

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
March 8, 2023 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Present: Mary Mauterstock, Susan Bridges, Kevin Kearns, John Keith, Rob Condon, Nancy Ortiz (left early), Ron Essig (arrived late, took over minutes)

Absent: Cameron, Marcia, Marty

Guest: Jane Savio - Administrative Consultant - new hire

Meeting called to order at 6 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the February 2nd Board Meeting - Nancy - accepted unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings - Updated Strategic Plan - Email vote was unanimous
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Rob/Susan/others - none
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - Balance at the end of February was \$207K. Balance including individual pond accounts \$245K. February expenses \$558. February donations \$7,900, YTD expenses \$1,840. Insurance invoice for \$3K due next month.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
 - a. Jane Savio - Administrative Consultant - Each Board member introduced him/herself to Jane and Jane gave a short synopsis of her background. All Board members enthusiastically welcomed Jane.
 - b. Website updates - Susan mentioned there were items on the website that need to be updated (i.e. trail management should be removed since it never took off.) All Team leaders and Board members should identify potential updates. Jane suggested links to YouTube videos of interest.

New Business

1. Pond Summit - format, date, speaker, etc.- Susan requested Board members to consider potential speakers for the pond summit envisioned for June. She suggested someone from another town on how they completed a comprehensive wastewater management plan. John and Kevin suggested a speaker from outside the area who has completed remediation projects. Private well monitoring came up and was thought to be a good adult education program.
2. Welcome letter for new homeowners - Marcia would like feedback on her draft in the meeting folder.

3. MailChimp account - Konrad recommended purchasing a standard plan at \$20 per month. This would allow 5 login users. Motion to purchase this was unanimously approved.
4. Septic system/pond testing initiative for summer 2023 - John provided two documents in the Board folder on this proposal for two different efforts that would fill in knowledge gaps and are not likely to receive Town funding due to other priorities. The first proposal involves drilling monitoring wells between 3-4 residential septic systems and downgradient ponds. Nitrogen and phosphorus levels would be monitored. An estimated cost would be \$13K per house. The second proposal is to use citizen scientists to expand water sampling beyond PALS data with particular emphasis on sediment sampling at possibly two ponds that people use and have historical data. An estimated cost would be \$16K per pond. John asked for Board support of the general concept of spending roughly \$75K total for both of these efforts. He would relay that interest to the Town at the Water Resources Task Force meeting the next day. Ensuing questions clarified some details. Selected septic systems would need to be Title 5 approved and not failing. Results would not force the homeowner to upgrade the system. Newer systems would not be selected since they already include monitoring. Different leach pits versus leach fields might be desirable. Enhanced pond testing would not overlap with Cape Cod Commission Freshwater Initiative since this would be three years behind us. Several ponds like the Mill ponds, Nickerson ponds and ponds bordering other towns would likely not be good candidates for testing. Motion to support this work in principle and authorize John to move forward with more detail and specific budgets passed unanimously.

Current Priorities

1. BPC position on spring warrant article re Walkers Pond alum application - Ron thought a BPC vote tonight was premature pending the Natural Resources Advisory Commission and Water Resources Task Force meetings tomorrow. Marty had provided written rationale for his opposition. John said Kim Pearson was opposed and he would vote no if a vote was taken now. He said alum would not be a long term solution for excess phosphorus there. He questioned whether alum would do any good in a shallow pond where wind could disturb the bottom encapsulation. No BPC vote was taken, but John will again ask about the stormwater project that is languishing at the Water Task Force meeting tomorrow.
2. Strategy for supporting fall town warrant articles - alternative septic pilot program (\$300K) and water study (\$80K?) - Action will be deferred with the two proposed projects in the works.
3. Spring Newsletter - Susan reminded all that the stories and photos deadline is March 20. An article on the two proposed projects would be appropriate for the summer newsletter.
4. 2023 Pond Guide - Susan reminded all that the stories and photos deadline is March 27.
5. Events - Mary stepped through the events planned for upcoming months:
 - a. Eco Expo 2/21 - Marcia as Shelly the turtle was a hit.
 - b. Native Plants - Kristen Andres APCC 4/24 at Ladies Library
 - c. Beautify Brewster - 4/29 : Nancy Ortiz & Marty Burke will co-chair

- d. BOH, Septic Systems, Title 5, etc. - Amy van Hone 5/4
 - e. Herring run eco paddle - 5/6 - Including biologist Brad Chase
 - f. Brewster In Bloom Parade - 5/7. Susan would like to see BPC have a float in the parade instead of the usual table at the Brewster Bookstore.
 - g. Adult version of the Pond Ed program - 5/12. Shirley Vautin and Cindy Doutrich will lead.
 - h. Composting - Terra Firma - 5/18 two sessions. Peter Jensen suggested an admission charge as a fundraiser.
 - i. Higgins Pond hike @ Nickerson led by Nancy - May 20th
 - j. Bike Rides by Marty - June, July, August & September - Dates TBD
 - k. Conservation Day - BCT - 7/8
6. Committee Reports - Several written reports are in the meeting folder. Kevin mentioned potential permitting compliance issues with the proposed Canoe Pond aeration pump site being in a wetland. John suggested that with its small footprint there may be an alternate site outside the wetland.

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments - The main immediate action item was to hear back on proposed alum treatment of Walkers Pond from John at the Water Resources Task Force meeting and Ron at the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on the following day.
- Next Board Meeting - April 6, 2023 - Google Meet
- May meeting - May 4, 2023 - Google Meet
- June meeting - June 1, 2023 - Google Meet
- July meeting - July 6, 2023 - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Submitted by,

Nancy Ortiz, Clerk
Ron Essig