

**Connecticut LMSC
Quarter 1 Meeting Agenda
February 13, 2021**

Board Members Present at Meeting: Rob Duguay, Melissa Duguay, Cheryl Edison, Tommy St. Vincent, Ally Sega, Ben Wyckoff, Sian Nimkoff, Paul Epstein, Pam Moss, Tait Michael, Barb Baker, Sarah King, Janit Romayko, and Bill Geoghegan.

Board Members Absent from Meeting: Jeff Sargent.

Meeting Called to Order at 5:30p.m. via Zoom.

Discussion Items

I. Financial Report

- Current Bank Balance as of February 12, 2021: \$58,339.55.
- We have at least one board member that has not registered for a 2021 USMS membership. At this time there is a motion to propose reimbursing the membership fees for those on the board needing financial assistance at this time. Motion passed to reimburse the 2021 USMS Registration Fees for any board member that might need financial assistance at this time. Any board member in need of financial assistance in relation to their 2021 USMS Registration Fees, should email Barb Baker and also cc Rob Duguay on the email.
- Connecticut (CONN), Waterbury Ducks Workout Group, New Wave (Falls Village), and Orange requested financial assistance in paying their groups 2021 membership fees. All four groups received financial assistance in paying their club and workout group 2021 membership fees. The board is willing to reach out to other clubs and workout groups within the Connecticut LMSC to provide financial assistance for 2021 club and workout group registration fees. At this time there has been no response from other clubs or workout groups. In relation to paying LMSC and workout group registration fees, Rob is currently waiting on reimbursements from Barb in relation to the club fees that he paid.
- At this time, Barb Baker is looking into getting access to online banking. Rob has requested that Barb let him know of any updates in relation to accessing the Connecticut LMSC bank account via online banking.
- In thinking about our upcoming submission of this year's Financial Report to USMS, Rob is going to email a PDF of our current bank statements to Barb. Financial statements are due to USMS by April 30th.

II. State of the Organization

- At this time the current number of registered members is 272.
- Board member position updates: Jeff Sargent will be serving as our USA Swimming Liaison. Cheryl Edison will be an at-large board member. The current open positions on the Board are Long Distance/ Fitness (temporarily filled by Sarah King), Coaches Chair (temporarily filled by

Rob Duguay), and Tri Club Liaison. At this time Rob would like to approach Kathy May for the Long Distance/ Fitness Chair position.

- Rob has not gotten an email for LMSC standards yet. We need to make sure that we have our By-Laws up to date to include the section about the new board positions and Dispute Resolution Team. Having up to date bylaws, the Dispute Resolution Team, and a job description for the Diversity and Inclusion Team will only strengthen Connecticut's meeting the standards for LMSC's. Rob and Sarah will arrange a time to look at the bylaws and to add in the new board positions and Dispute Resolution Team.

III. Open Water Proposal from last meeting: Getting access to town beaches.

- Last summer there were groups swimming at Hammonaset, Sherwood Island, and Branford.
- Cheryl mentioned utilizing Bigelow Park in Union as a potential open water swimming location for this summer. Ben also provided the following link in relation to Open Water Swimming locations within Connecticut: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Explore/Swimming>
- We discussed having an article and/or a FAQ page on the website in relation to Open Water Swimming helpful hints and important reminders for swimmers. In thinking about promoting Open Water Swimming on the Connecticut Masters Swimming website, Paul and Tommy will talk further of what that would look like, as our board stressed that we want to keep our summer open water swimming meet ups and gatherings informal due to liability and other access issues.
- At this time, we don't have any details in relation to the Lake T open water swims, Compo Beach Open Water Swim, and Quassy. However, in talking with Dave Heller, the event at Quassy will be run on Labor Day weekend, as it has been in the past. We are hopeful that there will be at least two open water events this summer as well as local triathlons.

