



Greater Framingham Running Club

July 11th, 2020 – Bob Cargill hosted the meeting via Zoom.

Attendees

Bob Cargill, Tom Miller, Ted Tyler, Mary Tyler, Mike Carlson, Susin Taylor-Carlson, Joe Koziol, Jackie Judd, Michael Peloso, Edw S. Ginsberg, Amy Pearl, Karin Oleski, Susan Richardson, Arnie Pollinger, Tim Conlin, Drew Giovannini, Carol Leiter, Kevin Greene, Glenn Meister, Tom Abbott, Anita Yip, Jay Powell, Marie Leigh, Eric Jacobsen, Rachel Sortino, Lisa Burgess, Jeff Hattem, Deb Galloway

MONTHLY MEETING:

President (Bob Cargill):

Bob thanked everyone for attending. Bob has been promoting the virtual runs the club has been doing and thinks they are amazing. He thanked everyone who has been organizing those. Bob has learned that it is harder to push himself when he's running alone but is getting better at it.

Bob wants to follow up with the Addiction Referral Center and would like to participate in their fundraiser this year.

Bob will be doing the virtual Boston Marathon this year. He thinks it is a historic event and wants to know who else will be participating. He would also like to discuss options for the annual banquet and wants to remind everyone of the upcoming officer elections in September.

Bob thanked Tom for sending out the newsletter last night.

VP Report (Arnie Pollinger):

Arnie does not think we'll have summer track this year. He hasn't heard anything from Framingham Parks & Rec and is assuming track is cancelled.¹

Arnie posed a question about the format of this year's Boston Lottery. He wanted feedback on how to allocate bib entries for the 2021 Boston Marathon lottery. There are several options

1. Do away with the lottery and give numbers to those who should have run in the 2020 marathon
2. Give winners of the lottery for the 2020 marathon an additional entry (this would equate to two chances in this lottery)

Arnie is against both but would like the club to reach a consensus on how to allocate numbers for the 2021 Boston Marathon lottery.

Karin Oleski asked why Arnie was opposed to the lottery provisions. Arnie thinks that we're all dealing with difficult times, and that everyone should be treated equally because "we're all in the same boat." He is against the second option because we need to decide who is unluckier – those who qualified but couldn't run, or

¹ Summer track was officially cancelled a few days after the July meeting

those who entered and weren't chosen. Also, it came up at the advisory committee meeting in January that people were against the unlucky provision. He thinks we should open the lottery to everyone in the club who has met this year's lottery criteria. Bob Cargill also agrees with Arnie and thinks the runners with bib numbers are lucky to get the option to run virtually this year.

Susin Taylor Carlson felt like this was like the year that was hot, and people were given the option to defer. She thinks the lottery should start *de novo* each year because people take a risk when they enter the lottery. Eric Jacobsen thinks a better analogy is the 2013 bombing. Arnie said that those who didn't finish were given another chance to run in 2014, and it didn't count against the club's lottery.

Mary Tyler asked if anyone who got a number for this year feels very strongly about getting a number for the 2021 Boston Marathon. Deb Galloway said she got a number for the 2020 marathon and agrees with Arnie and Bob. She thinks it is the hand they were dealt, and the lottery should be open to others this year.

Susan Richardson pointed out that we don't know what will happen with the 2021 marathon. We need to consider the possibility that it will be cancelled as well. She doesn't think that the 2020 lottery winners should be treated specially this year. We may want to change the rules in 2021 if the Boston Marathon is cancelled again next year.

Bob asked if we should move this conversation to e-mail or Facebook to get more feedback. Arnie suggested putting out a motion in the newsletter and email for the next meeting. A vote can be held in August following the club's bylaws².

The BAA says that those who complete the virtual marathon will receive a finisher's medal and shirt.

Secretary (Jay Powell):

We received a thank you letter from Genevieve Girard, one of the scholarship winners.

Dear Greater Framingham Running Club,

I'm Genevieve Girard, one of the recipients of the Rich and Chris Chesmore GFRC college scholarship. I wanted to thank you for selecting me for this great honor. Not only will this award help me immensely in my future endeavors, but the sole act of being considered and chosen fills me with joy! Running is such a core piece of my identity that I know I will be doing it for a long time. This award enables me to continue to do so while also pushing myself academically and making a larger impact on the world around me; and for this, I am extremely grateful. So thank you again! I really appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Girard

Membership Director (Mike Gannon):

We welcome:

Freeman	Courtney	Natick
Carter	Saneeyyah	Framingham
Burden	Stacy	Hopkinton
Horrigan	Susan	Westborough
Dmohowski	Karen	Southbridge
McNamera	Maryanne	Ashland

² <http://gfrun.org/constitution/constitution.htm>

McNamera Dan

Ashland

Total Members = **274**

Courtney was added when Sharon Martin renewed her membership. Saneeyyah, Stacy, and Karen joined us via C25K. Susan found us online. Maryanne and Dan found us via Facebook. Maryanne bought a singlet the first day she joined.

