



**CRC MEETING MINUTES
9-13-22 BOARD MEETING - BRASS RAIL & ZOOM**

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

Absent: Deb Herath–Emeritus, Linda Champagney, Kevin Maloney

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm

Michelle introduced Al Goldman, a consulting attorney who is helping to update the CRC By-Laws. Mr. Goldman reviewed and explained many of his suggested changes which will be incorporated and presented to the membership for approval at a future meeting.

Sharon asked about extending the length of the board meetings to accommodate the amount of discussion that's needed for topics and issues. This will be decided later.

The minutes from the 8-9-22 Board and General meetings and the 9-6-22 Special Board meeting were approved as amended.

Michelle announced that Dr. Eric Mueller will do a presentation on E-Coli at the general meeting.

Deb has been researching CRC insurance through Farm Family. Boat Parade was the only event insurance was recommended for and the board voted to continue with this coverage.

The board voted to participate in the Trunk or Treat Halloween event held at Whalley Park on October 29th. This will involve purchasing decorations for a boat and candy/treats to hand out to the participants.

Most CRC members that participated in the 141 Congamond Road survey voted to oppose the marina, so Michelle submitted a letter to State of Massachusetts stating CRC's opinion.

MaryAnn talked about updating the database. For 2023, the treasurer will enter incoming information from membership into the database and give the forms/data to the membership committee.

Membership will verify the data entries and forward any information to committees that need it. When the board agrees that the database is correct, a decision will be made as to how to proceed with database management.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm

9-13-22 GENERAL MEETING BRASS RAIL & ZOOM

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

Michelle welcomed everyone and announced that at the October Meeting there will be election of both the CRC Treasurer and Secretary. Anyone who is wants information or is interested in running for either of these positions is encouraged to contact Michelle or send an email to Congamond.org.

Mike reviewed the Treasurers Report. There is \$21,132.00 in the checking account, \$16,790.16 in the savings account, \$44,604.40 in the investment account, and \$1158.96 in the PayPal account. The checking account includes membership drive and donations total to date of over \$11,000.00. 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.

Michelle introduced Dr. Eric Mueller from the Lake Management Committee who gave a presentation on E-Coli which is bacteria that comes from fecal matter from either animals or humans. The tests the town of Southwick has done to date doesn't provide information as to where the bacteria originated. Southwick is required to test at the Southwick Town Beach, and this is done weekly during the swimming season. It's very important that the water samples are collected correctly so there's not false positive results. E-coli disperses with rain and waves or wind, so testing could be done on the lake depending on weather. Dr. Mueller suggested speaking to Dr. Wagner, a limnologist to determine if more E-coli testing on the lake would provide beneficial lake safety information and where testing should be done. Dr. Mueller will speak with Dr. Wagner about testing, lab costs and its benefits. Michelle will follow up and provide information on this as well as communication at a future meeting. Dr. Mueller stated that Canadian Geese on the shore and in the shallow water adds to the E-coli issue. The weather has been warmer over the last several years, so the geese are not migrating as much, which has increased their population on the lake. The beavers are very clean animals and don't contribute to E-coli in the lake water.

A North Pond Property meeting with Southwick Town Officials and the State of Massachusetts took place and was successful at discussing current issues which are also occurring at other State Conservation Properties. The State has decided to allow the Conservation Committee to address the problems and challenges by doing some trail maintenance with natural landscaping such as boulders and mulch to prevent trail bikes and further erosion. Community education and increased signage will help to enforce the rules.

CRC will be participating in the Trunk or Treat Halloween event held at Whalley Park on October 29th. This involves decorating a boat and handing out candy/treats to the participants. Volunteers are needed to help. Please contact Michelle if interested.

The beaver hut at the marina near the North Pond tunnel continues to grow, prohibiting rental of some docks and not allowing the docks to be moved which would allow for more visibility when entering the tunnel. The property owners need to work with the Conservation Commission and the State to get permission to remove beavers and the lodge.

The boat house was approved for the Middle Pond boat launch and the town is moving forward with the new boat purchase that will be housed there. The buoy lights are still in process.

The 2nd Annual CRC Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 17th at Edgewood Golf Course, with dinner following at the Brass Rail. To date, there are 24 teams signed up to participate.

Most CRC members that participated in the 141 Congamond Road survey voted to oppose the marina, so Michelle submitted a letter to State of Massachusetts stating CRC's opinion. CRC opposed the marina but approved of the restaurant and shortened transient docks which would be used for boaters visiting the restaurant. CRC will update the membership as the process progresses and information is available.

CRC will be participating in the Southwick Trunk or Treat Halloween event held at Whalley Park on October 29th. This will involve decorating a boat and handing out candy/treats for 2 hours. Anyone interested in volunteering to help is encouraged to contact Michelle.

At the October meeting there will be a vote for Treasurer and Secretary. Anyone interested in running or nominating someone to run is encouraged to do so by emailing Congamond.org. There will also be a vote on incorporating some revisions to the By-Laws that the board has been working on. Anyone voting must be a CRC member, with 1 vote per household.

Purchase of a speaker for CRC meetings will be discussed at the next board meeting.

CRC meetings will remain both in person and ZOOM on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be October 11th at 7pm at the Brass Rail; ZOOM link available at Congamond.org

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm