

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
March 3, 2022 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Attending: Susan Bridges, Mary Mauterstock, Marty Burke, Rob Condon, Cameron Ferguson, Nancy Ortiz, Ron Essig, John Keith

Absent: Marcia Kielb. John Keith left the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Meeting called to order 6:02 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the February 3rd Board Meeting - Nancy - minutes approved unanimously.
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings (if any). - Nancy - none
3. Incoming mail (if any) - thank you note from John Curley's family for donation in memory of John - Nancy
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - Current bank balance is \$152K. Total assets are \$182K (includes individual pond accounts). February expenses are \$1,400 and donations are \$6,400. Bennett Hartley received his \$1,000 scholarship award.
Year-to-date income is \$14,500 and expenses are \$7K.
June 2020 bank balance \$70K
February 2021 bank balance \$106K
February 2022 bank balance \$152K
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - Rob - none.
5. Misc. administrative matters - All - none

New Business:

1. Pilgrim Power Plant Radioactive Water Disposal - APCC is requesting BPC write a letter to Holtec regarding the disposal of the radioactive water from the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. Holtec, the lowest bidder, took over the plant in August 2019 for the purpose of immediate decommissioning. The three possible options are: ship the radioactive water to Idaho, dispose of the water in Cape Cod Bay, or evaporation. The least expensive solution, and the one favored by Holtec, is to dispose of the water in Cape Cod Bay. The best solution for the environment would be evaporation. The Board unanimously voted to send a letter to Holtec regarding BPC's recommendation of disposal via evaporation. John Keith volunteered to write the letter.

Current Priorities

1. Search/nomination committee - Susan, Nancy, Cameron, and Marty recommend each board member find two or three possible candidates for the Board. Marty mentioned that 3 names would be a great start for the search and suggested BPC advertise for Board members in Mailchimp and the Spring Newsletter via the President's message. The committee suggests a series of MailChimp adverts for board positions need to be delivered to our subscriber base in April, May and June, on the 15th of each month. The April 1 Newsletter President's message will feature our need for board candidates. There will be inclusion of a Facebook and Instagram advert as well, corresponding to the MailChimp advert dates and an advert placed on the Brewster Community Network FB page on the same dates. There was no discussion on current or future board committee leads during this portion of the meeting.
2. C&IWPf update - The Select Board meeting on 2/28/2022 discussed if Brewster should opt out of the Cape and Islands Water Protection Fund (requires a 2/3 vote to pass) and instead adopt a 3% community impact tax for short term rentals (requires a majority vote). These rental funds would be dedicated to water protection and affordable housing or local infrastructure projects. There was discussion about including these articles on the spring warrant but it was decided that the town needed time to educate the public. It was also pointed out that the owners of rental units have already set their rates for this summer and would have trouble changing gears at this late date, hence the delay to the fall town meeting. This delay allows the voters time to become more informed. The primary concern of the BPC should be to assure that there is funding for the needed waste strides and eventual actions to protect fresh waters; how this funding is assured is a matter for the BOS to decide. It appears that Peter Lombardi and the BOS are committed to funding the needed work. As town citizens, we of course want to see the most fiscally prudent method used to fund the work, and both staying in or dropping out of the C&IWPf have advantages and disadvantages, some of which still need to be investigated. John Keith suggested that the Select Board put the article on the warrant prior to the June deadline. It can always be reversed later. John believes Brewster raising its own funds increases flexibility of usage and allows funds to be more readily available. There are currently no assurances that Brewster will have access to previous contributions to the C&IWPf, therefore some believe it is best to drop out now or perhaps Brewster can work with the legislative branch to find some way to utilize the funds for Brewster's future water projects. Towns that opt out of the fund can opt back in at a later date with a 2 year "cooling off" period before having access to the funds. Brewster's large pond acreage and open space areas makes Brewster unique regarding the facility of installing traditional sewer systems. IA systems are eligible for the SRF program on the federal level, but not the state level. The town position, as described by Lombardi, is that the town assumes the RME (Responsible Management Entities) accountability. BPC agrees the town should have responsibility for septic system overview and monitoring. Susan encouraged board members to read the Select Board materials in the packet and watch the video of the meeting. All links have been sent to the Board members.
3. Sea Camps Long Pond Committee - Neither Nancy nor Ron were chosen as members by the Long Pond Committee. The possibility of attending the meetings and reporting back to the Board was discussed. Rob asked if there was acknowledgement of the \$5K donation of BPC to the BCT for the acquisition of the Long Pond property. (After the

Board meeting, Ron Emailed a picture of Susan handing the \$5K check to Amy Henderson that was published in the BCT newsletter.)

4. Pond Summit - Numerous interesting speakers will present at the 6/17 Pond Summit to be held in the sanctuary of the Brewster Baptist Church. Konrad suggested having a tech setup to field online questions. Alternative septic systems will be discussed along with other topics. (see folder for detail). Tom Vautin will moderate.
5. April Newsletter article due date is 4/1. Konrad will send an Email to the Board regarding articles needed.

Events

1. April 7, 11:00 BBC - Adult Program - Paul Anderson - Susan will ask Paul to write a paragraph outlining his presentation. Paul's discussion will cover private wells in addition to town water.
2. Beautify Brewster - April 23th, rain date 4/24 - Nancy mentioned the route is similar to last year's. A BPC call for volunteers should go out at the beginning of April.
3. Brewster in Bloom - April 29 - May 1st - Susan is hoping to have a float in addition to the BPC table in front of the Brewster Bookstore.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

Pond Water testing - John Keith stated that so far, based on evaluating the data for 4 ponds (Seymour, Schoolhouse, Myrick's and Elbow), there was limited value found in the PALs data. The data identified the general extent of impairment in the ponds, which is an important thing to know, but not trends due to the limited amount of data and wide variability. The data for several more ponds will be evaluated before drawing broad conclusions about the PALs program - or sharing our analyses and findings with the Town (i.e. Chris Miller.). (As a side note: John subsequently analyzed the data on Slough Pond, and found that the data did show meaningful trends in water quality - getting worse, though still pretty good.) Konrad suggested mentioning this to the town prior to hiring a consultant. Marty discussed the completion of the PALS trend analysis after an additional 3-6 ponds are looked at. Marty will work with John further on analysis of ponds. Plus he can work with the Seymour Pond team if additional pond analysis is needed. A member of this team has a consulting business and could take on more analysis projects at cost if needed. Marty suggested exploring the possibility of expanding and enhancing the Citizen Scientist program by including some of the PALS tests and possible equipment, at a later date.

Membership Committee - Marty is hoping to reach his previously set donation goal of \$71K and will finish making calls in March. To date 420 calls and emails to subscribers have been completed with approximately 120 still to go. A MailChimp campaign set for March 5 will go out to "Unpaid subscribers" to remind them of the appeal campaign. Marty mentioned the convenience of automatic member renewals and the tax advantages of donating via RMD's

(Required Minimum Distribution) once one reaches age 72. Marty is encouraging members whenever possible to consider these options. Brewster Part-Time residents gave a generous donation of \$3K to BPC. The Board is very impressed with Marty's hard work on the membership committee.

Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships - Updates as needed -

Susan will follow-up with the town regarding the status of Walker Pond erosion project. Susan and John will meet with Griffin Ryder and Chris Miller regarding the storm water "hot spots" on Leland Road and Slough Pond. Glen Ralston from Arbor-Way Gardens and Peter Jensen from Terra Firma have donated \$500 and \$1,000 respectively of in-kind services. These services could be used to correct the erosion problem on Leland Road and other remediation projects.

Wrap-up

- **Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments**

John Keith to draft letter regarding Pilgrim Power Plant waste disposal.

Konrad will send an email to the Board regarding April newsletter story assignments.

Each Board member should come up with 2 or 3 names of possible Board members.

Board members should read Peter Lombardi's letter and other documents found in the hand out packet Email link sent to the Board (particularly page 89) from the 2/28 Select Board meeting.

- **Next Board Meeting - April 7, 2022** - Google Meet
- **May Board meeting - May 5, 2022** - Google Meet
- **June Board meeting - June 2, 2022** - in person?

Meeting adjourned: 7:46 PM

Submitted by:

Nancy Ortiz, Clerk