



**CRC MEETING MINUTES  
4-13-21 BOARD MEETING (ZOOM)**

**ATTENDANCE:** Michelle Pratt –President, Scott Snyder-Perusse-Vice President, Penni McEleney-Treasurer, MaryAnn Philo-Secretary, Sandy McDowell-Hospitality, Sharon Jones-Hospitality, Linda Champagney, John Wilson, Tammy Prevost

**Absent:** Deb Herath–Emeritus, Jerry Crane-Emeritus, Kevin Maloney, Rick Seaman, Ginny Graves, Beth Thomas

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** MEETING DATES: May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12

**DISCUSSION:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm

The guest speakers for the general meeting will be Police Chief Kevin Bishop, Harbormaster, and possibly upcoming Police Chief and Harbormaster, Robert Landis.

The 3-9-21 board meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Penni reviewed the treasurers report. There is \$5,859.99 in the checking account, \$16,782.87 in the savings account, and \$35,898.12 in the investment account. The membership dues collected to date amount to \$3,980.00 since our mailing. The membership checks haven't been deposited into the checking account because Penni has been organizing the membership forms and updating the data base. This is a lot of work, and time consuming, because Deb, MaryAnn, and Ginny need different information from the forms, and there is also a list of volunteers that needs to be compiled. The 2019 total from the CRC Saver's Drive was \$795.00. CRC received \$118.16 from Amazon Smile last year. Members need to be reminded to select CRC when choosing a non-profit for Amazon donations.

Michelle had Enfield students fold the membership flyers and stuff, address and stamp the envelopes, so she will send a thank you note to them for helping with this project. There are extra membership forms, so they can be placed in local businesses and they also can be used at the Holistic Farmers Market that Tammy will talk about.

Michelle did a Lake Management Committee update. The Lake Management Committee got a report from Solitude, the company that does the lake treatments, that the water clarity is the highest it has been in 15 years, and there has been no cyanobacteria found. LMC is looking for a water quality volunteer, to collect water samples daily. Invasive weed treatment mapping will be done on 25 acres in Middle and South Ponds on May 6. This has an estimated cost of \$9,000, of which CRC will cover 1/3 of this cost, around \$3,000. The canal was cleared by the Southwick DPW and they fixed some erosion issues. The Suffield DPW cleared some canal beaver dam issues. There are beaver lodges which are problematic, so LMC is applying to the DEP to be allowed to move the beavers, which is costly because it needs to be done by licensed trappers. Since the beavers may return, the LMC may not move quickly on this project. LMC notified CRC that no information can be put on the buoys and offered to put CRC informative posters at the boat ramp kiosks. The storm water drain separators, are almost completed. There are about 5 more to be done, and LMC is working on 3 in middle pond. The town of Suffield needs to be more involved in installing these separators so cleaner rainwater drains into the lake.

Michelle talked to the Lake Management Committee about installing lights on the buoys to make navigating the lake safer at night. The Committee was not in favor of doing this due to vandalism. Michelle spoke to Police Chief Bishop, Harbormaster, who is interested in adding lights to the buoys. He researched options and provided the information to Michelle. The cost would be about \$100 for marine grade lights and \$100 for cages to protect them. CRC unanimously voted to explore putting lights on the buoys. Michelle will speak to the Lake Management Committee about proceeding with this.

Scott looked at the canal and thinks the DPW did a good job clearing and putting in trap rock. There is some debris and trees that need to be removed, and he will take care of removing what needs to be done.

Michelle has decided to move forward with a fall golf tournament and has scheduled it for September 25th. She thinks there is enough time to organize it and has found 15 volunteers. The Golf Pro at Edgewood Golf Course has offered to help, and Jen Nolasco has agreed to have the dinner at The Brass Rail. This will be a good way to memorialize past members who were active in CRC, by sponsoring a hole or donating prizes on their behalf. Kurt Saunders has agreed to provide a pontoon boat for a hole in one. CRC needs to find sponsors for this event and find out if insurance coverage is needed and costs. Michelle will inform the board of the golf tournament meetings if anyone would like to attend.

Linda has expressed concern about the Savers drive. The collection agency has dropped the price they pay for small household goods to 2 cents/lb. and limits collection to 25 boxes. Payment for soft goods is 20 cents/lb., which they are most interested in receiving. Soft goods include clothing, towels, sheets, curtains, purses, and shoes, and they are not accepting any records, books, CDs, or DVDs. It is becoming challenging to do this drive, since they want to be informed how much the projected collection will be prior to the event. The board decided to do the event, collecting soft goods only. The collection will be at the May meeting at the Southwick Inn and one Saturday prior to the June delivery date.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm

## GENERAL MEETING (ZOOM)

### DISCUSSION:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

Michelle introduced the board members and thanked Ron Greene, who participated in CRC for many years and recently resigned from the board.

Police Chief Kevin Bishop, Harbormaster gave an update. He is proactive in getting patrols on the lake for safety reasons. The Chief would like to put lights on the buoys on the lake and get lights on markers for underwater items that could be hit. This summer, the police department is planning to get patrols out at least one shift every weekend.

Penni reviewed the treasurers report. The details are contained in the Board Meeting Minutes. Michelle discussed donating to CRC through Amazon Smile, selecting Citizens Restoring Congamond as the non- profit where a percentage is donated.

CRC is giving a free t-shirt or sweatshirt for membership donations, and free entry into Babb's Beach as noted on the membership form. The CRC apparel as well as some lake apparel will be on the stitchesbyme.com website soon. 20% of all purchases are donated to CRC.

Dennis Clark from the Conservation Commission gave an update on the North Pond Property. Dennis and Chris Pratt have been working on a trail grant to rehabilitate and clean up the trails on the North Pond Property that the town recently acquired. The trails will be defined with way finding signs, as well as interpretive signage that explains the wildlife in the area. Eagle Scout, Andrey Belyshev has decided to take on this North Pond Project and has started working. The property needs to be mapped, trails need to be cleaned and some areas of erosion need to be repaired. The town meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> has a proposal to move funds from the Community Preservation Commission to help with this project, so contractors can be hired, and materials can be purchased. Dennis is looking for volunteers to help with this project, so anyone interested can contact him.

Michelle did a Lake Management Committee update. This information is contained in the Board Meeting Minutes.

Michelle discussed the CRC Memorial Fall Golf Tournament which is scheduled for September 25th. The details are contained in the Board Meeting Minutes. CRC is looking for volunteers to assist with this event.

Linda discussed the Savers Collection Drive. Details are contained in the Board Meeting Minutes. Soft items including clothing, towels, sheets, curtains, purses, and shoes can be brought for donation to the CRC May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Southwick Inn. A future Saturday collection date will be announced.

Tammy discussed the new Holistic Farmers Market which is taking place on Fridays at the Brass Rail.

CRC can have a membership information table at this event, as well as possibly sell some items.

Michelle will apply for the permits for the July 4<sup>th</sup> boat parade. Jerry is organizing the parade and needs assistance.

Starting in May, CRC meetings will be in person, following Massachusetts safety protocol, at the Southwick Inn. The meetings can also be attended remotely via the access link available on the posted agenda.

CRC is looking for ideas for presentations for future meetings.

Suffield is planning their 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade on October 9. CRC is planning on having a decorated boat in the parade and is looking for volunteers to help and coordinate this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm