



## Greater Framingham Running Club

**September 12th, 2020 – Bob Cargill** hosted the meeting via Zoom.

### *Attendees*

*Bob Cargill, Mike Bower, Ted Tyler, Mary Tyler, Kevin Greene, Rich Busa, Leslie White Harvey, Carleigh-Ann Harvey, Abby McCabe, Cindy Moore, Jackie Judd, Jeanne Bizzoco, Amy Bizzoco, Judy Levine, Mike Gannon, Rachel Sortino, Rob Levine, Susin Taylor Carlson, Mike Carlson, Tim Conlin, Tom Miller, Wendy Akeson, Wendy Rieder, Drew Giovannini, Tom Abbott, Jay Powell, Barbara Cargill, Vivian Smith, Vernon Turner, Stacy Burden, Teresa Burke, Edw S. Ginsberg, Susan Richardson, Jeff Hattem, Eric Jacobsen, Bob Moore, Carol Leiter, Kendra Howard, Arianna Moore, Arnie Pollinger, Marie Leigh*

### **MONTHLY MEETING:**

#### **President (Bob Cargill):**

Bob recently posted a video about love and kindness that he encourages people to view. Bob enjoyed his four years as president. He hopes everyone is staying safe, happy, and healthy during these difficult days. He wanted to thank everyone for their support during his tenure as the club's president. He will miss being at the helm. He loves being in a leadership position but thinks it is time for new people to take on new responsibilities. He is glad to step aside and let new people take over.

He thanks everyone on the club's advisory committee and gives thanks to all our volunteers and our 275 members. Bob also gives special thanks to Arnie Pollinger for his tremendous support (who has also been an officer for 18 consecutive years). He wants to call attention to the diversity and inclusion statement that was posted to the club website recently, and thanked Leslie White Harvey for bringing those issues to the club's attention. He endorses Leslie for the role of Vice President. He wants the club to actively increase its diversity. He wants everyone to know how seriously he has taken his responsibilities as club president during the last four years.

#### *The Close of Bob's Opening Speech*

I've given you my all and my very, very best and I care deeply about each and every one of you. I stand for love and kindness, positivity and optimism, lifting people up and celebrating their victories. I stand for motivation and inspiration, one for all and all for one. I stand for peace and love, collaboration and unity. I'm proud of all we have accomplished together over the course of the last four years and if on the way there have been any missteps by any one of us, I'm confident that we have all had only the very best intentions in mind on behalf of the greater good of our club. We are all in this together. We have each other's backs. We are a team. And teamwork makes the dream work. Thank you.

#### **VP Report (Arnie Pollinger):**

Arnie thanked Bob for four outstanding years as a great club president. He thinks Bob is one of the most upbeat and inspirational people he has ever met.

Arnie wanted to bring up a couple of points that were brought up at the last meeting and address club policy. At summer track a few years ago a parent said they were uncomfortable having us post their child's image on social media. As a club, we decided that we could no longer post children's images on the club's social media platforms without express parental permission. Arnie worked closely with Tricia Powell at Framingham Parks and Rec to redo the summer track signup form. The form now states that parents automatically give authorization to post photos of children on social media unless they opt-out.

Arnie also wants to note that the task of administering the lottery automatically falls under the purview of the president. The president is responsible for being the face of the club to the entire community. When Derek Perkins took over as president, he asked Arnie to administer the lottery. All successive presidents have asked Arnie to administer it as well. He will no longer administer the lottery, leaving that to the new president, or whomever they choose to do so. Of sixteen people in the last lottery, he had to disqualify claimed volunteer activities for seven of those people (including all three people who received automatic entries). Some volunteer activities were claimed that had not been approved by the club. In the interest of fairness, it is up to the club to decide what activities are approved for the marathon lottery.

Previously the club voted to change the requirements for entering the marathon lottery. Ten participation points are now required to be eligible for the lottery<sup>1</sup>. The club will vote today to reduce the 2020 marathon lottery activity requirement from ten to seven because of limited participation opportunities brought on by the pandemic. Arnie moved to vote on this change. The motion was seconded and approved by acclamation.

Mike Bower asked if there would still be a minimum volunteer requirement. Arnie said that the minimum volunteer credits are two, which was voted on in the May meeting<sup>1</sup>.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve this running club.

**Secretary (Jay Powell):**

I have been working with Tim Conlin to transfer secretarial duties. Tim will be great as the new secretary.

**Membership Director (Mike Gannon):**

No new members.

Total members = 275

Mike thanked Arnie and Bob for their work.

**Treasurer (Marie Leigh):**

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

*Trail Series*

Jeff thanked Bob and Arnie for their contributions to the club.

The virtual races have had great participation and Jeff has been pleased to see so many trail runners. There is a new virtual event on the weekend of September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. It will be the Happy Trails to Summer 5k trail run. The run must take place on a trail system. Please take a photo of the course and your watch and post it to

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<sup>1</sup> [http://gfrun.org/minutes/2020/gfrc\\_may20\\_web.pdf](http://gfrun.org/minutes/2020/gfrc_may20_web.pdf)

social media. Jeff must like the post for it to be accepted as a Grand Prix race. If Jeff does not accept the course, then you will need to go out and run the 5k again.

The Merrimack river trail race is tentatively scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>, but Jeff expects it to be cancelled because the state of Massachusetts is not allowing organized races until we reach stage 4. There is an event on October 25<sup>th</sup> in Cumberland Rhode Island called the F.I.T. TrailFecta, which is a series of three races taking place on October 25<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving, and December 6<sup>th</sup>. The first race will utilize a rolling start time to maintain social distancing and will include distances of 5k, 5 mile, or multi-lap rules. Jeff said we need to discuss making it a Grand Prix. He wants to see if people will show up to those races. The races can be run virtually but must be paid for. If you do that option, you can get credit for running the race, but they can't do age grading. The trails are very runnable and not too technical. A concern was raised that anyone who travels to Rhode Island must quarantine when re-entering Massachusetts. Because of the quarantine mandate, the club will most likely not make the F.I.T. TrailFecta a Grand Prix race.

The Busa Bushwhack was officially cancelled to maintain compliance with Massachusetts pandemic regulations. All races in Grand Tree series have been cancelled except for a couple of races in Connecticut.

### *Road series*

We have the Flutie 5k and Purple Passion virtual races this month. There will have a half marathon and 5k in October. A GFRC team has been created for the Flutie 5k and Purple Passion races.

### **Newsletter (Tom Miller):**

Tom sent out the newsletter last night. He thanked Bob and Arnie for their work. Please send Tom any articles or pictures you would like included in the newsletter.

### **Web (Michael Peloso and Abby McCabe):**

Jay read Michael's report.

Michael is running the virtual Boston marathon and cannot attend today's meeting. The website is in good shape – Michael is coordinating with Marie regarding the club's credit card being updated in advance of our renewal.

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

All Grand Prix races have moved to social media. Susin is working on getting our name out there so that we get new members when we exit the pandemic.

### **Uniforms (Michelle Schatz and Jackie Judd):**

We have everything fully automated now. The website order forms are working great. We are ready to transition responsibilities to the next person.

### **Activities (Susin Taylor-Carlson and Drew Giovannini):**

All activities have been virtual because of the pandemic. Drew thanked Susin's efforts for putting together all the virtual races.

### **Other business**

#### *Election (Arnie Pollinger)*

#### ***Vice President election***

For just the third time in the last 20 years, the GFRC will have a contested election for an elected officer position. Old-timers will remember the most highly contested GFRC election was back in the year 2000 when

we had a vote for President. Ken Barrett won that contested election and went on to serve as club President for the next five years.

About five years later we had another contested election for Grand Prix Director, and around that same time we had a contested election for Activities Director. This is the first one in about 15 years. In accordance with the GFRC's historical practice for contested elections, all voting for this year's contested election will be by private ballot.

Leslie White Harvey and Cindy Moore are both candidates for Vice President. Each candidate has been asked to give a two-minute speech. People may also speak on behalf of each candidate for one minute.

### *Leslie's speech*

Leslie has been in the club for six years, done a lot of volunteer work, run several marathons, and raised a lot of money for various charities. Leslie was confused about voting process and thought the rules should be clarified prior to the vote. Due to systemic issues within the club, Leslie has decided to withdraw her name for consideration for the Vice President position.

### *Cindy's speech*

We are living in an unprecedented time in the world. And I am a middle class white woman running against a Woman of Color. We all know and truly believe that BLM. We all want to do what is right for the club, for the country, and for our own hearts.

Some of you may feel that you have been called out or alienated in the past by Leslie and I know that she feels the same. I am now just starting to comprehend this systemic issue, and that she has felt that way for much of her life in so many areas. I am sorry for that.

I ask, Leslie, that you patiently help us to learn more. I know that you have many ideas, and that you have put in many years in different positions as a valuable member of the club.

I want to do the right thing. Putting in my name to run for VP made me incredibly excited. I joined the club 4 years ago as an official member. As a runner. I've actually been a member for longer than that (with Bob), but I definitely was not any kind of runner before then. In my time here, I've been a Couch 25k mentor since the program inception 3 years ago, I've volunteered at Busa, and at the marathon. I've had tons of fun at many races with you all.

As a teacher in the district, I am a founding member and am always on the board of the Barbieri 5k. I have many ideas about how to include the GFRC in schools' 5k events throughout Framingham.

However you vote today, I appreciate the opportunity here for both of us.

### *Supporting speeches*

Abby McCabe spoke on Leslie's behalf to support her for the Vice President position. She thinks Leslie is very supportive of everyone and has done a lot of good for the club. She thinks it is important for everyone in the club to listen to Leslie and learn from her experiences.

Tim Conlin urged Leslie to reconsider and keep her name in for the Vice President position. Edw S Ginsberg suggested having a virtual Vice President. Bob Cargill pointed out that we can have two Vice Presidents on this slate. Wendy Akesson added her support for Leslie running for Vice President.

Leslie reconsidered her decision to withdraw and will once again run for Vice President.

Jackie Judd spoke on behalf of Cindy. She got her first glimpse of Cindy's passion for running when she joined the C25k program last year. She thinks Cindy will be supportive of everyone in the club.

Bob Moore also spoke up for Cindy. He thinks Cindy is a very motivating person. He spoke highly of both Cindy's and Leslie's characters.

Votes were cast to Jay Powell via private Zoom messages, text, and e-mail. A total of 38 votes were received. Leslie received 10 votes and Cindy received 28 votes. Cindy was elected the new Vice President.

### ***Non-contested officer positions***

The vote for the non-contested officer positions took place while the votes for the Vice President position were tabulated. The following slate of officers is up for approval by acclamation.

President – Susin Carlson

Secretary – Tim Conlin

Treasurer – Marie Leigh

Membership Director – Mike Gannon

Grand Prix Directors – Tom Abbott and Jeff Hattem

Newsletter Editor – Tom Miller

Web Director – Michael Peluso\*

Social Media Directors – Susin Carlson (or Vacant)

Uniform Director – Wendy Rieder

Activities Director – Susin Carlson

\* Rachel Sortino may be taking over as Web Director in November, subject to time availability.

The vote was approved by acclamation.

### *Transition of Responsibilities*

Susin ended the meeting as the new president. Susin thinks there is a lot of pain in the club but wants to remind everyone that at the end of the day, this is a running club. She thinks people are looking to run and socialize, and she plans to focus on those aspects of the club. She takes her new role as president seriously. She also takes diversity and inclusion seriously and will focus on those going forward. She views summer track as a base for increasing diversity in the club.

Cindy thanked everyone for their support.

### *Other Business (Mike Bower)*

Please contact Mike Bower if you are interested in joining the club's virtual Reach the Beach team for their virtual relay on the weekend of September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Jay Powell*