

# Malta Boat Club

**Minutes from the July 14 Meeting: Attendees:** Stehlik, Sammut, Mattson, Cutler, Brown, Weinstein, Weber, Patterson, Schugsta, Croce, McDonald, McGee, Levin, Futterman, Vergilio, DeVlieger, Duling.

**Treasurers Report** Club is in decent financial shape as there have been few expenditures during closures.

## Membership

There are a few members still delinquent in their dues. If you plan to change your status, please contact the Malta Secretary who will put you in touch with membership. Also, new guidelines for club use will be posted.

## Racing & House

There has been no rowing activity save for a few members car topping their singles to the upriver dock for launching. Rick Stehlik indicated that he may get a bid to do work on the front porch. Accordingly, most of the discussion centered around the dredging project (or lack thereof). We received an update from the SN on July 15 and it is posted below. This graphic below tells all:



*"As was previously planned, a second dredge machine (The "Potomac") has been brought on site by contractors Atlantic Subsea Inc (ASI). The dredge is an Ellicott ladder-type dredge with a ball cutter head. ASI had planned to use this - once available- given its ability to more ably handle debris, etc.*

*The Mudcat will remain on-site to be used as backup as work continues in AS#2 and AS#1 (Boathouse Row); and, it's expected to be used as an in-series pump to support The Potomac once work moves to the National Course (since the distance to pipe the silt is so long). The two dredges can't work simultaneously given the existence of only a single pipe and potential for clogging.*

*We'll hear another update from USACE this Friday; but, as of last update this past week, ASI and USACE report that completion on Boathouse Row in early September is still expected, per the original schedule. This schedule*

*may change as work proceeds; and, we'll be updated accordingly if so."*

Apparently, the Mudcat (pictured below) was getting clogged with debris while dredging. Who knows how many oarlocks, shoes, tools or coxboxes are embedded in that muck? It appears that there has not been much dredging in the past few weeks. The hope is the "Potomac" dredger has a more powerful auger to suck up the hundreds of cubic yards of mud.



To keep things in perspective, the Boathouse Row area is susceptible to silt build up due to the slow water flow in front of the boathouses. Here a 1934 version of the Row.



## More from the Schuylkill Navy

### "Types of Rowing/Paddling Boats Permitted:

*As previously noted, [Philadelphia's movement to Limited Green status](#) would (and did) trigger specific approval for **team** practices for both youth and adult programs in all sports.*

*As such and as was noted by PPR, approval for team boats (4x's, 4+'s, 8+'s, and Outrigger Canoe 6's) was*

triggered on July 3rd by the movement to green (and subsequent PPR confirmation on July 6). You may have seen boats from those programs with existing storage for such equipment (eg, Schuylkill Paddlers Inc, BLJ Community Rowing, and Gillin Boat Club (St. Joe's Prep), given the approval by the City of Philadelphia to do so for all team sports (and USRowing's guidance that local ordinances prevail).

That said, the recent spike in COVID-19 cases and expressed concerns re safety has now caused the Phila Dept of Public Health to again suspend such team boating. Further, they are also re-reviewing ALL boating, use of public docks, etc. For now, rowing and paddling from car-topped boats (1x's, and same-household 2x's, 2-'s) and those previously approved before COVID-19 (specifically, Schuylkill Paddlers Inc and BLJ Community Rowing) remains in place while things are under review.

We should expect the possibility of many similar "stops and starts" and forwards/backwards movement as the river (and everything in our lives, for that matter) re-opens.

**We'll continue to keep you posted, since the current restriction on team boating (and any new restrictions on rowing of singles, etc) could potentially have implications as schools return to session and even as docks return to Boathouse Row. As always, the City of Philadelphia (and Montgomery County, for those SN programs based upriver) has prevailing influence on what individual clubs may choose to do."**

Also please note, that due to the pandemic, the **Head of the Charles** and **Head of the Schuylkill** will not be "on the water" events this fall. The plan is to hold a 'virtual' regatta format. More details to come.

#### **Member Profile: Bill Van Fossen**

Bill was first introduced to Malta Boat Club in the summer of 2012 when his son Will joined Malta's summer program that was coached by John Hayburn. Since Will was the youngest in that group and didn't drive, Bill ended up hanging around the boathouse enough that he figured it made sense to join the club.

Bill became a rower at Drexel in a roundabout way. Growing up across the river in Moorestown, he played a variety of sports, but had no idea about rowing. Fortunately for him, he was the last guy cut on the Drexel baseball team and ended up rowing for Coach Joe Greipp in the Drexel Heavyweight 8. That first year in 1978, Bill was in 5 seat in the HW8 that took bronze in the Dad Vail Regatta.



Bill met his wife Beth on the beach in Surf City on Long Beach Island where they now have a summer home. Rowing has become a family affair for the Van Fossen family.

They have an Alden that they row on Barnegat Bay and all three of their children rowed for Moorestown Rowing Club and went on to row four years in Division 1 collegiate programs. Kirsten rowed for Harvard, Emily rowed for Cornell and Will for the Yale Lightweights. Bill spent most of his career working at the family business, Van-Air & Hydraulics until it was sold in 2003. He now works for Eastern Lift Truck Company where he started as the General Manager for the Dock and Door Division. He is now a specialist in emerging technologies where he is responsible for lithium ion batteries, hydrogen fuel cells and robotic lift trucks. Bill and Beth reside in Moorestown, NJ.

Below is Bill with his son Will, who met up with Tony Mattson on the Barnegat Bay on LBI last month. Will is rowing a Wintech sliding rigger stand up paddle board.

