

Citizens Restoring Congamond, Inc.

Minutes of the Open Membership Meeting

April 19, 2016

The Open Membership Meeting of Citizens Restoring Congamond, Inc. was called to order by President Deb Herath at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at Crabby Joe's Restaurant, 141 Congamond Road, Southwick, Massachusetts.

A quorum was established with the following Officers, Directors and members present:

Deb Herath President

Ann Gustafson Treasurer

Jerry Crane President Emeritus

Steve Schmid Technical Advisor

Sharon Jones Hospitality Co-Chair

Sandie MacDowell Hospitality Co-Chair

Rick Seaman Acting Secretary

Those absent:

Kevin Maloney Vice-President

Rob Tatro Secretary

Linda Champagney

Others present: approximately 34 other members and guests.

New Business

President Deb Herath opened the meeting by asking the officers and directors to introduce themselves, and they did so.

Suffield First Selectman Melissa Mack announced that Suffield's Board of Finance has approved funds for the restoration of Babb's Beach, subject to final approval on May 11 at the town meeting, and she hopes that the beach will be open in August. The funds will pay for beach clean-up, lifeguards, signs, etc. On May 21, from 9 a.m to 1 p.m., there will be a beach clean-up and Melissa will be there doing muck-racking. Suffield applied for a state grant of \$280,000 for Babb's Beach but was not selected for the grant, although there is still hope for a future award. Friends of Suffield will provide picnic tables. Melissa will invite the CRC Board to meet to discuss the future of Babb's Beach.

Southwick Police Chief and Harbor Master David Ricardi explained that although Congamond Lakes once was among the highest in the state for accidents, accidents have fallen considerably with increased patrols and are now

much lower. He promised more patrols this summer. He encouraged citizens to report problems by calling 413-569-5348. To leave a message for him, dial that number plus extension 606.

Southwick Selectman Russ Fox noted that a bill to allow David Ricardi to continue for two years beyond the required retirement age is in the legislature and expected to pass. The town budget for water testing and weed control will be discussed at the May 17 meeting. West Springfield and Westfield have been asked to help with lake management since they also have wells in

Southwick. Massachusetts state funds have been approved but may not be available. The North Pond land acquisition funding, originally budgeted at \$1 million, has been cut to \$500,000 and is unlikely to increase. The prospect of acquiring the land doesn't look good.

Treasurer Ann Gustafson reviewed the 2016-17 CRC operating budget totaling \$6,100.

Jerry Crane moved to approve the CRC 2016-17 operating budget for \$6,100. The motion was seconded and passed 36/0.

CLEPO treasurer Christine Pepka provided a history of the lawsuit with Lake Road Materials, the CLEPO court victory and the subsequent appeal by LRM. LRM has applied to raise the appeal to the state Supreme Court but no decision has been rendered. CLEPO needs to raise \$15,000 by the end of summer to fight the appeal. A fund-raising party will be held on May 7 at 8 p.m. at Crabby Joe's, and a golf tournament is being planned.

Ron Greene explained his ideas for another marine swap meet tentatively planned for Saturday, June 18. Donations will be needed, and volunteers will be needed to assist.

Deb Herath called attention to the flyer with information on organic fertilizers and encouraged everyone to consider using organic fertilizers.

Deb Herath asked for feedback on the frequency of CRC summer meetings: monthly or every two or three months. Those speaking supported monthly meetings but starting earlier at 7 p.m. Future meetings will be on the second Tuesday of each month, with the May meeting being on May 10 at 7 p.m. at Crabby Joe's. If attendance is poor, the number of meetings may be reduced.

A question was asked about a dredging machine and it was explained that there were no funds to purchase it.

Another question was asked about milfoil in North Pond. Steve Schmid explained that it was missed last year but that a new weed survey would be conducted on Tuesday, April 26. He explained that only invasive weeds such as milfoil can be treated by CRC; native weeds can be removed by homeowners if they wish. Dennis Clark at the Southwick Conservation Commission is the contact for milfoil sightings. (The phone number is (413) 569-6907.)

Deb Herath noted that the CRC plant sale is April 30 and asked for support for this fund raiser.

Sandie MacDowell asked for suggestions to increase attendance at CRC meeting, and a number of people offered suggestions, including providing pizza and baby sitters at meetings, and starting the meetings earlier.

Steve Schmid noted that he will be showing the movie "Hoot" at Babb's Beach on June 27.

Ron Greene reminded everyone of the Antique and Classic Boat Show at Saunders Boat Livery on Saturday, May 7.

Next Board Meeting

The next open membership meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Crabby Joe's. (The Board will meet starting at 6:00 pm and those interested are welcome to attend.)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Submitted by: Rick Seaman Date: 4/23/2016