and is cc'd on this email.

Operations Report:

Winter Erging: Ella has been doing an excellent job leading erging sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Nick and my help occasionally. They are not fee-based but have a lot of value added and have supported two of our high school youth to prepare and participate at Crash Bs. Sophia and MacKenzie can elaborate on that. The sessions are hosted at the high school and we have a blended group who attends of youth and adults but mostly youth. It has been great for introducing new rowers as well. The sessions ran from late January and will be ending this week on Thursday.

Coaching Staff: We are all set for spring although volunteers are welcome to assist with coaching. For summer, I am gearing up to hire our summer staff. Sophia, MacKenzie, Ella, Katie are currently on our coaching roster. I will be reaching out to Erik. Pending schedules, we may need one or two more since some of the above coaches cannot commit to all of the following needs:

- Youth summer sessions July-1st week of August 8:30-11:30 M-Th
- Senior Rowing 101 Fridays in June
- Coventry Camp Rowing Sessions, Fridays throughout the summer
- Group adult sessions 2/3 x per week (preferable 2x eves, one morning or just 2x eves)
- Privates (anytime)

Boathouse: The Patriot's Park Master Plan last version has shown a 3rd bay for us, and EO and UConn Men also have their own bays. The plan is still in progress. More to come.

YOUTH:

- Youth Spring session: Starting this coming Monday, March 24th, our youth BOE club team session starts. We have an expected 30 ROWERS (12 novice, 8 are MS and some are coming with a little on water experience, some erging intro, others first time) 18 girls, 12 boys
- We will be trying to get our two PARA boats eligible for Nationals along with 1 or 2 other boats if we can. One of the grants below has costs included in the ask, but we may have to fundraise pending our success
- Current Race schedule:

- May 3 (rain date May 4), home race with the following teams: EO Smith, Holyoke, Pioneer Valley, North Hampton, Lenox Memorial High School, Valley/Old Saybrook
- Northeast Championships May 17 & 18
- Emersons June 1
- Nationals? June 10-15
- We are working on supporting our PR3 rowers to pursue opportunities beyond high school. I have been in touch with Boston coaches and the Dowd's have attended a CRI camp. The girls are at a very young age, this is the beginning of their road to pursue greatness in the adaptive world of rowing.
- Middle School Rowing 3x session will be late May after Northeast Regionals
- Coventry Summer Camp will be bringing back rowing: Likely on Fridays after Senior Rowing 101 classes

Grants:

- Submitted AARP Purpose Prize aware \$50K (founders of non-profits can apply)
- The Hartford John Blair Grant \$25K: Will be submitting as soon as I receive the letters I have requested from the Dowd's, Cromie's and Jeff Gordon/Tim Ackert. This grant is specific to sight-impaired assistance
- American Savings Foundation Grant: Last year we received \$1K, we can receive this grant for 3 consecutive years. I am unsure of how much I will be writing this grant for but expect around \$1.5K as it will cover Senior rowing. I will be asking for funding to support our coaching fees, the fees for the seniors to attend (without little to no cost) and for supporting supplies like low profile life jackets. Coventry Human Services has some \$\$ to put towards this, I need to confirm what they can to offset registration fees, etc.
- I have a couple of other grants I will be trying for, more to come on those as they are behind the above.

Adults:

We have had a few people reach out to join this year already. IF weather permits, I'd like to consider starting SWEEP group rowing in late April/early May once a week or 2/3 times to kick start our season. Masters will be allowed to take out quads/4s as soon as water/air temps are safe to row without a launch boat. They will be allowed to row while the HS team is out if they agree to stay near a launch and a boat is available. There are a few captains that may appreciate this.

In addition, I am hoping our seniors Rowing 101 courses will merge with our ongoing 2x per week adult sessions – this is a week area since COVID and I am looking for lots of support to help this along (coaching, coxing)

That's.... it. 😊