



Greater Framingham Running Club

May 4th, 2020 – Bob Cargill hosted the meeting via Zoom.

Attendees

Bob Cargill, Tom Miller, Joe Koziol, Susin Taylor Carlson, Edw S Ginsberg, Michael Peloso, Mike Gannon, Arnie Pollinger, Phyllis Lowry, Michelle Schatz, Jackie Judd, Wendy Akeson, Drew Giovannini, Scott Pettingell, Abby McCabe, Michelle Diamond, Jeff Hattem, Kevin Greene, Cindy Moore, Amy Pearl, Mike Bower, Marie Leigh, Deb Galloway, Bob Moore, Ted Tyler, Mary Tyler, Judy Levine, Susin Richardson, John Joyce, Sharon Martin, Vivian Smith, Lisa Burgess, Mike Carlson, Carol Leiter, Steve Galloway, Vernon Turner, Jay Powell

MONTHLY MEETING:

President (Bob Cargill):

Bob said the pandemic has turned our lives upside down and forcing us to do things alone. Bob enjoyed the virtual 5k last week; he felt like he was participating in a team event. He would like to see us do more virtual runs during the pandemic.

We will have a vote on changing the marathon lottery today. He would also like to discuss contingency plans for the Busa Bushwhack.

Bob likes the Zoom meetings – he thinks we get better participation with these meetings.

VP Report (Arnie Pollinger):

The Framingham Department of Parks and Recreation is waiting for guidance from the CDC and state government to decide if summer track will be allowed this year. Arnie is personally pessimistic about summer track - he doesn't think it would work with social distancing.

The scholarship committee met after the April meeting and decided to extend the scholarship deadline to May 31st. It seemed like the right thing to do given the extenuating circumstances. Since then we have received one half of an application that is missing a coach's recommendation.

Secretary (Jay Powell):

We received a partial scholarship application. We now have two incomplete applications awaiting recommendations from coaches.

Membership Director (Mike Gannon):

We welcome:

Rose Hannah Framingham

Tosi Joseph Framingham

Tosi Jessica Framingham

Tosi Alex Framingham

Tosi Brian Framingham

Diamond Michelle Framingham

Hannah is the daughter of Mari Rose. The Tosi family members were added when Michelle renewed. Michelle Diamond is the first of the new c25k members to join GFRC.

Other

Thanks to Judy Levine for helping with getting the word out on renewals!! Thanks to all the members who have renewed so far!! 103 other memberships expired on April 1st. At the risk of sounding like a broken record again, only 34% have renewed vs the norm of 55%. I will be purging in a few weeks.

Two very generous anonymous members have offered to pay for some memberships if that's a consideration for anyone. They just need to give me a heads up, and I won't share their intentions. I have offered this, and just wonder if I need to state it better since no interest so far.

Discussion

Mike will not be postponing the membership purge until June, because then it becomes a long, toilsome process. Mike asked how best to phrase the wording of a letter offering membership donations. Phyllis Lowry suggested calling it a hardship membership, however Mike didn't like the phrasing. Deb Galloway suggested calling it a gift membership, which Mike liked. Drew Giovannini suggested paying double membership next year and skipping it this year. Sharon Martin suggested calling it a quarantine membership. Joe Koziol suggested skipping the purge this year. Michelle Diamond suggested having a pinned announcement on Facebook. Mike said that pinned Facebook posts disappear after the first viewing, and only reappear after someone comments on the post. Someone suggested sending a separate e-mail offering a gift membership, which Mike liked. Mike Bower asked if we should post-pone the purge until after social distancing restrictions are removed, because people probably aren't thinking about running clubs at the moment.

Treasurer (Marie Leigh):

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

The Wallum Lake trail race scheduled for May 16th was cancelled. Jeff would like to make that a virtual Grand Prix race instead. Jeff was planning to schedule the Wachusett Mountain race for May 23rd but it was cancelled as well. Jeff and Tom were going to plan the Mural Mile as a Grand Prix race, but that race has been cancelled.

We had great participation on the virtual Grand Prix race in April. People who participated in the virtual race will get Grand Prix participation points.

You need to compete in a combined 11 races from the road and trail Grand Prix series to receive the annual prize. We have 23 people that have finished at least 8 Grand Prix events. Jeff is planning on having two virtual races in May, so people that have completed 9 races to date can still finish the Grand Prix series if they do the two virtual races in May.

Forty-three people ran the virtual race next week. Jeff said the times do not matter because everyone is running a different course, it is only the participation points that count.

The Grand Prix series for June does not look good – a lot of races are being cancelled, postponed, or hosted virtually. Susan Richardson said that we've received notice that the Sharon Timlin race will be virtual. The Framingham Police Chase was cancelled.

Bob said we may have to rethink how the next Grand Prix series will be coordinated. We may need a different method for scoring and ranking people, especially if most races will be cancelled through next winter.

Newsletter (Tom Miller):

Please send Tom content in the next week if you would like it added to the next newsletter. Any information on the coronavirus would be great to include as well. Tom ran across some articles on the internet that he may add to the newsletter. He is hoping to get a newsletter out in the next week.

Mike Gannon recommended putting today's Zoom meeting picture in the newsletter.

Bob Cargill thought it might be interesting to comment on the virtual races in the newsletter.

Web (Michael Peloso and Abby McCabe):

We found and fixed an issue with the club's mailing list. The issue was on our host provider's end when they transitioned to new e-mail distribution software. We can now add a maximum of 300 e-mail addresses to the club's mailing list.

Michael also received a request from Michelle Schatz to edit the uniform section of the webpage. The updates have been completed.

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

Susin thanked everyone for making the first virtual race a success. Susin thanked people for being patient with the glitches that occurred. Susin thinks we can do the next virtual races on the days Grand Prix races were originally scheduled. Ted asked if we could be flexible with virtual race days so that it is easier to comply with social distancing. He and Mary run at Cushing park, which is often crowded on Saturdays. Jeff said we can be flexible with the dates for future virtual events and may not require everyone to complete the virtual race on the same day.

Let Susin know if you have any ideas for other virtual events.

Uniforms (Michelle Schatz and Jackie Judd):

Michelle and Jackie are in limbo now because of the pandemic. They advertised club gear to the folks participating in the virtual C25k event. They are not anticipating many uniform sales while non-essential businesses are closed.

Activities (Susin Taylor-Carlson and Drew Giovannini):

Drew thanked Susin for her work on social media engagement and the virtual races.

Drew has been working with Marie Leigh and Susin on the annual banquet. They are considering having the banquet on October 4th. They are in the initial stages of planning and looking into a venue. They would like to put a planning committee together for the banquet. Please let Susin or Drew know if you would like to join the planning committee.

The next virtual social night will be May 15th at 6:30pm on Zoom.

Other Business:

Marathon Lottery

The advisory committee last met in January and proposed several recommendations.

First recommendation

The GFRC's Invitational Entry Lottery will change from its current system (weighted by volunteer credits) to a new system whereby all entrants receive one (1) chance in the lottery. Lottery eligibility would be x participation activities (two of which must be for volunteering) for 2020, 10 participation activities in a normal year.

The new lottery format was accepted by acclamation.

Second recommendation

We can also discuss when the club should make a final decision of how many participation activities should be the minimum required for this year. Originally, the AC recommended 10, but given the current pandemic situation which has reduced opportunities for participation, the number should be less than 10 for this year. I'd recommend we decide on a new number by the September meeting.

Arnie would like feedback prior to the September meeting on what the correct participation amount should be so he can finalize the rules for the 2021 Boston Marathon drawing. That will give us time to see if club events happen this summer. Mike Bower also questioned whether the 'two volunteering activity' requirement for this year should also be looked at given the limited volunteer opportunities we are presented with.

E-mail from Mark Goldschmidt

So far, our virtual C25k is going well with twenty-five active members. The participants and GFRC mentors are currently using a private Facebook page to communicate. Mark thanks the mentors for their work. The C25k target race is the Sharon Timlin virtual 5k on Saturday June 20th. Kendra Howard is offering an extension program for anyone who would like to run a 10k or half marathon.

Judy Levine said there will be a Zoom call tomorrow night for the C25k program.

Jay Powell