



**CRC Board MEETING MINUTES
5-4-20 ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDANCE:

Michelle Pratt –President, Scott Perusse-Vice President, MaryAnn Philo-Secretary, Jerry Crane – Emeritus, Deb Herath – Emeritus, Penni McEleney-Treasurer, Sandy MacDowell-Hospitality Kevin Maloney, Ginny Graves, Sharon Jones

Absent: Ron Greene, Linda Champagney, Rick Seaman, Beth Thomas

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2020 Meetings Schedule: May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13

DISCUSSION:

There was a moment of silence for the CRC members we have lost in the last few months, as well as the COVID-19 victims.

The Minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting were approved with a small change.

Alum Treatment Update: Nasty weather delayed the completion as scheduled, so the treatment should be completed by the end of this week. A water quality report will be issued by Dr. Ken Wagner soon. The water was tested twice daily, and was considered safe for the fish. The lake was stocked and there was the normal low mortality rate, which wasn't due to the treatment.

Website: Michelle has been updating the CRC website, removing older information and updating with Zoom meeting information. All members that have provided their email information will get an invitation and link to join our meetings. For non- members who wish to join the meeting, they are required to send an email to CRC, and the link will be provided. The "Lake By Laws" will be changed to "Regulations for Lake Use" making it more user friendly. Boating Guidelines from the Governor's office will be on our website.

Many people were out on the lake last Sunday and not following social distancing guidelines. If people continue to be reckless and not follow the guidelines, there is a potential that the boat ramps and the north pond property could be closed. Dennis Clark requested that CRC put up signs on North Pond Property and beach area to remind people of the social distancing requirements.

MaryAnn said she would look at the existing signs and see if she could alter them.

Budget for 2020: Thank you to Penni for all the work on the budget, which involves keeping track of all the finances and organizing them into different categories.

Yearly we incur expenses for postage, signs, printing, insurance, and P.O. Box. We no longer have maintenance for rental storage space. Our membership drive typically costs \$870.

We receive donations from a few outside organizations, including a large one last year from CLEPO for \$13,720. We also receive memorial contributions and realty donations, as well as event and fundraising money. Penni stated our checking account balance is \$18471 and savings account is \$1778. Per the CRC by-laws we are not obligated to send any funds to the Investment Account.

Because we have funds to work with, it was suggested that we donate to struggling families in our communities. We voted to donate \$1000 each, to both Southwick Food Pantry and Suffield Emergency Aid to assist their food banks. This will come out of the general fund.

There was also a suggestion that we reserve some money to help maintain the North Pond Property. With so much economic uncertainty, we should plan on a lean year. Hope for the best, plan on the worst.

Penni and Deb are going to review the budget and come up with a new 2020 budget and send it out for review prior to our next meeting

Membership Drive: Michelle revised the membership forms to update and eliminate repetitive information. Due to the pandemic, we've decided to waive membership dues for financial hardship.

We've also added: Consider volunteering time in lieu of membership dues.

We are offering a Free T shirt for \$100 donation level and a Sweatshirt or Polo for \$250 donation

We are requesting email address on form and have added that we won't sell or share this information.

The decision was made not to do a membership mailing this year, and to send out emails to current members and to post and publicize on social media. A Facebook picture contest, using free advertisement and word of mouth are options to increase our membership, without spending money. We'll revisit mailing membership forms again next year.

250th Anniversary Update: The COVID-19 guidelines will come out May 18th by region, so our plans will be a phasing plan TBD. We should have alternate plans, depending on what the guidelines are for boat parade, car show and cleaning up the lake. If Babb's is closed, we may be able to have 1 band at Saunder's, and the boat parade may be limited to fewer boats. Michelle will talk to Kevin, the Harbormaster to determine his position on how to move forward responsibly and safely.

Light up the Lake: CRC is in charge of securing the drone. Michelle will talk to John Wilson about the flight patterns, restrictions, and permitting. We need to know costs for a commercial drone. Michelle has contact info for the Drone Company from Franklin Land Trust and will contact them as well.

Next Meeting: It would be appropriate to have the harbormaster on to discuss the lake rules and precautions and patrols. Michelle will contact him to see if he will attend. Alternately, we will discuss the accomplishments of CRC. Michelle will ask Ron and Jerry to review and do a summary for next meeting. Michelle will present it if someone can pull it together.

MaryAnn is working on sample T shirts, sweatshirts and hats for purchase.

Cleaning up the Canal needs serious attention this spring. We should try to organize with towns that have machinery and equipment to help. Sandy will reach out to Suffield to see town schedule and pick a date possibly mid-June.

Existing CRC signs are adequate to change meeting location to zoom. MaryAnn will coordinate with Jerry to get them changed and placed around town. Dennis Clark will announce meeting on Channel 15 and Scott will put on Facebook. Michelle will contact John Wilson to decide how to rework and update CRC Facebook page. Deb will get press releases out to Westfield News, The Republican and Penny Saver.

Meeting Adjourned 9:09

ACTION ITEMS:

- Budget
- Harbormaster
- Town of Suffield- Lake Clean up
- Light up Lake- Drone
- Apparel/Signs
- CRC Accomplishments
- Meeting Announcements
- Facebook Page Update
- Organize CRC past files
- January 2021 Apply for Grant from Hartford Foundation of Public Giving