Numbers of new members were low during the pandemic, which is understandable, but this past month was very good. It probably had an impact on renewals also, as 50% of that group stayed. The norm is at least 5% higher which explains why we are at 274.

I have been injured most of the year (stress fracture) but my last 2 runs have been good so hopefully I am back. Today we head to Connecticut for vacation, where I will be running in my 18th state.

Treasurer (Marie Leigh):

Marie received a thank you note from Kirsten Harrod, the other scholarship winner.

Dear Marie and GFRC

Thanks very much for awarding me the Rich and Chris Chesmore scholarship. Running has always been a big part of my life. I look forward to running with my peers in college. I will use this money for textbooks and school.

Thank you,

Kirsten Harrod

Reach the Beach is cancelled for this year. Marie will check with Eric Jacobsen to decide what to do with those funds. Eric will investigate the terms and conditions and sync up with Marie offline.

Grand Prix (Tom Abbott, Jeff Hattem, Mary Tyler, Bob Moore, Mark Akeson):

Jeff wants to have a virtual trail race on the weekend of July 25th-26th. He is thinking of making it a 5-miler since we have already had a 5k and 10k. He wants to clarify that it has to be on a trail system. Rail trails don't count. The distance also must be five miles. He will come up with something for August at the next meeting. Jeff is monitoring the availability of fall trail races - unfortunately, a lot of races are being cancelled.

Jeff said the Busa Bushwhack is part of the Grand Tree trail series. Most races in the series have been cancelled. Races later in the fall have not been cancelled yet, but Jeff would be surprised if these races are not cancelled later. He thinks we'll need to re-evaluate the Busa Bushwhack in September and use the other fall races as a guideline. He thinks that if the race happens, it will be with fewer people than in past years. The Bushwhack is still on the Grand Tree race calendar, but we are currently not accepting applications. Bob Cargill suggested discussing the Bushwhack in August as well.

Karen Oleski suggested having a Bushwhack event for club members only if we must cancel the race. She said we could still run in Callahan, but stagger start times so people can distance appropriately. Jeff said he ran a pre-shutdown race early in March that staggered start times to keep people appropriately distanced. Bob thinks we should do something for the Busa Bushwhack, even if we cannot run the race normally this year. Susan Richardson said she has been receiving emails about a race in New Hampshire that is using staggered start times. Bob suggested setting up a committee to plan alternatives for the Bushwhack to ensure that something happens this year. Mary Tyler said that the Greater Lowell Running club was tentatively planning a trail race with 50 people allowed on the course, and the rest running virtually elsewhere. Ted Tyler said any

staggered start would need to take a runner's pace into account, so that the trails do not get clogged with people trying to pass each other.

Newsletter (Tom Miller):

Tom sent out the newsletter last night. He said we are maintaining the length and substance of the newsletter. He has been having a hard time finding good pictures to add to the newsletter because the pictures for virtual runs do not make for very entertaining news. If you have an opportunity on a run to take pictures of your course, feel free to submit them to Tom, and he would be happy to put them in the newsletter. Tom would also like a way to document the results of the virtual races in the newsletter.

Web (Michael Peloso and Abby McCabe):

No report.

Social Media Director (Leslie White-Harvey and Susin Taylor Carlson):

Susin thanked everyone who has been posting virtual race results to the Facebook page. She has been trying to get everyone involved and posting to social media.

Uniforms (Michelle Schatz and Jackie Judd):

We sold one hat and a women's singlet. We have 6 shirts on backorder, so we will put in an order. Jackie and Michelle would like to place an order for GFRC branded running buffs, starting at \$15 each, with some of the proceeds going to a charity for first responders.

Activities (Susin Taylor-Carlson and Drew Giovannini):

The banquet is tentatively scheduled for October 4th, but that date is not binding. Massachusetts guidelines still recommend having 25 people or less gathered indoors. Drew and Susin have had conversations trying to figure out what the banquet might look like in the pandemic era but have not finalized anything. They have not been able to find a venue because most places are not taking reservations for large parties. They have identified some candidate venues that meet our budget and will pursue those if state guidelines allow for larger gatherings. We will also need to figure out who will be willing to go to an in-person banquet.

Susin thanked everyone who took part in the virtual races (42 club members participated in the last race). She thinks people have been doing well. Susin is not sure when the next virtual road race will be.

Jeff Hatem said we are considering a new type of activity for August. It is a type of bingo game with different types of running workouts/activities. The idea originally came from the Central Mass Striders but we could create a customized bingo card for our club. Jeff thinks it could apply to activities or the Grand Prix. The bingo game could be turned into a contest. Jeff was thinking we could have a different winner each week in the month of August, where each winner gets a prize. If someone completes the entire bingo card in the month of August, it will count as a Grand Prix race. People would be encouraged to post pictures to Facebook.

Jay Powell