



**CRC MEETING MINUTES
8-9-22 BOARD MEETING - BRASS RAIL & ZOOM**

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

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm

Michelle announced that she was doing a presentation on the North Pond Property at the general meeting, including some of the history, the Conservation Restriction, and some facts. Conservation Commission and CPC Coordinator Sabrina Pooler, Conservation Commission Chair Dave MacWilliams, and Selectboard Member Russell Fox will be attending to answer questions.

The minutes from the July 12th meeting were approved as amended.

Scott is working with Sargent Westcott from the Southwick Police Department helping to construct a lighted buoy prototype. Michelle has a picture of this to be shown at the general meeting.

The owner of the property at 141 Congamond Road has applied to the State of Massachusetts for a Chapter 91 Marina license. The State has sent out a notice that it will consider all written comments concerning this application received by September 12, 2022. This notice will be posted on the CRC website Congamond.org. CRC previously voted to oppose the addition of the marina, but not the transient docks or restaurant. Since the State is requesting comments, the board decided to send a survey to all CRC members to ask if they are opposed or in favor of the new marina. If the survey finds that most of the membership is opposed to the marina, then CRC will send a letter of opposition from the group to the State. All members can individually address the State if they are inclined.

Michelle had a meeting with Southwick Police Chief and Harbormaster Robert Landis. The Harbormaster is checking current dock and boat stickers and sending out daily fines for non-compliance. Enforcement is \$20 per day for boats and \$30 per day for docks. The boat house for the north launch on Middle Pond has been approved, with completion in about a year. CRC intends to donate toward this

project once it begins.

Scott is going to organize North Pond clean ups and volunteers are needed. The plan is to collect trash on the property and shoreline on Mondays and leave the bags at the top parking area for the Southwick DPW to collect. CRC along with the other town Committees plans to actively pursue getting a porta potty on the property.

The Conservation Commission is organizing an informational session to be held in the parking area of the North Pond Property to inform people of the rules that need to be followed.

Norman Cheever is going to attend the General Meeting and discuss the Southwick 2040 Survey which needs to be completed by August 31, 2022.

The Golf Tournament Registration is open, and people are signing up. Approximately \$750.00 in donations have been collected to date. Volunteers are needed for soliciting donations for the raffle.

Michelle wants to upgrade CRC's data base from Google Sheets to a paid service. CRC is looking for a volunteer to help with data base management, and Michelle will ask Will Stenka if he'd be interested. The board voted to research an upgrade.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55

8-9-22 GENERAL MEETING BRASS RAIL & ZOOM

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05

Michelle welcomed everyone and announced there will be a North Pond Presentation at the end of the meeting.

Mike reviewed the Treasurers Report. There is \$12,959.18 in the checking account, \$16,789.73 in the savings account, \$44,587.17 in the investment account, and \$3,901.66 in the PayPal account. The checking account includes membership drive and donations total to date of \$10,897.02. There are 175 paid members in 2022 and there were 154 paid members in 2021. Please sign up for Amazon Smile to contribute to CRC and if you already have, check to make sure it is still valid, since Amazon may have done updates.

Deb did a Lake Management Committee (LMC) update. Deb called the Southwick Police last weekend to recommend a robocall notifying residents that the South Pond Beach was closed due to high e coli

count. The dispatcher was unaware of the closure and called the Southwick Health Department to find out if they had tested any other areas of the lake, and if the water south of the beach area was safe. The Health Department representative said they aren't required to test any other areas on the lake, so Deb notified Southwick Selectboard member Russell Fox of the concern. The Health Department has contacted LMC to help collect water samples to do e coli testing on other areas of the lake. The issue causing e coli is the extreme heat and lack of rain and could be the Canadian geese on the property. Mr. Fox recommended signing up on the Town of Southwick website code red to receive robocalls that inform residents of issues in town.

The beaver dams in Canal Brook were successfully removed by the company Solitude. These dams weren't accessible for volunteers to remove.

The Southwick Police Department in conjunction with LMC is working on a prototype plan to get lights on the buoys which will make nighttime navigation on the lakes safer. Michelle showed a picture of the prototype and Scott is assisting the Southwick Police to modify it. The cost to CRC will be about \$500.00 per buoy.

Michelle had a meeting with Southwick Police Chief and Harbormaster Robert Landis. Please refer to the board meeting minutes for information.

Norman Cheever discussed the Master Plan for town of Southwick, which will be a document designed to guide the future actions of the town through the next 20 years. There is a 30-minute survey located at Southwick 2040.com which needs to be completed by August 31, 2022. Adults, teens, business owners, employees, and taxpayers in the town of Southwick are eligible and encouraged to complete the survey. The committee's goal is to receive a minimum of 1000 responses from residents.

The 2nd Annual CRC Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 17th at Edgewood Golf Course, with dinner following at the Brass Rail. The entry fee for this year's tournament will be \$100.00 per golfer which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, and dinner. Non-golfers can attend the dinner at the Brass Rail for \$35.00 The committee will be seeking sponsors and donations from local businesses for raffle prizes. Sign up information is on the website Congamond.org. Volunteers are need and will be contacted to assist with this event.

Scott is organizing clean up of the North Pond Conservation area. Please refer to the Board meeting minutes for more information. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up and help with this project.

Dave MacWilliams from the Conservation Commission discussed the North Pond property. He asked that residents remove the trash bags in the parking area if they can, and if not put the trash in the can and tie the bags closed to prevent animals from getting into them.

The Conservation Commission is organizing an informational session to be held in the parking area of the North Pond Property on Saturday, August 13th. This is an outreach program to inform the community what the property is and what rules and regulations need to be followed. Respect your neighbors, leave no trace, no open fires, no open containers are some of the rules that will be reviewed. People will be informed about the hiking trails and the vernal pool and reminded that the property needs to be treated responsibly and respectfully.

The owner of the property at 141 Congamond Road has applied to the State of Massachusetts for a Chapter 91 Marina license, which includes 20 marina slips and 20 transient boat slips. Members will be receiving a survey asking whether they approve of the marina slips. For more information refer to the Board meeting minutes.

Michelle made a presentation on the history and conservation restriction on the North Pond property. Passive recreation is allowed on the property that doesn't have a major impact on the land. The Southwick Select Board, the Southwick Town Committees and the State of Massachusetts Dept. of Fish and Game are meeting at the end of August to determine what will be allowed on the property and how to manage it.

CRC meetings will remain both in person and ZOOM on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be September 13th at 7pm at the Brass Rail; ZOOM link available at Congamond.org

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm