



GHS Cross Country Track Booster Club
Monthly Meeting Tuesday, August 17th, 2021 @ 6:30 pm
Dunn State Park 28 Pearl Street, Gardner, MA 01440

Attendees:

Members Present: Sarah Meunier, Tom Johnson (Vice President), Rachel Johnson (Treasurer), Carrie Powers (President), Justice Graves (Secretary)

Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Powers calls the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

A. Monthly Meeting Minutes of June 1st, 2021

Secretary Graves made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting on June 1st, 2021 and to accept them as printed. Vice President Johnson seconds. So voted unanimously viva voce.

III. President/Treasurer Reports

Carrie Powers reported that we received the full funds from the Club's triathlon volunteering effort. Rachel Johnson reported the current balances in all Club accounts.

IV. GHS, GMS Coaches Updates/Team Needs

None available. No coaches were present at the meeting. Cross Country has not yet started in the High School or Middle School.

V. President's/Board's Appointments

A. Race Directors and Clerk of Committees

Justice Graves made notice that Matt McDermott had sent an email in response his nomination to the one of our Race Directors within this agenda item as set forth by the Board. While while he appreciated the nomination to continue as a Race Director, he respectfully declined the nomination. Justice Graves had forwarded said email to the rest of the Board. The Board concurred that they would not re-appoint him to the position as requested.

Vice President Johnson made a motion to appoint Candee Graves as a Race Director of the Booster Club for a term to expire on July 31st, 2022, and to appoint Justice Graves as the Clerk for all Committees of the Booster Club for a term to expire on July 31st, 2022. Treasurer Johnson seconds.



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Roll call: Mr. Johnson: yes; Ms. Johnson: yes; Mr. Graves: yes; Ms. Powers: yes; So voted unanimously.

Notes: Two (2) vacancies remain available for the GMS Chairperson positions. One (1) vacancy remains available for being one of our Race Directors. Any parents interested please contact President Carrie Powers.

VI. Ongoing Business

A. Wildcat 5k Financial Report Presentation

Justice Graves, in lieu of Candee presenting due to being absent at the meeting, gave a brief reading and overview of the contents of the Wildcat 5k Report. The 4th Annual running of the race in 2021 had produced our second most successful iteration of the vent – both in terms of raw participation numbers and final fundraising profits – making it just behind the first running of the event since it's inception and first showing in 2018.

Justice Graves made special notice of the recommendation by the Race Director that the Club transfer roughly half of the profits from the event into the General Account now, and then the other half of the profits later, during the winter at the start of 2022, be transferred to the General Account. The intent is to spread out the funds from the race in order to supplement materials and awards for the student-athletes for the entire year. The remaining funding in the Wildcat 5k Account should be left as start-up funds for the next annual running of the event.

Secretary Graves made a motion to accept the Wildcat 5k Financial Report and Presentation written by Candee Graves, our Race Director for the Wildcat 5k, as presented. Vice President Johnson seconds. So voted unanimously viva voce.

Sarah Meunier asked who would be responsible for making sure the event was properly booked with the District. Justice Graves explained if there was no word back from the Athletic Director in a month or so, he and Candee would either re-file an application to use the grounds of Gardner Public Schools to Mr. Forte directly, or they would go to the Superintendent, Dr. Mark Pellegrino.



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VII. New Business

- A. Re-establishment of the Executive Committee, as described in “*Article VIII - Executive Committee*” of the by-laws

Justice Graves explained that this was discussed as being necessary during the Officer’s Transition Meeting, in case of the need to discuss any emergency related to the Club in a Closed-Door Session.

Secretary Graves made a motion to appoint the following people as members of the Executive Committee of the GHS XC Track Booster Club, as described in Art. VIII of the by-laws, for terms that will each expire on July 31st, 2022:

- *Tom Johnson*
- *Rachel Johnson*
- *Justice Graves*

Treasurer Johnson seconds.

Roll call: Mr. Johnson: yes; Ms. Johnson: yes; Mr. Graves: yes; Ms. Powers: yes; So voted unanimously.

Note: According to the by-laws the President automatically serves as Advisor of the Executive Committee. The President cannot vote within the Executive Committee.

- B. Authorize the Secretary of the Club to post meeting agendas and minutes on the Booster Club’s Website (agendas and minutes will still be sent out via email)

Justice Graves explained that he desired to place the meeting minutes and agendas out on the Club’s website, in part to provide further transparency to outsiders looking at the Club’s activities, but also because he believes it shows more professionalism on the part of the Club. He made note that this suggestion was made in part because of the issue of the IRS database being down, meaning that while the Club was legally compliant, no member of the general public could check if their charity status was up to date and or active, and was concerned the Club needed to appear to be active in order to draw in sponsors in the near future should this issue continue.



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Vice President Johnson made a motion to authorize the Secretary of the Booster Club to post and upload the meeting agendas and meeting minutes onto the Booster Club's Website, while still maintaining and requiring they email out the agendas and minutes as described in the by-laws. President Powers seconds. So voted unanimously viva voce.

C. Back-To-School Festival at Watkins Field from 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Carrie Powers had contacted and called the Superintendent's Office multiple times since the Officer's Transition Meeting, and has heard nothing back from them in regards to if they are having the annual fesitval, or not.

Sarah Meunier reported that Superintendent, Dr. Mark Pellegrino, met with the Safety Committee of the City of Gardner in a closed door session to collect reccomendations for what COVID-19 precautions should be at the event (if any), and or if the event should be held in the first place. There was a general sense some measures would be in place, but an unease as to whether the event would take place at all.

The Fesitval is usually a good time to collect interested parents who may be curious if there is a support system for our sport. That support system, of course, is our Club, who usually is in attendance to give parents helpful information before the start of the Cross Country season, etc. Justice Graves volunteered to run the Club's table at the Festival, having done it in the past.

D. Discussion of Consolidation/Action regarding existing Social Media accounts

A discussion took place regarding the amount of Facebook pages and messenger groups the Club has active. It was generally agreed that the pages should not be deleted, but labeled as being "retired," and for it to be made clear which is the main Social Media account for the Club. Justice Graves will work on re-labelling the desired accounts over the course of the next month.

E. Discussion of setting-up a possible Car Wash Fundraiser during the Fall of 2021

There was a discussion that a Car Wash Fundraiser run by the Johnson family be planned during the month of September. It was agreed it should be (as it traditionally has been) at the AutoZone Auto Parts store in Gardner. Sarah Meunier asked, as to clarify if all necessary materials were available, such as having a hose splitter. Tom Johnson replied the store provided everything, except a hose splitter, which his family has.



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Justice Graves brought up it was typical for a small budget to be authorized for the event so that those running it can provide either a small amount of coffee and donuts to the volunteers, or a pizza or two. An amount was decided upon for the motion.

Secretary Graves made a motion to authorize Tom and Rachel Johnson to plan, coordinate, and schedule with AutoZone Auto Parts in the City of Gardner and with the Directors of the Booster Club a Car Wash Fundraiser, that shall be held sometime between August 18th, 2021 and October 31st, 2021, with a set budget allocated for said fundraiser. Sarah Meunier seconds. So voted unanimously viva voce.

F. Discussion regarding other fundraising ideas

Sarah Meunier mentioned that the Music Boosters are doing a Wendy's Fundraiser. It may be nice to do something like that.

Justice Graves mentioned doing a potential fundraiser during our "low" fundraising season at the 99 Restaurant (reason being it being popular, etc.).

Rachel Johnson mentioned doing a calendar raffle fundraiser in the Spring. She mentioned a plan to doing canning for change at Rietta Ranch as a possible fundraising campaign as well. Tom Johnson had mentioned setting up a table at Rietta Ranch. Carrie Powers liked the idea, but warned to make sure those who donated materials to be sold at a Rietta Ranch fundraiser should be collected by those who brought them if they weren't sold. Tom Johnson suggested telling them they would throw items given that were intended for sale if the person who brought them neglected to collect said unsold items.

It was decided to investigate these ideas further and possibly discuss them more in detail as the next few months progress.

VIII. Member's Comments

Justice Graves made mention that our Race Director for the Greater Gardner Turkey Trot, Candee Graves, is planning on having her first of only two Race Committee meetings on Sunday August 29th, 2021 at Dunn State Park, the time yet to be determined. The goal was to establish contact with those interested parties who want to help in the planning and sponsorship collecting process. Most of the Committee's activities would be conducted and collaborated via



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email and personal message, as the Turkey Trott needs less intensive, on-site planning than the Wildcat 5k requires.

IX. Adjournment

Sarah Meunier made a motion to adjourn. Treasurer Johnson seconds. So voted unanimously viva voce at 7:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justice J.H. Graves

Secretary, GHS Cross Country Track Booster Club

Approved at the Monthly Meeting on September 29th, 2021 unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded.