



**CRC MEETING MINUTES
06-13-23 BOARD MEETING - BRASS RAIL & ZOOM**

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

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm

Mike reviewed the Treasurer's Report. There is \$15,502.74 in the checking account
\$5,793.51 in the savings account
\$69,317.82 in the investment account
\$18.62 in the PayPal account
\$90,632.69. Total

Active member estimate: 141

Meeting minutes are being worked on. Will review them at an upcoming meeting.

Guest Speaker; Norm Cheever Update on the town's masterplan dealing with recreation and the lake.
PIFR- Flood management plans around the lake.

Michelle announced Jerry Crane will be retiring from CRC. We are so grateful for everything he has done. He has been an integral member of CRC since the beginning.

Babb's update: Possible multiuse facility, playscape, indoor ice rink, picnic grove, horseshoe pits, maybe a dog park. Architects are working on plans. It should cost less than 1,000,000. They do not require a vote if it's a capital improvement and it's 1 million or less. They also have monies left from the bridge school and CRC donations they can use. If anyone has input on what they'd like to see at the property. Let us know. Hopefully to revitalize the property for everyone to use.

Bathymetric mapping is complete. The data will be put together.

Invasive weed treatment was done. We have a map showing where the applications were.

Boat senses will be completed soon. Boats & docks in Southwick and West Suffield. Should be registered through the Town of Southwick's Conservation Commission. If not currently registered there

is a fine. Which will be enforced. Also, emergency services will use the sticker numbers on docks to locate emergencies. The fees go directly to the town.

Foam on South pond. A sample was collected. Brought to the lab. But It must be tested within 48 hours. So the sample wasn't usable. Member Nancy Drury volunteered to take a new sample and drive it to the lab in Lee. We are awaiting the results.

Marc Colbert- Buoy light adapter update

The CAD Design will be updated for the correct size. They will be made of aluminum & tig welded at our facility. Much smaller footprint which will save on materials. The lights are solar-powered and supposed to last over 5 years. Installation will be very easy. Two lights are in. We will install them starting with the center buoys. Soon they will all be done. It's great progress. Michelle thanked the Southwick PD & LMC for putting in the buoys.

Lake Parade- patriotic theme. Date: July 1st rain date July 2nd Band – 3 p.m. Parade starts 5 p.m. Float in Movie- Jaws on Babb's beach 8:45 p.m. Possibly use FM transmitter to help boaters hear the band. Like what's used for drive-ins. We don't know how it works. Maybe someone can help with that. We'll investigate it. Discussion about a possible band or no band. Last year approx. 35 boats were listening to the band. 70 participated in the parade. We will ask attendees for donations to offset the cost of the band. Organization & Safety will be a priority.

Cornhole tournament- July 13th Possible 8 sets on deck. Maybe utilize a parking lot. There will be brackets. Participants be there at 5:45. 1st & 2nd and best team name prize.

Memorial Golf Tournament- Sept 23rd, 2023. Possibly increase the fee a bit by \$10

Next Guest Speaker: Patricia Baiardi Kantorski- Growing up on Congamond – History from Smith's Beach

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm

06-13-23 GENERAL MEETING BRASS RAIL & ZOOM

DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Jerry Crane is retiring from the CRC board. We would like to honor him. He has been a member & president of CRC since its inception. Deb Herath spoke about Jerry. He likes to say "He's from west by god Suffield!". He got the towns together to care for the lakes. Back when the milfoil was here. When the lake stunk. They were using the machine to cut the milfoil, but it actually propagated it. He was an original founder of the CRC boat parade. In July 1999, CRC members the Pontoon Boat Bridge to both states. Subsequently again in 2000 making it into the Guinness Book of World Records. In October 2003 CRC signed a 20-year lease for Babb's Beach. In order to help preserve it. Many fundraising events were

held there. He has also served on LMC. Thanks to Scotty Graves for getting Jerry into LMC. Then he got me into it. Thanks Jerry you'll be missed at our meetings. We will see you on the lake.

Treasurers report. See board meeting minutes. Go to Congamond.org to become a member. (Or see us at a meeting)

Cornhole tournament: see board meeting minutes.

Babb's update: see board meeting minutes.

Buoy light adapter update: see board meeting minutes.

Guest Speaker: Norm Cheever

Discussion on the town's Master Plan regarding recreation & the lakes. Overview of the last 5 questions on the survey pertaining to the lakes. For over 1 ½ years the volunteers on the Master Plan Committee have worked tirelessly together with citizens of Southwick. There were 900 responses to the survey. A great number of responses as compared to Westfield (who is six times our size and only had 600 responses). Hiking was #1 recreational activity people would like to see, biking #2, #3 Team sports, #4 Swimming (Public pool, not Congamond), public parks, increased activities on Congamond, more boats on the lake, entertainment, pickleball. Entertainment & cultural activities; music events, festivals, recreation, movies, theater, restaurants around town & the lakes. 491 positive responses for dredging the lake to improve water quality & flow. 355 people agreed the lake is too overcrowded. 354 people said we were successful in controlling invasive weeds. There were a lot of neutral and no opinions due to the lack of knowledge for people who don't live near or utilize the lake. The top issues over the next 20 years in the town pertaining to the lake are; 1) the lake is overcrowded with boats, 2) water quality, 3) pollution 4) policing, 5) weed control, 6) safety, 7) over-development, 8) litter, 9) too many out of towners, 10) lake access, 11) tax issues are some that were mentioned. 3 participants did say the lake still smells. It definitely has improved since the 90's. One more open public session. The data will be compiled and discussed with the committee.

Questions were raised with the lily's on the lake. They seem to be showing up more around the lake. There are concerns if they are native or not. We will ask the appropriate people for more info.

Lake Parade update: see board meeting minutes.

Memorial Golf Tournament: see board meeting minutes.

Tax Accountant Needed & lawyer to finalize revised by-laws.

2023 Meeting schedule- 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/10

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm