

# USATF - New England Annual Meeting 2021

Via Zoom Video Conference

Sunday, September 19, 2021

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom

The link to the meeting was sent out to all members who had registered via a Google Form in the weeks prior to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm

There were 34 voting members on as we started, meeting the quorum requirement of 25. More members were logging in as we began. There were 19 board members in attendance. Final count attending the meeting was 38 members.

## President's Opening Remarks

Dave Teszler reviewed basic Zoom guidelines. Please stay on Mute and use Raise Hand symbol if you would like to speak. We will be using the built-in polling feature for polling. Dave reviewed the meeting agenda. After his opening remarks, there will be reports by the Treasurer and Managing Director with Q&A, followed by reports from the sports chairs. Then any unfinished business and new business before moving on to elections of sports chairs and athlete's reps and delegates to the national meeting.

Dave noted that it was an interesting and challenging year. Competition was difficult to conduct this year. Dave thanked many of the board members who made major extra efforts toward finding venues and doing all kinds of extra legwork to put on our events. We also worked toward affecting COVID competition policy in the New England area. He acknowledged the new Sport:80 USATF membership system which some members may have struggled with in renewing memberships prior to this meeting. While we have a very crowded race schedule coming up this fall, 44% of races held in 2019 were not held in 2020 or 2021.

Things are starting to look better in September, and we have our first event next week at the Codfish Bowl XC meet.

Dave thanked our departing board member, current LDR chairperson and Past President Stephen Viegas.

## Treasurer's Report – Financial statement and detailed written report available on the meeting web page

Treasurer Dave Lapierre spoke on our financial situation, doing a deep dive into what has changed on the revenue side during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the second program year in a row where finances have been dramatically different than our old baseline. The past 18 months have been affected by the shutdowns. In his financial statements, Dave has added a third column to show the 2019 program year in addition to 2020 as a comparison with 2021.

We saw a significant loss of \$31K for the past 12 months through August 2021 versus \$50K in 2020 and a smaller \$10K loss in 2019. Biggest hits were from lower sanction and revenue memberships. The Grant program has been suspended. We are also controlling costs by lowering expenses for the USATF National convention and looking into lower-cost office rent options.

Our balance sheet still shows a net equity of \$500K. Dave discussed how in the past he has heard that many have considered ways to utilize that money. From his perspective over the last 1.5 years, he has been very glad to have this big cushion to help survive and be ready to perform coming out of the pandemic.

Managing Director's Report – Steve Vaitones spoke at length. He noted that national USATF membership is down to 78,000 from almost 130,000 the year before, and our decline is similar to that.

Youth Programs – Peter Crapsey. Report posted. We had our first T&F Invitational.

Written reports are available from the other Sports Chairs.

There was no Unfinished Business from last year's meeting. There are no Bylaws amendments docketed.

Floor opened for New Business. None noted.

Elections started at 4:50pm

This is an odd-numbered year, where all sports chairs and athlete reps are contested but not officers. For any contested positions, each person will get two minutes to speak. For contested offices we will vote via Zoom. Dave Teszler read the list of candidates who were on the pre-meeting nomination list:

Men's Long Distance Running - Alex Predhome, Tracksmith Hare AC  
Women's Long Distance Running - Amanda Watters, B.A.A.  
Masters Long Distance Running - Gary Circosta, NE 65+ Runners Club  
Open Track & Field - Jeff Rockwood, Boston-North TC  
Masters Track & Field - Mike Travers, Unattached  
Cross Country - Chris Wargo, HFC Striders  
Mountain/Ultra/Trail - Paul Kirsch, Unattached  
Race Walking - Justin Kuo, NE Walkers  
Youth Athletics - Peter Crapsey, New England Elite

All chairs have at least one nomination. The floor was opened for additional nominations for sports chairs. Amanda Watters and Steve Viegas made simultaneous nominations for:

Masters Long Distance Running - Cristin Doneski, Whirlaway Racing Team

Motioned: To close nominations. Seconded. Passed unanimously via visual hand vote by the Secretary.

The two Masters LDR chairs were offered one minute to introduce themselves and their interest in the role. Cristin Doneski spoke first. Gary Circosta spoke second.

We called a vote via Zoom poll. Justin Kuo set up the two names in a poll. We allowed one minute for people to vote electronically. Within 30 seconds, 33 of 39 online had voted. Voting was closed at 60 seconds. Secretary Stephen announced that Cristin Doneski won the vote.

Motioned: To accept by consent the remaining sports chairs nominations. Seconded. Passed unanimously via visual hand vote by the Secretary.

Voting for three (3) Athlete Representatives (Athlete Rep)

There are four candidates for Athlete Rep and three open positions. Each candidate will get up to 2 minutes to talk.

The nominees are:

Ben Bosworth, Western MA Distance Project (Incumbent)  
Tim Morse, Twilight Throwers (Incumbent)  
Amanda Pasko, Boston-North TC (Incumbent)  
Sean Furey, Field and Track Club

Motioned: Open the floor for further nominations. Moved. Seconded.

Floor was opened and no nominations were made.

Motioned: To accept the four nominees. Moved. Seconded. Visual vote of hands taken and passed.

Ben Bosworth spoke [1:04:47], Tim Morse, Amanda, Sean.

Amanda Pasko (Boston North TC) spoke.

Two members were on an audio only call and we didn't know how they could vote via the poll everyone else could use. They were instructed to email the secretary's usatfne.org account with their votes. There is also an issue that Zoom Admins cannot vote which meant the Secretary could not vote via the poll. He immediately emailed the host Justin Kuo with his vote prior to looking at any vote tabulations (as a backup audit), and logged his vote to add to the Zoom-only poll totals. The two audio-call votes and the secretary's votes were added to the Zoom poll numbers to generate the final tally.

The participation count was 34 votes online out of 37.

Amanda 28, Sean 24, Ben 22, Tim 19. -> Amanda 28, Sean 25, Ben 23, Tim 22 with Worden's vote.

Oscar Brookins spoke up that he was not happy with the handling of the vote by the Secretary. Then Dave Teszler and Chris Pasko agreed. Sydney Henthorne added that she was very much against the voting process.

We redid the vote from scratch. The Secretary added up the new round of Zoom votes, plus the two from audio as well as his own. In the online poll, 32 of 35 participants voted, generating 86 total votes out of 96 (32\*3) possible.

Zoom Poll vote: Amanda 27, Ben 22, Sean 21, Tim 16

The other 3 of the 35 were the two audio callers who emailed in their votes to the Secretary, and the Secretary himself. These three ballots were treated like absentee ballots and added to the online totals.

Final Vote is: Amanda 27, Ben 23, Sean 22, Tim 19. Total vote count is 91 votes.

This is the same top 3 as the original vote.

Dave congratulated the three athlete reps for 2022, Amanda Pasko, Ben Bosworth, and Sean Furey.

Board member elections ended at 5:30pm

Moving on to selection of delegates to the National Meeting on December 2-5 in Orlando, FL. That meeting will be hybrid, both live and virtual. Details are still pending. The association can only commit to reimbursing the meeting registration fee and not travel expenses at this time. The board will review additional reimbursements for those who travel over the next three board meetings as we watch our financial trends. We are eligible for 16 delegates based on our membership.

Dave asked for a motion to open the floor for nominations. Mike Travers moved. Seconded. Below is the pre-meeting list of nominees.

1. Steve Vaitones
2. Dave Teszler
3. Dave Lapierre
4. Stephen Peckiconis
5. Maggie Fox
6. Tommy Mazza
7. Alex Predhome
8. Amanda Watters
9. Christin Doneski

10. Jeff Rockwood
11. Mike Travers
12. Chris Wargo
13. Paul Kirsch
14. Justin Kuo
15. Peter Crapsey
16. Bob Gidari, Officials

Amanda Pasko was nominated by Chris Pasko. Seconded.

Jeff Rockwood and Maggie Fox are unable to attend. Paul Kirsch will not be able to be a delegate.

Sydney Henthorn nominated herself. Did not get a second.

Samir Hossaini nominated himself. Did not get a second.

Motion to close nominations by Justin Kuo.

Sean Furey nominated himself. Seconded.

Sydney Henthorn did not understand the process we were following and objected. We asked Steve Vaitones to explain it. The process hasn't changed in over 10 years and Steve explained it at length. Sydney still disagreed with what Steve and some other board members were saying but we proceeded to the vote. [1h48m]

Mike Travers moved to end discussion. Seconded. Passed by vote of hands.

Then we discovered that the Zoom polling is limited to 10 choices, and we have 17 to choose from. Therefore, we are going to use Google Forms to do that vote instead. Dave Teszler is putting a link to a Google Form in the chat window to use for selecting 16 out of 17 delegates. [1h58m]. Participants are instructed to click the link and fill out the Google Form in order to vote. Voting is open for five minutes. Two users were confused by this and tried to vote via the static shared Zoom screen. We eventually figured that out and redirected them to the URL they should click to vote. We have 25 responses.

[2h11m] Dave Teszler took over to read the final votes, listing the top 16 delegates on the list. They were:

1. Alex Predhome
2. Amanda Watters
3. Chris Wargo
4. Dave Lapierre
5. Dave Teszler
6. Justin Kuo
7. Christin Doneski
8. Mike Travers
9. Sean Furey
10. Peter Crapsey
11. Stephen Peckiconis
12. Steve Vaitones
13. Tommy Maza
14. Bob Gidari
15. Amanda Pasko
16. Sydney Henthorn

Dave asked for a Motion to adjourn. Moved by Justin. Seconded.

Hearing no discussion, by acclamation vote, Meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.

Submitted by Stephen Peckiconis, USATF-NE Association Secretary

Reports by Officers and Sports Committee Chairs

All documents relevant to the Annual Meeting will be available here: <https://newengland.usatf.org/about/meetings>

This includes reports by Dave Lapierre, Treasurer; Amanda Watters, Women's LDR; Justin Kuo, Race Walking; Peter Crapsey, Youth Chair; Chris Wargo, Cross Country, Steve Vaitones, Managing Director

Line	Name	Orig Name	Club#	ClubName	Status	Count
3	Amanda Watters	Amanda Watters	1	Boston Athletic Association	Board	1
31	Joseph Floyd	JoeFloyd	1	Boston Athletic Association		2
22	Michael McGrane	Michael McGrane	1	Boston Athletic Association	ex-Board	3
16	Stephen Peckiconis	Stephen Peckiconis	6	Cambridge Sports Union	Board	4
8	Dave Lapierre	Dave Lapierre	9	Central Mass Striders	Board	5
12	Maggie Fox	Coach Fox	16	Greater Boston TC	Board	6
38	Thomas Mazza	Thomas Mazza	16	Greater Boston TC	Board	7
23	Tom Derderian	Tom Derderian	16	Greater Boston TC	ex-Board	8
29	Sydney Henthorn	sydneyhenthorn	52	Sugarloaf Mt. Athletic Club		9
25	Gary Circosta	Gary	65	NE65+	ex-Board	10
20	Jan Holmquist	jan	65	NE65+	ex-Board	11
17	Stephen Viegas	Stephen Viegas	65	NE65+	Board	12
24	John Barbour	John Barbour	68	Greater Lowell RR	ex-Board	13
9	David Teszler	David Teszler	87	Heartbreak Hill Striders	Board	14
7	Chris Wargo	Chris Wargo	111	HFC Striders	Board	15
19	Steve Vaitones	Steve Vaitones	131	Somerville Road Runners	Employee	16
11	Justin Kuo	Justin Kuo	137	New England Walkers	Board	17
6	Chris Pasko	Chris Pasko	173	Wellesley Wings	Board	18
27	Christin Doneski	cdoneski	192	Whirlaway Racing Team	New Board	19
2	Amanda Pasko	Amanda Pasko	256	Boston-North Track Club	Board	20
10	Jeffrey Rockwood	jeffreyrockwood	256	Boston-North Track Club	Board	21
36	Derek Worden	via Phone	294	Twilight Throwers		22
37	G Kent Worden	via Phone	294	Twilight Throwers		23
21	Jim Burgoyne	Jim Burgoyne	294	Twilight Throwers	ex-Board	24
34	Ned Rich	Ned rich	294	Twilight Throwers		25
18	Tim Morse	Tim Morse	294	Twilight Throwers	Board	26
5	Bob Gidari	BOB	307	New Hampshire Track Officials	Board	27
28	Dennis Vienneau	dennisvienneau	307	NH TOA	SafeSport	28
30	Samir Hossaini	Samir Hossaini	338	Momentum Athletic Club		29
4	Ben Bosworth	Ben Bosworth	366	Western Mass Distance Project	Board	30
15	Peter Crapsey	Peter Crapsey	374	New England Elite TC	Board	31
14	Paul Kirsch	Paul Kirsch	385	acidotic Racing	Board	32
1	Alex Predhome	Alex Predhome	474	Tracksmith Hare AC	Board	33
26	Sean Furey	Sean Furey	520	Field and Track Club	New Board	34
35	Delores Shufelt	Dee's iPad	599	Unattached		35
33	Joe Shufelt	Joe Shufelt	599	Unattached		36
13	Mike Travers	Mike Travers	599	Unattached	Board	37
32	Oscar Brookins	Oscar Brookins	599	Unattached		38