

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
July 7, 2022 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Present: John Keith (conducted meeting), Rob Condon, Konrad Schultz, Mary Mauterstock, Cameron Ferguson, Ron Essig, Marcia Kielb, Nancy Ortiz, Marty Burke

Absent: Susan Bridges (present for introduction)

Meeting called to order: 6:02 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the June 2nd Board Meeting - Nancy - approved unanimously.
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings (if any) - Nancy - none.
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Rob - Chubb Insurance delinquency notice has been resolved. Thank you note received from Gavin Ellis for scholarship.
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - BPC balance is \$162K, Blueberry Pond balance is \$30K, Elbow Pond balance is \$648. BPC total balance is \$193K Donations \$2,658. Expenses \$3,924 (\$2K for Citizen Scientist kits, \$538 for Pond Education Supplies, \$310 for Chubb insurance). \$20,165 Y-T-D expenses is 24% of the annual budget of \$83K, 44% of the budgeted income of \$81K has been reached.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - None

New Business:

1. **Bylaw changes** - discussion and vote
 - a. **Residency requirement** - approved unanimously by Board

Article IV. Organization and Governance

A. The management and control of the affairs, funds and property of the Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors, to consist of a maximum of fifteen persons. They shall be elected as provided in Article VI. Board members may not all have a formal environmental background (education, career, experience), but all will have a passion for improving the environment, pond health and beauty, and water quality. At least a 60% majority of current active board members must be residents of Brewster or owners of property in Brewster. Active BPC members who

do not reside or own property in Brewster may also be elected to the board but their number may not exceed 40% of the current board.

b. **Nominating committee (Nancy)** - approved unanimously by Board

Article VI. Election of Directors, Officers and Nominating Committee

A. The board will select a Nominating Committee to conduct a search for Board of Director candidates.

B. The election of Directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Directors are elected to three-year terms and as needed to fill unexpired terms. All shall serve in accordance with Article IV, Section B.

C. In the event of a vacancy occurring between Annual Meetings, the Board may appoint a person to serve until the next Annual Meeting.

D. Besides the nominees presented to the Annual Meeting by the Nominating Committee, any member may present a nominee for election to the Board prior to the Annual Meeting.

E. In elections at the Annual Meeting and special meetings, candidates receiving the largest number of votes for the designated position are elected.

2. Board nominations

a. **Kevin Kearns** - nominated by Susan Bridges - **approved unanimously** - Marty will inform Kevin of his approval to join the Board.
b. Other - None at the present time.

3. **Splash Award nominations** - Bill and Pat Wood, Roy Bellush, Shirley Vautin, Scott Kearns, Ann Jacobson, Kathy Miller, Doug Smith, Sarah McCabe, Amy Darbyshire - The Board decided that this year an exception could be made by awarding two recipients. **The board unanimously decided to award the two Splash Awards to Amy Darbyshire and Shirley Vautin.** Konrad will present the award to Amy and Marcia will present the award to Shirley at the Annual Meeting.

4. Returning board members and term limits

a. Susan and Rob will reup for another 3 year terms (both agreed to do so).
b. Konrad has reached his term limit.

5. **Finding a Communications Team Chair.** Konrad will ask Amy Darbyshire if she would like to chair communications. Sarah McCabe has a full time position and is therefore not available to head communications. Irene Penney is not interested. John Keith stated that other non-profit organizations have paid Communications positions. Marty agreed that a paid position should be considered if a qualified volunteer does not step forward. The time involved is approximately 10 hours per week. John Keith suggested a position such as this could be paid \$25K per year. The Board will discuss in August or September Board meetings, potentially creating a paid Communications position should a volunteer not come forward.

6. **Partnership with the BCT regarding nutrient reduction study** - Amy Henderson from BCT invited one or two board members to speak at a BCT board meeting in September. John Keith has agreed to represent BPC at the BCT board meeting.

Current Priorities

1. **Next steps regarding getting town to fund a study to reduce nutrient loading from septic systems.** BPC would like the Town of Brewster to sponsor a nutrient reduction study. This could be an agenda item for the Spring 2023 Town Meeting. Numerous other Cape Cod towns are dealing with nutrient overload affecting Cape Cod Bay, salt water marshes, and Pleasant Bay in addition to fresh water ponds. BPC would like to encourage Brewster to follow the lead of other Cape towns and take a more active role in nutrient reduction. Locating septic systems 300' from the pond is not a permanent solution. BPC working in conjunction with BCT could have more success in advocating that the town take action.
2. **Alum enhanced Septic Systems - pilot program (MASSTC)** - The Board agrees to create an overview of the alum enhanced septic system. John Keith and Susan Bridges will contact MASSTC to get the details of the program prior to soliciting volunteers. BPC may contribute to the costs of the program.
3. **Update from ad hoc committee to explore/propose use of grant money.** A "hay bale" approach to drying up nutrients was briefly discussed. The Emerald Tutu floating island program as discussed previously will not take place, however there is still a possibility of BPC doing a floating island study independently. Tom Vautin and Cameron Ferguson will meet with Noelle Aguiar from Conservation and Chris Miller from DNR to discuss the feasibility of this program.

Events

1. Recap of events this month.
 - a. Weed Watchers - 6/15 - Approximately ten attendees took part in this interesting event led by Jim Straub. There were date conflicts with many that resulted in a lower attendance.
 - b. Pond Summit - 6/17 - There were 78 in person and 87 online attendees. All agree the Summit was a huge success. Town Manager Peter Lombardi, Select Board Chair Cindy Bingham, Water Department Head Paul Anderson, and other town officials were very complimentary.
 - c. Biking Event #1 - 6/30 - Marty - This event did not take place due to multiple cancellations.
2. Upcoming in July
 - a. Conservation Day 7/9 - Mary has done an outstanding job scheduling this event. Mary will follow up with Konrad's request for power as the Big Flush along with other displays need electricity to operate. Marty, John Keith, Brian Baumgaertel from MASSTC, and Mark Nelson from Horsley Whitten will all speak.
 - b. Conservation Week Pond Field Trip 7/13 - Marcia is hosting this event for 9 kids at Seymour Pond. Sign up will take place on Conservation Day and online through the NEON system.
 - c. Hydrangea Festival 7/12 & 7/13 - Mary needs more volunteers for this two day event. BPC location will be at 69 Howes Road, Brewster where Peter Jensen from Terra Firma will display his landscape creation.
 - d. Bike ride 7/28 - Marty will lead this event.
 - e. Long Pond Eco Paddle 7/30
 - i. Brewster Select Board rejected the original BPC location request due to the potential size of the event.

- ii. Changed launch location to Harwich public landing and time changed to 4:30
3. Annual Meeting
 - a. Speaker - Zee Crocker
 - b. Venue: Cape Cod Bible Alliance Church.
 - c. Susan will give an introduction.
 - d. Rob will give a financial update.
 - e. The Board agreed that Nancy should purchase approximately 80 kitchen strainers to distribute to members free of charge at the annual meeting. Marcia and Nancy will create tags to attach to the strainers with a short description of how the fine mesh will prevent food particles from entering the septic systems and perhaps other tips regarding the importance of protecting septic systems. The cost of the strainers is approximately \$300.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

1. Pond Ed - Marcia
 - a. There was a successful completion of field trips for 2nd and 5th graders per Marcia. 187 participated including students, teachers, and even bus drivers.
 - b. The scholarship recipient is Gavin Ellis.
2. Citizen Scientist - Marty and Ron. Ron took charge of this project during Marty's absence. There were 5-6 ponds with higher trends that need to be watched, however, there are no human health risks at the current time.

Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships - Updates as needed

1. Leland Road - Konrad and Susan met with Peter Jensen of Terra Firma, Andy Barto and other neighbors at the site of the erosion remediation project. Several followed up with a tour of Peter Jensen's property in Orleans.

Wrap-up

- **Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments.**
Susan and John will follow up with BCT on the nutrient reduction study.
Susan and John will follow up with MASSTC on details of an alum enhanced septic project to present to potential BPC member volunteers.
Marty will inform Kevin Kearns of his appointment to the Board.
- **Next Board Meeting - August 4, 2022** - Google Meet
- **Annual Meeting - Saturday August 13th**
- **September Board Meeting - September 1, 2022** - Google Meet
- **October Board Meeting - October 6, 2022** - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 8:14 PM

Submitted by:

Nancy Ortiz, Clerk