

USA Track & Field - New England Association
Board of Governors Meeting
Association Office, Brighton, MA
September 9, 2019

Present: Chris Pasko, Justin Kuo, Dave Lapierre, Mike Travers, Chris Wargo, Scott Mindel, Dave Teszler, Maggie Fox, Sarah Thornton

Phone: Larry Libow, Jeff Rockwood, Amanda Watters, Katie Adams, Alex Ivanov, Mike Merrill (guest), Michael Quinn (guest), Stephen Peckiconis called in at 18:58

Employees: Steve Vaitones, Tommy Mazza, Alex Knueppel (new marketing intern)

The meeting was called to order at 18:36 with a quorum of 9 board members in the office and 5 on the phone. The secretary is on vacation and will call in at 19:00. He will use a conference call recording to generate meeting minutes.

Open Discussion: Yesterday was the first race of the XC Grand Prix series season. Chris Wargo reported that the numbers were very good, up 30% from last year. Chris Pasko asked that we review possible discrepancies on posted written scoring rules. Will get that squared away on the website.

Secretary's Report: Stephen is away and has not completed the August meeting minutes. He said he will get them done next week.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Lapierre said net assets are \$510,000 although that may be gross, not net. Some annual requirements came up and were delayed. Dave stated this was due to his not being part of the process last year so that his transition into the role is taking a full year. This caused some delays.

Chris Pasko asked if we will be in the black this year. Dave not sure yet, probably a little bit in the red. Chris would like to know YTD revenues less expenses. Dave is working on detailed report for the September Annual Meeting and will have an accurate answer then. Look for that report.

Managing Director's Report: Steve Vaitones sent out his monthly report in two parts via email. Working through lots of summer season-end wrap-up work. Steve traveled to the Associations Executive Committee (AEC) meeting in August and reported on several national issues and trends, most of which are affecting other associations much more than New England. We are projected to hit the 6,000 member mark again by this October, although running 2-3% behind last year. Our participation numbers in our hosted events is much higher than anywhere else in the country.

Marketing Coordinator: Tommy Mazza has handed over the intern role to Alex Knueppel. Alex introduced himself. He is a sophomore at Northeastern, from Minnesota, and runs with the Northeastern University Running Club. He studies Marketing & Political Science at NU. Alex will be working under the direction of Dave Teszler and Tommy.

Athlete of the Month (AOM) Vote: Three candidates, Lou Serafini (M27), Makayla Paige (F16), and Dave Westenberg (M61). After discussion, Lou Serafini was selected based on his winning and setting course records in the two LDR Grand Prix races during August. Lou last won AOM three years ago so is eligible to be selected again.

Coaching: Katie Adams reported that the National office is open to us hosting a XC Specialist course in the summer of 2020. The key requirement is a room that needs to seat comfortably a minimum of

125 people. With an abundance of college resources locally, we should be able to handle that. Chris is putting it on his follow-up list. Katie volunteered us to host a Learn by Doing Clinic for coaches. USATF is scheduled to start these clinics again by end of the year. Katie said that she could find nothing in writing to review on requirements nor cost for participants. Katie noted that National has received no bids for a Level 2 school in 2020. The board agrees that we won't submit a request to host a Level 2 in 2020 as we tried last year, and last year's was held in our Region in New York.

Officials: We are still looking for a replacement for Laurie, possibly even having two Officials chairs so that we can break duties down by state into more workable amounts for everyone. The role requires a lot of work. Laurie was in a car accident in Ohio but is doing okay.

Cross Country update: All competitors said first race at GBTC XC Invite was great, numbers up 30%. Steve brought up whether men could run both the Open and Masters races (they physically ran twice) and score in both on teams for the GP series. Decided that if not prohibited in the GP rules then it's okay. Interestingly, women can run one race and score in both Open and Masters and that's okay. The written rules are different for the NE XC Championship race at the end of the year.

Cross Country Bus: There was a long discussion on whether we should rent a bus to transport up to 55 members from the Boston area to the USATF Club Cross Country National Champs at Lehigh University the weekend of December 14, 2019. We did this five years ago when the event was at the same location. We have the numbers from the contract five years ago to compare. Reports from those taking the bus were positive. We discussed whether to rent one bus or two. Ultimately, we decided to go for only one bus and deal with renting a second bus later if there is more demand. Steve Vaitones brought up the important issue of liability by the association. We will work on a waiver for participants to help on that issue. The bus cost in 2014 was roughly \$3,500, paid by riders.

Motioned: The board authorizes the XC Chair to procure bids for one bus to USATF Club XC Nationals in Bethlehem, PA on December 14. Prior to signing a contract, the Chair will come back to the Treasurer for approval. Motion seconded. Vote in Favor was unanimous.

MUT: Paul not in attendance but sent a MUT update on the national championship Waterville Mountain Race via email. It is also the final race in the 2019 USATF-NE Mountain Running Series. Alex will connect with Paul on helping with publicity for the race.

Sponsorship Coordinator: Dave Teszler led a discussion on the status after our previously selected candidate declined the position. Dave will repost the job opening on indeed.com.

USATF-NE Annual Meeting in Waltham in two weeks: Several people not running for re-election. Dave Teszler, current Athlete Rep, will run for Youth Chair. No athlete reps currently nominated. It was suggested to Tommy that he can run for Athlete Rep. Chris is estimating 50-60 in attendance. One item always on the ballot at our annual meeting is voting for USATF Annual Meeting voting delegates. We went through everyone who was thinking of attending and Steve collected the list to put together a first ballot for voting. We will probably have up to 18 delegates. Dave Lapierre and Chris Pasko will review the reimbursement policy. Several people asked about knowing the policy as soon as possible and having it simplified. These requests were noted and made goals.

Other Business: Chris thanked the board members who are at their last monthly board meeting as they are not running for re-election. These are Sarah Thornton, Alexander Engel, Jeffrey Rockwood, and Alex Ivanov. Chris appreciates the extra time everyone has spent working on the board.

The meeting adjourned at 19:50. Next monthly meeting: **October 7, 2019**