



**GHS Cross Country Track Booster Club**  
Monthly Meeting Wednesday, September 29th, 2021 @ 6:30 pm  
Bethany Baptist Church 72 Ryan Street, Gardner, MA 01440

## **Attendees:**

**Members Present:** Carrie Powers (President), Tom Johnson (Vice President), Rachel Johnson (Treasurer), Justice Graves (Secretary), Serena Bettez

**Advisors Present:** Kenneth “KP” Pelletier

## **Minutes**

### **I. Call to Order**

President Powers calls the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

### **II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

A. Monthly Meeting Minutes of August 17th, 2021

*Treasurer Johnson made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting on August 17th, 2021 and to accept them as printed. Vice President Johnson seconds. So voted unanimously viva voce.*

### **III. President/Treasurer Reports**

No President’s or Treasurer’s reports at this time.

### **IV. GHS, GMS Coaches Updates/Team Needs**

Kenneth Pelletier gave an update on what current major meets were coming up by passing out a list of upcoming major meets. They are as follows:

- Wachusett Invitational (Boys Only, Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Quabbin Invitational (Girls Only, Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>)
- League Championship Meet (Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>)
- District E Championship Meet (Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>)

- MA State Qualifying Meet (Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Massachusetts State Meet (Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>)

(a reminder that all meets – both small and major – are posted on the Club Calendar:

<https://www.gardnertrackxboosters.org/calendar---schedules--photos.html>)

KP expressed concerns to the Club about getting transportation for their meet at Tahanto tomorrow. The School District is having issues with bussing, along with the rest of the state. KP explained that Gardner's Athletic Director, Mr. Daniel Forte, doesn't have any information on bussing until after 11:00am on the day of a scheduled sporting event, which has been causing last minute emergencies on every sports team with an away game more often than not. Several Boosters explained this situation has already happened once this athletic season in Cross Country only a few weeks ago. There is a need for parents to volunteer to drive the teams back and forth to the next meet, should the emergency arise, since it is an away meet. Tom Johnson volunteered to prepare himself to get out of work early tomorrow in case the need arises. Carrie Powers also volunteered to transport student-athletes, as well as Serena Bettez. They plan on reaching out to other parents that night and during the day to spread the word of this issue to have back-up plans for the future.

KP talked about the situation with the MIAA, the District E Meet, and the Concession Stand. This year, the MIAA has scheduled a separate qualifying meet in order to participate in the MA Cross Country State Championships. This has resulted in the District Meet and the State Qualifying Meet not being the same exact meet, and has resulted in two separate weekends of meets. KP has inquired with the organizers of the District E Meet if they would like. More information to come.

KP is planning on inquiring with Mr. Forte if banquets and celebrations will be allowed inside of the School, considering COVID-19 restrictions. Rachel Johnson started a discussion on where we could go to hold a celebration for the Cross Country teams. Carrier Powers was confident that, should the need arise, she could book Bethany Baptist Church for the banquet as she had in for this meeting to be held here. More information to come once it is determined where a potential end-of-season celebration can be held.

## V. Ongoing Business

- A. Discussion of Financial Transfer on recommendation of the Race Director of the Wildcat 5k (Discussion, with possible *General Membership vote*; possibly addressed during Agenda Item III “President/Treasurer Reports”)

Justice Graves explained he added this item to the agenda as a follow up to the acceptance of the Wildcat 5k report that passed at the August Monthly Meeting. He sought to formalize a vote to transfer a set amount of funds from the Wildcat 5k Account into the General Account as suggested by their Race Director in preparation for upcoming celebrations and events the Club will put on. The Club members in attendance concurred.

***Secretary Graves made a motion to transfer a set amount from the Wildcat 5k Account to the Booster Club’s General Account. President Powers seconds. So voted unanimously viva voce.***

- B. Website and Social Media Accounts Update (Discussion, a follow up) (~J. Graves)

Justice Graves explained that since the August meeting, he has created a new page on the Club’s website to post the agendas and minutes of their latest meetings moving forward. He expressed that the set-up was going well.

Justice Graves also expressed he had neglected to mark “Archived” the old Facebook groups. He would follow up with this on the agenda of the next Monthly Meeting in October.

- C. Wildcat 5k Booking (Discussion, a follow up; possible plan) (~J. Graves)

Justice Graves explained him nor Candee Graves, the Race Director for the Wildcat 5k, have received an update from Mr. Forte if their request to use the grounds of the High School were approved or denied. Justice asked if the President or Treasurer had seen the request for property usage returned to them via their mailbox in the High School or at the P.O. Box. Neither Officer had checked for that, but would follow up should the form be returned to them.

Justice Graves further explained he talked with Candee Graves, and both decided that if nothing was approved or denied after the first week of October, the course of action taken would be that they immediately work to re-file the use of property form with the Superintendent’s

Office instead to seek approval through the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mark Pellegrino. Justice talked about not wanting to wait too much longer to find out if the Club will be granted approval or not.

