



**CRC MEETING MINUTES
6-8-21 BOARD MEETING ZOOM**

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

Absent: Sandy McDowell-Hospitality, Linda Champagney, Rick Seaman, Beth Thomas

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

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm

The meeting minutes from 5-13-21 were unanimously approved as amended.

At the General Meeting, Michelle will give a brief overview of the CRC organization and its mission. Guest speakers will be Chris Pratt, Chairperson of the Conservation Commission and member of the Community Preservation Committee, and Mike DeBay, member of Lake Management Committee. Both speakers will give overviews of their respective Committee's organization and mission, and responsibilities.

Penni reviewed the treasurers report. There is \$14,334.99 in the checking account, \$16,783.86 in the savings account, and \$37,124.71 in the investment account. Membership dues collected to date is \$10,340.00. Penni will review the membership data to determine where membership came from soon. The board voted to move \$10,000 from the checking account to the investment account. At the next meeting, the board will discuss future expenditures that CRC could make toward lake maintenance and safety.

MaryAnn updated the CRC logo and made and mailed the free apparel to members. There was a postage issue, and the board voted to reimburse MaryAnn for the postage for mailings this year. The board will decide in February how to get the free apparel to members next year.

Ginny made a CRC members list and sent it to the town of Suffield which allows for free entry into Babb's Beach.

The weed treatment was completed on the lake in May.

Scott helped organize the North Pond clean up in May and will discuss this at the regular meeting.

Linda organized the Savers drive in May and collected over 600 pounds of soft goods. She is not willing to continue doing this event, so the board will decide if this event will continue next year.

Jan Dudek contacted Michelle and his band would like to have a boat float in concert on June 12 with the proceeds donated to CRC. Michelle and Scott will attend to collect donations.

Jerry volunteered to help organize the July 4th boat parade which has a patriotic theme for this year. The festivities will begin at 4pm with a jazz band concert and the parade will begin at 5pm. There will be a trumpet player and Ginny's granddaughter will sing the national anthem. Jerry will contact Katie Goldie to be the lead boat.

Sharon and Tammy will contact Jen at the Brass Rail and inquire about Christmas party options and report back to the board about costs and decorations.

Michelle contacted State of Massachusetts fish biologist about a future presentation.

A local Girl Scout Troop contacted Michelle about doing a photo project on the North Pond property. Michelle contacted Dennis Clark to see if this group could work with the Open Space Committee and was told this Committee had been disbanded. The Conservation Commission is promoting this property, and the board will discuss how to help with this at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7pm.

CRC MEETING MINUTES 6-8-21 GENERAL MEETING ZOOM

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

Absent: Sandy McDowell-Hospitality, Linda Champagney, Rick Seaman, Beth Thomas

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

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

Michelle gave a brief overview of the Citizens Restoring Congamond organization and its mission statement, which is to preserve, protect and maintain the environmental, esthetic, and recreational values of Congamond Lakes. Water quality concerns and lake and boating safety are addressed in

conjunction with other town committees including Lake Management Committee, Conservation Commission, and the local Police Departments. CRC provides education to the community about the lakes. Additional information can be found on the website-congamond.org.

Christopher Pratt, Chairperson of the Conservation Commission, and member of the Community Preservation Committee gave an overview of these organizations. The Conservation Commission is charged with the responsibility of protecting all waterways, including rivers, streams, and ponds, assuring there are no pollutants getting into them. All local town and state laws and guidelines must be adhered to, to protect the waterways. The Town of Southwick is responsible for monitoring the docks and the lakes to make sure they comply with the laws. This local permitting allows for the town to keep the dock fees and use the funds in conjunction with the Lake Management Committee for control of the lake and lake weed treatments.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) looks at projects to determine if funding is appropriate through the Community Preservation Act. There is a 3% surcharge on local property taxes (over \$100,000 and annual state matching funds) for the purpose of enhancing the Town of Southwick and preserving community character, which includes open space and recreation. The CPC does not approve projects but recommends to the town where funds should be spent, and there is a town vote on projects for approval.

Mike DeBay, member of Lake Management Committee (LMC) gave a presentation. The LMC's mission is to promote lake safety, improving water quality and manage the state-owned boat ramps which provide access to the Congamond Lakes. The Committee works with the Office of Fishing and Boating Access, the Harbormaster, and the Massachusetts Environmental Police in promoting lake safety and developing by-laws needed for safe boating. Improving water quality involves daily sampling and testing of the water from April through October and compiling reports. LMC works with CRC, the Conservation Commission, the Board of Health, the Massachusetts DEP, a town contracted limnologist, and other vendors for lake treatments to control basic weeds, algae blooms, and water contaminants. Managing the ramps for public passage includes vigilant ramp attendance, maintaining parking lots, handicap access, boarding docks, and navigation buoys throughout the lakes. LMC has open meetings, with agendas posted on the website. The public is encouraged to attend meetings and ask questions to stay informed. The website address is southwickma.org/lake-management-committee.

Penni reviewed the treasurers report. See the general meeting minutes for information. Penni has resigned as treasurer and CRC is seeking to replace the position. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Michelle.

CRC membership allows for free entry into Babb's Beach. Captains Club members receive a free t-shirt and Commodore's Club members receive a free sweatshirt. CRC and Congamond Lakes apparel is available for purchase at Stitchesbyme.com and 20% of all purchases are donated to CRC.

The weed treatment was completed on the lake May 17. The LMC puts posters up around town to notify residents when this is happening.

Two articles passed at the town meeting which approved \$5000 to be available to be used for flood control in case the outgoing brook gets dammed up, and funding through CPC for the North Pond trails grant was approved.

Scott helped organize a North Pond clean up in May. Volunteers from the Conservation Commission, CRC, LMC, CPC, and Boy Scout Troop 104 helped make this a success. Special thanks to Dan Hess for providing a dumpster and Curt Saunders for providing a pontoon boat which was used to transport the waste. Michelle showed a short video taken during the event.

Linda organized the Savers drive in May. Over 650 pounds of soft goods was collected netting \$130.00 for CRC. The board will decide if this event will continue next year.

There will be a Water Rats band boat float in concert on South Pond on June 12th, with donations going to CRC. Michelle will check to see if a permit is needed.

Jerry volunteered to help organize the July 4th boat parade which has a patriotic theme for this year. Refer to the general meeting minutes for information.

CRC is sponsoring a memorial golf tournament at Edgewood Golf Course on September 25, with dinner to follow at Brass Rail. It will be a shot gun start, with many prizes and a raffle. CRC is looking for sponsors. The registration form will be available on Congamond.org website.

CRC is planning to have a decorated boat in the Suffield 350 parade on October 9th. Volunteers are needed.

CRC has an annual Christmas Party which is not a fund raiser. More information will be available at upcoming meetings.

At the July meeting, CRC is planning for Eric Mueller to do a presentation about water quality. Michelle contacted the State of Massachusetts fish biologist about a future presentation. CRC is open to recommendations about future presentations. Contact Michelle with ideas.

Please consider choosing CRC for Amazon Smile as the non-profit for donations.

Michelle posted and reviewed the Boating and Fishing Tournament Regulations on Lake Congamond. There was a question-and-answer period for the attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm