



**CRC MEETING MINUTES
5-11-21 BOARD MEETING SOUTHWICK INN & ZOOM**

ATTENDANCE: Michelle Pratt –President, Scott Snyder-Perusse-Vice President, Penni McEleney-Treasurer, MaryAnn Philo-Secretary, Deb Herath–Emeritus, Sandy McDowell-Hospitality, Sharon Jones-Hospitality, Linda Champagney, Ginny Graves, Kevin Maloney

Absent: Jerry Crane-Emeritus, Rick Seaman, Beth Thomas

ANNOUNCEMENTS: MEETING DATES: June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm

The meeting minutes from 4-13-21 were unanimously approved

Select Board Members Melissa Mack and Doug Moglin from the Towns of Suffield and Southwick will give presentations at the general meeting. Refer to the general minutes for details.

Penni reviewed the treasurers report. There is \$12054.77 in the checking account, \$16,783.44 in the savings account, and \$37,016.42 in the investment account. Membership dues to date is \$9300.00 and there is an additional \$1,513.00 to be deposited into the checking account. Penni retrieves the membership data and enters the information into the database. The board needs to decide what to do about members in our database who no longer live at the listed address, and lifetime members. The board decided to add a note in the database about lifetime members, and possibly send a separate note requesting a donation, depending on how many there are. A tear offline needs to be added to the membership flyer.

Penni resigned her position as treasurer but will stay an active member of CRC. The board thanked her for her dedication and hard work over the years.

MaryAnn presented a new logo design to the board. There were many different comments, so it was decided to table the decision. MaryAnn will redo the logo and email it to the board members for comment. A decision will be made prior to the next meeting so the apparel can be mailed to members.

Chris Pratt from the Conservation Commission will talk at the general meeting about the Wildlife Management area. Refer to the General meeting minutes for details.

There is a town meeting on May 18th that has articles that need to be voted on that affect the CRC mission. The town is applying for a trail grant through the Community Preservation Committee to clean up and mark the trails

on the North Pond property. There is an Eagle Scout who is organizing clean up and trail marking.

There will be a webinar presentation at the general meeting from Solitude, the lake treatment company.

Scott will talk about North Pond clean up. Refer to the general meeting minutes for details.

Michelle created a CRC Memorial golf tournament registration form. Registration cost is \$100.00/golfer and includes golf, cart, snack, and dinner at the Brass Rail. Michelle reviewed the costs, and there will be a multitude of raffle prizes, and many different sponsor levels. Sharon and Sandy will look for music. Volunteers and business sponsorships are needed. Jerry and John will work on getting registration available on the website. CRC needs to make sure not to ask the same businesses for sponsorship of both the car show and the golf tournament. The board will decide if the car show is possible for this year after more information is available. Michelle will check into event insurance coverage required for the golf tournament.

The Saver's Drive collection will be Sunday, May 23rd at Babb's Beach. Soft Goods can be dropped off between 12 and 2pm. Scott and Kevin will help with delivery on June 5th.

Michelle will do the permits for the July 4th boat parade. Scott, John, and Tammy might help with organization. The board voted to have a patriotic theme this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

GENERAL MEETING SOUTHWICK INN & ZOOM

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm

Melissa Mack from the Town of Suffield Select Board gave an update. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new playscape at Sunrise Park and there is an upcoming ceremony to kick off the town hall renovations and celebrate the opening of the town offices after the pandemic. The town of Suffield will continue to allow Babb's beach entrance for CRC members this year. Melissa thanked CRC for helping to help keep the Babb's property from going into disrepair. This summer, there will be expanded lifeguard hours, and a beach movie on July 30th. The plan is to make Babb's building a multiuse sports and entertainment venue, so in October 2020, a water line was brought into the property as part of the restoration, with the next project being a sprinkler system addition. The town of Suffield budgets funds appropriated to the town of Southwick to help with services and activities that monitor the public safety of the Congamond Lakes. There will be a parade for the Suffield 350 celebration on October 9th. Selectwoman Mack gave a status of the Sand Pit. BGR is managing the property and have been good corporate citizens. They have put in dust control measures to address dust complaints, and the town has requested the trucks drive the shortest route but cannot mandate a traffic route to be taken. Due to Covid-19, the excavation permit has been extended to spring of 2022, by the Connecticut Governor. There is no commitment for future use of the property.