D. Car Wash Fundraiser for the Fall of 2021 (Discussion, a follow up)

Justice Graves asked a follow up of the August Monthly Meeting. Tom and Rachel Johnson spoke to how Tom has gone to the Gardner AutoZone multiple times, but was having a difficult time. Considering it was getting close to Halloween and Thanksgiving, and the Johnsons had expressed they wanted the event originally done in September, Justice Graves made a suggestion to cancel the event – as it was formalized by a vote of the Club – and to deallocate and free the funds set for that event, as was also voted in the same motion back in August. He moved for the Club to do the following:

***Secretary Graves made a motion to cancel the Car Wash Fundraiser for the Fall of 2021 as passed at the August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Monthly Meeting and to disappropriate the set budget allocated for said fundraiser from the General Account. Vice President Johnson seconds. So voted unanimously viva voce.***

E. Future Fundraising Ideas (Discussion, a follow up)

1. Restaurant, Calendar, Rietta Ranch, etc.

Justice Graves explained he added this agenda item as a follow up to the end of the last meeting. The Boosters talked about how many had not thought to research any of the items they brought up for discussion back in August, but want to keep this as a discussion item on the agenda for future meetings.

Hebert chocolates was brought up by Serena Bettez. The Johnsons spoke that they still do it for bowling, but not through Hebert. A discussion took place amongst the group regarding selling chocolates.

Talks surrounding doing calendars, holiday wreaths, and pies were also all considered as potential future ideas.

The discussion moved toward inquiring about selling wreaths as a fundraiser. Potentially, to sell mums, then wreaths and poinsettias. Consideration if the Club wanted to sell Thanksgiving

Center Pieces as a fundraiser. Tom Johnson said he would contact and establish if such a fundraiser could be done and by whom. He stated he would be contacting Past President Kerri McDermott, who had done such an event during her term on the Board of Directors. More information to come.

## VI. **New Business**

### A. Senior Day Celebration (Discussion, with possible *General Membership vote*)

Carrie Powers started the discussion surrounding what to do for the graduating seniors and what gifts they might wish to give them this year. The teams have only three seniors in total this year. Justice Graves asked what their intent was for gifts, and what budget they believe they might set for the celebration. Rachel Johnson estimated a budget based on the discussion surrounding what the Club would like to see given to the seniors.

***Vice President Johnson made a motion to set the day of our Senior Day Celebration to be for the meet being held on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with a rain date of the meet held on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, with a set budget allocated for said event. Treasurer Johnson seconds. So voted unanimously viva voce.***

### B. Upcoming Cross Country Meets in November (Discussion, possibly addressed during Agenda Item IV “GHS, GMS Coaches Updates/Team Needs”)

This agenda item was covered earlier in the meeting by KP during Agenda Item IV “GHS, GMS Coaches Updates/Team Needs.”

### C. Concession Stand Fundraiser for November 6th Invitational @ Gardner Municipal Golf Course (Discussion, with possible *General Membership vote*)

No motion was made and the topic was skipped, as until there is confirmation from the Meet Director’s that the Club can operate a Concession Stand, nothing can be done at this time.

D. Parent Email List for Booster Club - Cross Country & Indoor (Discussion) (~J. Graves)

Justice Graves asked if there were many new parents who had joined the teams and if they had emails they wanted added onto the official mailing list. Serena Bettez said she was not in attendance at the last meeting because she did not receive the email regarding the agenda, although her husband was receiving emails from the Club. She knew about this meeting because of a posting on the website. Justice Graves asked for her email and added her to the official mailing list.

E. Greater Gardner Turkey Trot Updates (~J. Graves)

Justice Graves brought up as a last minute agenda item under “New Business” that several t-shirt sponsorships. He handed over several sponsorships for deposit to the Treasurer. He spoke to an issue he and the Race Director, Candee Graves, had before this meeting where the price of the shirts (non-giveaway) had to be increased due to a pricing dilemma regarding how RaceWire’s system takes out feeds for purchasable commemorative items. He also informed both the President and Treasurer the Race Director needed to know what all the sponsors were that they had received by October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and no later. He spoke to how both he and Candee felt good about the race, and thanked the members in attendance who added their names to various volunteer jobs that need to be done on the day of the race since their Race Committee Meeting back in late August.

Serena Bettez asked about the rules for how teams were being done for the Turkey Trot. Justice Graves explained it’s the same as Cross Country Rules: unlimited members per team, but only the top five (5) per team contribute to scoring, with the lowest score winning the team title and award. Many members were excited about the teams being done this year, but wanted the rules posted more blatantly on the website as they were concerned many would not understand how it would work. Justice Graves said he would talk to the Race Director to post the rules in more frequented places on the various websites and posting for the upcoming race.

**VII. Member’s Comments**

No member gave any final comments at this meeting.

VIII. **Adjournment**

*President Powers made a motion to adjourn. Treasurer Johnson seconds. So voted unanimously viva voce at 7:24pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Justice J.H. Graves

Secretary, GHS Cross Country Track Booster Club

Approved at the Monthly Meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded.