



Greater Framingham Running Club

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

Attendees

Bob Cargill, Arnie Pollinger, Joe Koziol, Edw. S. Ginsberg, Karin Oleski, Drew Giovannini, Scott Pettingell, Amy Bizzoco, Jeannie Bizzoco, Mike Gannon, Tom Miller, Susan Richardson, Mark Goldschmidt, Jeff Hattem, Ted Tyler, Mary Tyler, Leslie White Harvey, Vivian Smith, Kevin Greene (via Maine), Judy Levine, Susin Taylor Carlson, Mike Carlson, Michael Peloso, Wendy Akeson, Cindy Moore, Bob Moore, Vernon Turner, Marie Leigh, Deb Galloway, Steve Galloway, Carol Leiter, Abby McCabe

MONTHLY MEETING:

President (Bob Cargill):

Bob welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting, and thinks it is the club's first ever virtual meeting. Cindy and Bob Moore were originally scheduled to host the meeting. Bob wishes everyone well and extends condolences to Jerry Rubin and his family for the recent death of his mother due to complications from COVID-19.

All our events will be virtual until further notice.

VP Report (Arnie Pollinger):

The 26x1 mile relay is still on for June 13th though it may still be cancelled. Arnie asked if it was worth beginning the recruiting process for a team, and those present encouraged him to do so.

We received two female applications and a partial male application. We are waiting for the coach's recommendation for the male. If that does not come in, then we may award both scholarships to the female applicants. Karin Oleski believes the committee should award the male the scholarship even if we don't receive a coach's recommendation. Arnie emphasized that the final decision was up to the committee, but that the suggestion would be taken into consideration. After the meeting, the Scholarship Committee decided to extend the deadline to May 15 due to all of the school closures.

At the January advisory committee meeting, the committee recommended that in May we will vote on the advisory committee's recommendation to change the Boston Marathon lottery from a volunteer point system to participation only, with all entrants receiving one chance. We may move to a participation point based system, where the definition of participation point will need to be flushed out. Note that the club is maintaining a requirement of at least 2 volunteerings as part of the participation requirement.

We will have minimal participation points to award this month due to the pandemic. That is, today's meeting may be the only available participation point.

Vernon Turner thinks that if we're looking to vote on a new lottery system, we should find a way to vote that is accessible for everyone. Vernon thinks we should relax the voting rules a little bit given extenuating circumstances. Bob agrees that we should be accommodating for the vote in May. Karin Oleski suggested that the morning of the meeting, have people call officers and register their vote. Leslie White Harvey suggested

calling the zoom phone number and voting. Marie Leigh doesn't think we'll need to do an actual role call but figure out if people are in general agreement.

Arnie thinks the vote should take place during the meeting. If you have trouble accessing the meeting, then you should call or text Bob with your vote either right before or right after the meeting. There should be a time limit for when people can vote.

Secretary (Jay Powell):

We received two and a half scholarship applications. Two female applications have been submitted to the scholarship committee. We're waiting on a coach's recommendation for a male application.

Treasurer (Marie Leigh):

Membership renewals started last month. The mid-year review will be ready at the May meeting.

Membership Director (Mike Gannon):

We welcome:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Robertson | Ryan | Ashland |
| Rickert | Julianne | Milford |
| McDonald | Michael | Framingham |

Total members will be posted in June once again when the renewal process is over.

Ryan came to us via Bill Robertson when he renewed his family membership. Susin and Mike Carlson renewed and added their son Michael. Julianne came to us via a patient recommendation.

The renewal process is underway. Thanks to those who renewed so far!! We started off with 178 members to be renewed, and I am hoping to hear from 138 people / 94 families soon. Please renew today and the rates are below.

| Years | Individual | Family |
|-------|------------|--------|
| 1 | \$25 | \$30 |
| 3 | \$54 | \$69 |
| 5 | \$75 | \$100 |

Discussion

Judy Levine volunteered to follow up with people who need to renew. She suggested that with the current economy, renewal could be difficult for some. Leslie White Harvey suggested extending the renewal deadline for everybody. Karin Oleski suggested e-mailing people after the deadline, and ask if they need an extended deadline due to economic conditions. Mike doesn't want to extend the deadline to avoid a flood of late payments. In the past, he talks individually with people who aren't renewing to determine the reason. Mike would handle late renewals on a case-by-case while Leslie thinks we shouldn't make exceptions and instead treat everyone the same. Judy suggested finding a compromise that meets the club's financial needs but is cognizant of people's possible financial difficulties. Mike says one of the issues he has is that some people never respond to any outreach efforts.

Bob suggested creating a video saying that the club is supportive of people during trying times. Mike suggested Bob do a weekly video to help people feel less isolated.

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

We haven't had any Grand Prix races since our last meeting. We will probably not have any more Grand Prix races this series. The Grand Prix page on the website is up to date, and standings are unlikely to change. Both trail races were either postponed or cancelled. The Merrimack race was postponed and the TARC Spring Classic race was cancelled. The Merrimack is also a USATF race and will be the last Merrimack river race. Jeff is thinking about putting the Merrimack race on the honor system, and a person could run the fall TARC classic separately. The Wallum Lake trail race on May 15th has not been cancelled yet, though Jeff is expecting it to get cancelled.

The JB Blastoff has been postponed to October 4th. Jeff suggested that we let people run a virtual 5k on their own, where they complete a 5k and post a picture of their running watch or phone as evidence. This could count as a Grand Prix race in either April or May.

Newsletter (Tom Miller):

Tom hasn't sent out a newsletter yet because of the pandemic and other competing obligations. He would like to publish it in the next few days. Please let Tom know if you would like to contribute to the next newsletter.

Web (Michael Peloso and Abby McCabe):

All activities have been pulled from the front page and the calendar has been cleared. We had a brief outage in mid-March (about 12 hours) while the hosting provider did some maintenance. There may have been some temporary data loss during the outage, but everything has been restored now.

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

Susin has been posting daily questions to the club's Facebook page to help keep people entertained. Susin is thinking of ways to help keep people connected and is also thinking of having a virtual cocktail hour.

Uniforms (Michelle Schatz and Jackie Judd):

No report.

Activities (Susin Taylor-Carlson and Drew Giovannini):

Drew applauded Susin for all her social media posts.

In person meetings and events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Drew and Susin have new ideas ready for when the social isolation restrictions have been lifted.

Susin is on board with a day of virtual races. Vivian Smith suggested using Strava to engage the club during the pandemic.

All of our monthly meetings for the year have been booked, assuming we'll be able to resume those at some point.

Other Business:

Judy Levine is happy to help people access Zoom.

Rich Busa's granddaughter is doing some charity work and would like neckties or shirts for those who are less fortunate.

Mark Goldschmidt is thinking of posting the C25k training plan on his personal Facebook page so that people can follow it. Susin also recommended finding ways for the club to support a virtual C25k program. Mark said

that the hardest part of the C25k program is attracting participants and finding ways to motivate them. Mark asked if the club would be supportive of a virtual C25k program. Please let Mark know if you would like to mentor someone virtually. Susin said that we wouldn't charge for a virtual C25k program but hopes it would motivate people to join the club. Drew Giovannini said that he was here today because of Mark's leadership and said he would be willing to help encourage people to participate.

Bob said that we should acknowledge social distancing in any communications sent out. Leslie White Harvey said we should have a blanket statement about the pandemic on our Facebook page. Bob encouraged the social media directors to pin a statement to the club's Facebook page.

Jay Powell