Doug Moglin from the Town of Southwick Select Board gave an update. The Southwick 250 celebration parade will be on October 16th. The cooperation between Southwick and Suffield to get a financial agreement to promote public safety has benefited both communities. Southwick was able to have an outdoor town meeting in 2020 to pass a budget to do a lake treatment which has significantly improved lake water quality. Mr. Moglin is

advocating for a seasonal boat pass to launch boats on Congamond Lakes, instead of paying each time. There are currently discussions about how to safely open town hall, with the new trend to have in person meetings with ZOOM available for public access. Southwick has applied to the Massachusetts Office of Fish and Game to allow the police boat to be docked in or close to the water which will reduce response time to calls. Police Chief and Harbormaster, Kevin Bishop is retiring July 1st and will be replaced by Lieutenant Landis who will become Chief and Harbormaster. The town of Southwick is applying for funding to start some dredging of the lake. This is a multimillion-dollar project which Senator Neil supports. There are beavers on the lake, some causing damage to private property. It's illegal and costly to remove them, and the Department of Health must approve private removal of beavers.

Penni reviewed the treasurers report. There is \$12054.77 in the checking account, \$16,783.44 in the savings account, and \$37,015.42 in the investment account. Penni retrieves the membership data, enters it into the database and sends information to MaryAnn, Deb, and Ginny. She is currently working on a volunteer list to provide to the board. CRC has collected \$9,329.00 from our membership drive to date. Penni has resigned as treasurer but will continue to stay involved in CRC, so if anyone is interested in fulfilling this board position, please contact Michelle. Amazon smile is a good easy way to get funds to CRC. When ordering from Amazon, Citizens Restoring Congamond can be selected as the nonprofit for a percentage to be donated.

Christopher Pratt from the Conservation Commission gave an update on the Wildlife Management area. There was recently a prescribed burn on the Wildlife Management area property to promote growth of the grasses that are beneficial to wildlife. Oak trees and pitch pine promote the habitat wildlife that is wanted on the property, so there will be some removal of white pine. Burning and tree removal helps to manage the invasive species and promote good healthy habitat. There have been sightings of sandpiper birds that are returning to the area, and hopefully more species will also return.

On May 17 there will be an invasive weed treatment on the lake for milfoil and curly pond weed. CRC pays for 1/3 of the treatment sharing the cost with the towns of Southwick and Suffield.

Scott talked about a lake clean up scheduled for May 22 and 23. There will be a dumpster at Scott's house and the goal is to clean up the old docks and debris around the North Pond property. This is a joint effort with the Conservation and Lake Management Committees, an eagle scout project, and CRC. Volunteers are needed and sign up is at info@congamond.org.

CRC is sponsoring a memorial golf tournament at Edgewood Golf Course on September 25. Refer to the board meeting minutes for details. Volunteers and business sponsorships are needed.

The Saver's Drive collection will be Sunday, May 23rd at Babb's Beach. Soft Goods can be dropped off between 12 and 2pm.

Tammy has been hosting a Farmers Market at the Brass Rail on Friday's from 11am to 4pm. There is a table at this event to sign up for CRC membership.

There is a town meeting on May 18th that has articles that need to be voted on that affect the CRC mission. The town is applying for a trail grant through the Community Preservation Committee to clean up and mark the trails on the North Pond property. Please attend the meeting and vote in favor of the articles for funds to be appropriated.

The July 4th boat parade will have a patriotic theme this year. More information will follow, and volunteers are needed.

CRC is planning to have a decorated boat in both the Southwick 250 and Suffield 350 parades in the fall. Volunteers are needed.

Solitude is the company that does the lake treatments on Congamond Lakes. Michelle ran a webinar presentation by Solitude about strategies that preserve and restore water resources, and goals for lake water management which contribute to the health and beauty of the water.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36