IV. Masters Practices and a Return to Competition in 2021.

- At this time, many of our members are practicing on their own using available pool time at their practice facilities. Waterbury YMCA is attempting to restart a masters group under Melissa Duguay. This program would have a maximum of 8 swimmers (4 to a lane) swimming in one-hour sessions twice a week. While the masters group is not currently practicing, it is hoped that the program will restart during the next YMCA program session. Waterbury YMCA plans on running swim sessions as part of its triathlon club membership in March. We are not sure when the program will be able to resume at Cheshire. Currently the town is still offering lap swim availability, but the pool is also the staging site for the local Health District COVID-19 Vaccination. There is a group currently practicing in Orange.
- Connecticut Masters Games is looking for a pool within 45 minutes to an hour of New Britain to host the 2021 Connecticut Masters Games SCY Swim Meet. It is preferred that the meet be held in May/ June 2021. We had a discussion about holding this meet at an outdoor pool in September, but at this time we did not define a pool to serve as host for this event.

- In our discussions relating to finding a pool to host the 2021 Connecticut Masters Games, we discussed that on the USMS website there is a list of all the pools that have been measured and can host sanctioned USMS events within Connecticut.
- In our discussions, it was stressed that we want clubs and workout groups to be able to return to having practices. To assist with getting practices going, we need to talk to local aquatic directors and facility operators at the pools that we swim at to encourage them to set aside times in the pool schedule for masters practice at their respective facilities. It was suggested that we draft an email to send to facility operators with the facts that support our return to being able to practice and eventually compete at these facilities.
- In returning to competition at this time, Connecticut University and college pools such as CCSU, Trinity, and Wesleyan are not an option due to current Health Guidelines.
- USMS has released updated guidelines for a return to competition. These guidelines can be found on the USMS website at the following link:
<https://www.usms.org/events/covid-19-event-resources>
<https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central>
- At this time Spring and Summer Nationals, now renamed as Short Course Nationals and Long Course Nationals are still scheduled to be held. These nationals will be held July 21-25th (Greensboro, North Carolina) and October 5th-10th (Spire Institute, in Ohio). More information in relation to nationals can be found on the USMS website at the following link:
<https://www.usms.org/events/national-championships/pool-national-championships/2021-pool-national-championships>
- Promoting the 2021 USMS 1-Hour ePostal National Championship. Discussion in relation to Orange hosting this event during a workout group practice, and to getting a strong turn out for this event. Members have until March 31st to swim this event!

V. Other Discussions in relation to Connecticut LMSC

- Discussed purchasing a laptop, Hytek meet manager, and a laser to measure pools to ensure proper sanctioning and further running of events within Connecticut LMSC.
- Officials for meets: Connecticut currently has two registered USMS officials. We discussed tabling the need for officials until 2022 and the return of sanctioned masters meets in our LMSC.
- Discussed the process for sanctioning open water events, the insurance policies and protocol. David Miner is the national office contact for all USMS open water sanctioned events.
<https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/guide-to-local-operations/event-management/open-water-event-management>
<https://www.usms.org/events/usms-open-water-sanction-benefits>
- Adult Learn to Swim (ALTS) Programming: Adult swim lessons at Waterbury YMCA are currently on hold. Melissa is going to be talking to town pools to see what interest there is in adult learn to swim lessons. She hopes to apply for the ALTS grant which will be able to give free adult swim lessons to forty people.

- Member engagement: At the fall meeting, Pam had mentioned that we were looking to do a LMSC wide town hall meeting. At the time we did not have the software to be able to run a meeting past forty minutes. We have since purchased a Zoom Pro Membership. This membership allows unlimited meetings, meetings longer than forty minutes, and up to one hundred participants on the Zoom meeting. It also allows us to record meetings and easily upload those meetings to the Connecticut Masters website. We would like to schedule a members wide meeting once we have received the results of the survey that we will draft and send out to members. We currently have a working group (Rob, Pam, Sian, Tommy, Sarah, Barb, and Tait) looking into how to best survey our members.

Meeting was adjourned at 7: 11pm.