

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
August 3, 2023 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Present: Marty Burke, Mary Mauterstock, John Keith, Nancy Ortiz, Jane Savio, Ron Essig, Rob Condon, Kevin Kearns, Marcia Kielb, Cameron Ferguson

Absent: Susan Bridges - Susan attended the first 10 minutes of the meeting to make sure there were no login issues.

There was some loss of power during the meeting for Mary and John.

Meeting called to order: 6:02 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the July 6th Board Meeting - Nancy - minutes accepted unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings, if any - Nancy - none
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Rob/others - none
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - The total bank balance is \$247,500 (includes Blueberry and Elbow Pond accounts.) July expenses were \$4,118 which included \$2K for scholarships. July donations were \$4,187. There was a \$2,500 donation via the Ross Scherer trust fund in honor of Kevin Kearns. The year-to-date income is \$53K. Canoe Pond Association will eventually need \$10K of BPC grant money to partially cover the \$30K cost of moving their aeration system.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - Nancy mentioned that Chris Miller from the Department of Natural Resources informed Susan that kayak racks on the Mill Pond Drive Association beach (Lower Mill Pond) will protect the shoreline. (There was a question whether a kayak rack expense fell under the BPC mission.) Currently the kayaks are piled up on top of each other and dragged to the water when used, causing erosion. The board voted unanimously to approve the racks. Per the Board suggestion, Nancy will check with Ryan Burch (or Chris Miller) regarding the need for conservation approval to install the racks. Funds from the Lower Mill Pond account that were raised strictly from yard sale revenue and fund-raising (no BPC grants were used) will be used to purchase the material for the racks that are estimated to cost \$300. Rob has recused himself from the vote since he is part of the Lower Mill Pond Association. Marty's opinion is that the board does not need to vote on a LMP group decision to spend from its own funds set aside and held by the BPC. As long as the town has no issue with the kayak racks, then the BPC should not either.

New Business

1. T- shirts - Marty and Mary - Discussion ensued regarding what kind of T-shirts to order for BPC volunteers and for general sale: cotton versus wicking, polo versus regular, a combination of the above, some with volunteer written on back, mission statement on back, logo on front, etc. Per Mary, vendors will advise on sizes. The volunteer party tentative date is September 17th and a 3 week lead time is needed for ordering T-shirts. Marty and Mary will do more research and send their recommendation to the board for an Email vote.

Current Priorities

1. Annual Meeting - August 12th
 - a. Presentation - A lengthy discussion ensued regarding John's Comprehensive Water Resource Management Planning presentation at the annual meeting. Cameron suggested reducing the number of slides to 8-10 and have the content target the Select Board, some of whom will be present at the annual meeting. Concern was expressed regarding Town Manager Peter Lombardi's comments that BPC was taking a lead instead of the town. The Board agrees the approach should be to acknowledge and build a foundation on what the town has started, however, the warrant will incorporate many of BPC's ideas. John estimates a plan at an estimated cost of \$400-\$500K spread over three or more years. Horsley Witten among other companies will be considered to do the plan. A comprehensive plan gives the town more leeway than an integrated plan. This article is slated for the Fall Warrant and may be a Citizen's Petition should the town postpone action until a later date. BPC believes enough time has lapsed in developing a plan and feels strongly that this article should move forward on the Fall Warrant. John will edit the presentation and forward to the Board for comments.
 - b. Splash award nominations - confirm recipient - The Board unanimously approved [Kristi Dondlinger](#) as the recipient of the 2023 splash award. Nancy will present the award at the annual meeting and Susan will assemble the award.
2. Septic system/pond testing initiative for summer 2023 - status report - per John, four wells have been drilled at two houses on Elbow Pond and one well has been drilled at Griffith Pond. (The well at Griffith Pond is 35 feet deep.) The home owners are enthusiastic about the project. The first sampling will be arranged by Brian Baumgaertel of Masstech and Brian Horsley will do the testing. This is scheduled for next week. John will approve the invoices and submit them to Rob for payment.
3. Board recruitment - There are no confirmed candidates for the board, however, there are a few leads. Marty met with Lee Yaffa and George Penner last week to discuss their interest in joining the board. Neither individual felt that they had the time to dedicate at this point. Marty has set up a meeting with Tim Chase for August 7. Marty will also meet with Anne Jacobson in mid-September to discuss a board position.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

1. Pond Outreach
 - a. Canoe Pond Aeration Project -. John will revise the NOI (Notice of Intent) and present the project to the Conservation Commission for approval after the date is set. The current owner has agreed to keep the pump for the next year. The cost of moving the aeration pumps is estimated at \$30K and qualifies for the BPC grant program which will reimburse one third the cost to a maximum of \$10K.

- b. Beachwood Drive remediation project at Seymour Pond - John Keith never received a response from Griffin Ryder, Superintendent of Brewster DPW, to John's request for comments regarding the Beechwood Drive remediation project. John advises going ahead with the project which will consist of a catch basin and an infiltration system.
2. Other - The Pond Pledge Program is garnering momentum. Pete Dahl, president of the Canoe Pond Association received a positive response when presenting the program at their annual meeting last Saturday. Nancy expressed an interest in starting a program at Lower Mill Pond and the Myricks Pond group would like to start a program as well. Currently Upper Mill and Seymour pond are participating in the PPP and soliciting their members.
3. Citizen Science - Ron mentioned how a resident questioned pond samplers about their access to Cobbs Pond since ownership of the path is unclear. Regardless of ownership, the Colonial Ordinances of 1641-1647 allow access to Great ponds 20 acres or more by foot across unimproved land for fishing or fowling. Since Cobbs Pond is 23 acres and sampling involves tossing a net, it is clear that sampler use of the unimproved path is legal.

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments:
 - Nancy will present the Splash award to Kristi.
 - John will finalize the Annual Meeting presentation.
 - Mary and Marty will order T-shirts.
 - Nancy will contact Ryan Burch re: conservation approval of kayak rack.
 - Pond Pledge Program work will continue at Upper Mill and Seymour Ponds, with possible program participation at Canoe Pond.
 - Storm water project off Beechwood Drive will continue.
 - The Myricks Pond group is beginning research on possible remediation plans and will look to work with the BPC as things progress.
- Next Board Meeting - September 7, 2023 - Google Meet
- September Meeting - Strategic Planning Meeting - Date TBD
- October Meeting - October 5, 2023 - Google Meet
- November Meeting - November 2, 2023 - Google Meet

Meeting Adjourned: 7:58 PM

Submitted by:

Nancy Ortiz, Secretary