



**CRC Board MEETING MINUTES
2-19-20 Southwick Inn**

ATTENDANCE:

Michelle Pratt –President, Scott Perusse-Vice President, MaryAnn Philo-Secretary, Jerry Crane – Ameritus, Ron Greene, Deb Herath – Ameritus, Sandy MacDowell – Hospitality, Sharon Jones , Beth Thomas **Absent:** Penni McEleny – Treasurer, Linda Champagney, Kevin Maloney, Ginny Graves, Rick Seaman

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2020 Meetings Schedule: April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13

DISCUSSION:

An invitation to apply for a \$25,000 grant from the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving was received by Michelle prior to the meeting start. The application was due on the day of the meeting, and it was too late to apply. We will look for this next year and apply on time.

Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Michelle thanked Sandy MacDowell and Sharon Jones for organizing the Christmas Party in December which was very well attended and fun.

Michelle thanked Linda for organizing the Savers Run, and the donors and collectors. This event raised \$493.63.

There was a moment of silence for two members who recently passed: Bob Billeux and Bob Jennett

Signs: Deb is checking into purchasing new signs for CRC meetings from Southwoods. MaryAnn said she may be able to alter the existing signs. Jerry will drop to MaryAnn and we'll decide on restoring them or purchasing new.

Topic Ideas for meetings:

1. Reflecting back on the history of what CRC has done over the years, including the money the group has donated to the town since its inception. We have a snapshot of what has happened, but it ends in 2003. The archived minutes and paperwork are stored at Jerry's, Deb's and some in file cabinets at Babb's. We need to do an organization and file thinning of the paperwork.

2. North Pond Property and what has happened...the Conservation Commission can come in to speak about the property on North Pond, the trails, and any updates.
3. Patrols of the Lake - what they're doing. Since there's not much road work they may be able to patrol the lake more this year.
4. Eric Mueller does a good presentation about the condition of the lake, and the dredging, but he's very busy. Dick Grannells may be an option. Ken Wagner would be an option, but he's expensive.
5. In June the 4th of July Boat parade will be a good option.
6. Possibly someone to talk about the Light Pollution and awareness of it on the lake.
7. Lawn Care Products with specific information about what to use near the lake.
8. Someone from the DEP to explain the aquifer and the sand pit and where it stands.

Car show update:

Scott is looking for donations. He has received confirmation from Industrial Steel and Boiler, Napa and Valvoline. Kevin is heavily involved in this event, which invites classic cars or newer imports to Babb's. Scott is checking with Kevin to determine if motorcycles are allowed. There is a \$10 fee to enter, and there are vendors, prizes and raffles. All the profit from this event goes to CRC. Scott will get Bob Andryzeck involved in the raffle part of this event. Deb will forward Bob's contact info to Scott. So far, the planning is going well.

Boat parade

Ron Greene has attended two meetings with Suffield 350 yr. Committee.

Jerry Crane is helping to organize the daytime events at Babb's, which will open at noon. The bands start at 2pm and will play until 8:30. The bands, which are being paid for by the Suffield committee, are a Blue Grass Band, a Motown Band and Big Al Anderson. Jerry is also trying to organize a light up the lake after dark. It will be a full fun day at Babb's.

Ron is in charge of organizing the boat parade which will start around 4:45 pm with the raising of the flag and some songs. Goldie will be the theme boat with the parade starting around 5 and heading north to the pier and circle around to come back. At the sandbar there will be both town flags...250 Southwick and 350 Suffield with some lighting to represent boats passing in 2 states. They will continue south to Saunders and return back to Babb's. There will be no awards, and the parade will last about 45 minutes. There is some concern that the boats won't return to Babb's to end the parade, so they are trying to encourage people to stay in line. They are hoping to get 125 boats in the parade. The best place to view the parade is from the pier or Wok on Water if waterfront isn't available.

Suffield is very organized and enthusiastic about the 350 yr celebration and Ron would like Southwick to show the same enthusiasm. Deb will contact the Southwick 250 yr celebration committee and have them attend the next Suffield meeting, to get help with committee organization.

At the April meeting we need to ask for volunteers to be on the planning committee for the boat parade. Meetings are well attended. We need to publicize who CRC is. Need signs at Valvoline.

Registration of the boat parade is done formally through the town.

Shirts

MaryAnn will do shirts for the group. People requested new apparel like collared shirts with embroidery on left front, jackets, hats, and sweatshirts. Possibly the same logo as currently used or maybe some options using an anchor, or different boat instead of the sailboat. Jerry will give MaryAnn a box of apparel and items with the logo on it and she will follow up.

Alum treatment

Michelle had an article printed in Southwoods magazine about the Alum treatment, and it had mostly positive review. There were few negative comments, which we will ignore. The CPC approved 600,000 to fund the ALUM treatment. The actual cost came in at 800,000, so they need to vote again, which will happen at the next meeting on Feb. 26.

There isn't enough money to cover this so some of the money will need to be bonded. The state money is a wish list, so it may or may not come to the town, and it won't be on time. The optimal time for treatment is early spring, so the funding needs to be approved soon. There will be a town vote on Monday, March 23 to approve this. We can't let our guard down, and we need to be pro-active. The public needs to be educated as to the facts about this.

Membership drive:

Michelle is working on the new membership drive letter to make it more updated and easy to read. Any input is welcome. She will use the words toxic and invasive when describing the lake plants. We should consider a gift for people who get to certain levels of membership, possibly boat banners or burgee flags. There are no more lifetime memberships...they'll be grandfathered in if they paid with that understanding. We will advertise the website, so members can find more information.

Budget:

The Alum postcard from CRC is being mailed to everyone in Southwick and Suffield. Cost of printing 500 cards was \$224.00 from Southwoods. They are being direct mailed soon. If the funds are approved by CPC, any funding that comes in from the state or other sources will go to the town budget, not directly to CPC budget. The alum issue affects the property values and the economy of the entire town, and we need to educate the public. This is a recreational community. Membership mailings will happen in March. We need decide where to get the Membership Forms printed. We will try to use Southwoods if possible. There may be about 3800 mailings, and done mid-March.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm.

ACTION ITEMS:

- January 2021 Apply for Grant from Hartford Foundation of Public Giving
- Decide on Signs, Apparel and Speakers for Meetings
- Organize CRC past files
- April Meeting Ask for volunteers for boat parade
- Membership Letters/Mailing