



**CRC MEETING MINUTES  
9-14-21 BOARD MEETING - BRASS RAIL & ZOOM**

**ATTENDANCE:** Michelle Pratt –President, Scott Snyder-Perusse-Vice President, Kevin Maloney-Treasurer, Deb Herath–Emeritus, Jerry Crane-Emeritus, Sharon Jones-Hospitality, Sandy McDowell-Hospitality, Ginny Graves, Beth Thomas  
**Absent:** MaryAnn Philo-Secretary, Linda Champagny, Rick Seaman

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** MEETING DATES: October 12

**DISCUSSION:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm

Michelle announced that there will be a presentation at the General Meeting called Images of Congamond presented by Giguere's Photography.

The August meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Kevin gave the treasurers report. There is \$3,366.10 in checking, \$16,788.12 in savings and \$46,691.75 in the investment account. This information doesn't reflect the golf tournament information.

Police Chief and Harbormaster Robert Landis sent an email update. Refer to the General Meeting Minutes for details.

Deb gave a Lake Management Committee update. Refer to the General Meeting Minutes for details.

Michelle will talk about weed growth and the correct procedure to identify and remove weeds at the general meeting.

The state provided some graphs of the fish population in the lake. Refer to the General Meeting minutes for details.

Michelle discussed the idea of getting a porta potty on the North Pond Property. For details refer to the General Meeting Minutes.

CRC golf tournament is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. There are 17 holes filled with foursomes to date. There are 13 sponsors and 6 memorials committed to date. Michelle estimates the minimum profit for the tournament so far is about \$5,500.

The Southwick and Suffield anniversary parade dates are set, and CRC will have a boat in both parades, donated by Kurt Saunders. Michelle picked up the CRC banners that snap onto the boat and will check into getting the Suffield 350 and Southwick 250 logos made up so they can be attached to the banner. Michelle, Scott, and Linda volunteered to be on the boat which holds 10 to 12 people.

Elections for President, Vice President and Treasurer will take place at the October meeting. Anyone interested in running should notify Michelle.

Sharon and Sandy gave the Christmas Party update, scheduled for Friday, December 3rd at the Brass Rail. The meal cost is about \$32.00, without a band, and tickets will cost \$35.00. The contract is a minimum of 75 people, and if it needs to be cancelled for any reason, it will be postponed until 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm

#### **9-14-21 GENERAL MEETING BRASS RAIL & ZOOM**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

Kevin Maloney gave the treasurers report. Refer to the board minutes for details. If anyone is interested in the Treasurer position, please notify Michelle.

CRC promotes both health and safety on the lake, and previously the board voted to put lights on the buoys to make nighttime navigation safer. The lights have been selected and approved and CRC has agreed to purchase some of these.

Police Chief and Harbormaster Bob Landis sent an email update. The mounting device for the buoy lights needs to be manufactured, so the Sheriff's Department is working with the Hampden County inmates to make these out of stainless steel. Chief Landis is continuing to work with the Sheriff's Department to get more patrols on the lake. The Southwick Police Department recognizes that it doesn't have enough trained patrols to police the lake properly, so they have enlisted the support of the Sheriff's Department

and the Environmental Police who also help patrol the lake. The Chief has applied for a grant to get life vests to have at the boat ramps to loan to people who want to use the lake but are not prepared with the correct equipment.

Deb gave the Lake Management Committee (LMC) update. There are some concerns that the Great Brook weir gate is falling apart. The Southwick Police, Lake Management Committee and some volunteers put up some plywood as a temporary fix and will address how to fix this problem at the 9-23-21 meeting. Once the lake level reaches 224.8 ft. it needs to be closed because wave activity could damage beaches or flood basements. This will be discussed at the next LMC meeting. Town Meeting reminders will be emailed by signing up on the town website for specific committee meeting reminders. LMC is continuing to work with the other Commissions, Committees and the town and state to apply and search for available funds and grants to dredge the canals, which will cost millions of dollars. Dredging of the canals will prevent the beavers from building dams and allow the water to flow. Deb reported that 8.5% of the houses in Southwick are on the lake. Deb will research information to find out the tax percentage that the lake homes contribute to the tax base.

Michelle reminded the membership that there is a rules and procedures document for pulling weed species from the lake, which is posted on the CRC website. Invasive species can be a problem for the lake, and prior to removing any weed around lake property, it should be looked at by the Conservation Commission, so they can determine what the weed is and advise proper management and control of the weed. Noninvasive lily plants are indigenous and noninvasive and considered natural to the lake and are not allowed to be removed but raking and removal of leaves and dead plants is allowed.

Michelle posted graphs from the state biologist who tracks annually the fish population in the lake. Largemouth bass are tracked both above and below 5.5 inches in size. The fish population has remained stable from 2013 to 2018. There hasn't been a significant increase in tournaments over those years, including 2021, so the state is satisfied with the number of tournaments not affecting the fish population in the lake.

Michelle discussed information about trying to get the Massachusetts State Conservation Restriction on the North Pond property altered to allow for a porta potty. CRC is working with the Lake Management Committee, the Harbormaster, and the Conservation Committee to address this issue. To ensure future enjoyment of this property, Michelle is considering making a town wide petition to submit to the State of Massachusetts to get permission to put a Porta Potty on the North Pond Property for sanitary health reasons.

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 available prizes, and the registration form is available on Congamond.org website. Golfers, Volunteers, and dinner reservations can be made on the website. Sponsors and volunteers and raffle prizes are needed. Contact Michelle if interested.

CRC is planning to have a decorated boat in the Suffield 350 Anniversary parade on October 9<sup>th</sup> and the Southwick 250 Anniversary Parade on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The boat will be provided by Kurt Saunders and the membership is encouraged to attend these events.

CRC Elections will take place at the October meeting. Anyone interested in running for President, Vice

President or Treasurer should contact Michelle or send an email to [congamond.org](mailto:congamond.org).

CRC's annual Christmas Party will take place at the Brass Rail on Friday, December 3rd. Tickets will be \$35.00/person for dinner and dancing, with music provided by Acoustic Thunder. More information will be upcoming for this fun event, which is not a fund raiser.

Anyone with suggestions for presentations at the next meeting, please contact Michelle.

Please sign up for Amazon Smile to give a percentage of the sale to CRC.

There was an informative and enjoyable presentation shown: Images of Congamond by Giuere's Photography.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm