



**Petersham Curling Club
250 North Main St.
Petersham, MA 01336**

Dear Fellow Curlers,

Last evening at our monthly Board of Governors meeting we held a lengthy discussion regarding the opening of the club in January, the extent of the current pandemic conditions and financial health of the club. In addition we considered the adverse financial risks involved with opening the club in regards to the liability of an exposure due to non-compliance of set procedures and the additional costs for cleaning supplies, signage and professional services if an exposure shutdown were necessary.

Additional concerns were confined to the question: Will we have enough curlers willing to participate with the restrictions in place by the state mandate and club requirements for COVID-19 game procedures? The simple answer is no. Of the 40 members that paid their dues, 23 stated they intended to curl, with 6 declining and 11 undecided.

The very real possibility of beginning the process of making ice or beginning the season and having it halted by the state mid-stream also remains. With regards to the amount of work needed to put ice in and maintain it from both a financial and maintenance aspect and also taking into account the items listed above dictated our course of action. A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to keep the club closed for the entire 2020-2021 season. I know this is disappointing to many, we as the Board of Governors did not make the decision lightly.

While the financial aspect is a great motivator, the health and welfare of our members is paramount. Everyone is aware that cases in the state are increasing at levels we have not seen since early spring. Financially the club is taking a hit with relatively little income. With the sustaining member fees and donated dues amounts it will offset some of our costs. Due to a few very good years from rentals, events and steady membership numbers our capital fund has grown and we expect to remain solvent.

While so far this has been all doom and gloom, let me share some positives taking place.

Members of the board are already looking to next year. The club will go into what I will call our 60th ish year. An Olympic year, one that typically engages the public's interest in curling and has greatly increased our membership.

We are about to go live with an online store with some very unique curling centric items Julie has created, in addition this "store" will allow members and those interested in supporting the club to make donations to either our general fund for operations or dues sponsorship.

The club is now live with broadband. Soon the final work to enable the cameras and other aspects of the tech. will take place. The club thermostat is now wireless and monitored remotely.

In closing, all of us never expected what we are seeing now. My wish is that each of you stay safe and healthy. As the holidays quickly approach I believe it will give us all pause this year to reflect on where we are and where we wish to go.

Sincerely,
Scott H. Ennis,
President

