

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

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

Absent: [Rob Condon](#)

Guests: Amy Henderson, Executive Director of the Brewster Conservation Trust (BCT) and Tino Kamarck, President of the BCT Board of Directors

Meeting Called to order: 6:09 PM

Presentation - Tino and Amy discussed water concerns of the recently purchased Long Pond Sea Camp property. This 66 acre property located off Route 137 is in a Zone 2 drinking water recharge area. Water from the wells on this property is routinely drawn to supplement heavy usage during dry summers. Unlike many pond front areas in Brewster, the land is uniformly sloped toward the pond. The soil consists mainly of sand and gravel. Water eventually ends up in Long Pond unless pulled into the town water wells. Should even a portion of this area be developed for affordable housing, there would be an environmental impact to both the well and pond water due to septic systems. Furthermore, this area is one of the few sites appropriate for any additional wells needed to supplement Brewster water. Twenty-five percent of Brewster residents responded in favor of affordable housing to be constructed on the Long Pond Sea Camps property in a recent survey. Concern was expressed that these responders were not educated on the pond and well water impact of new construction prior to taking the survey. The detailed Hydrogeologist Report (see board folder) is found on the town website. Many agree the Bay Sea Camps property is better suited for housing due to less impact on water quality and already existing structures. The Pond Property Planning Committee meetings are open to the public and held on the first Wednesday of the month.

BCT representatives left the meeting at 6:41 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the June 1st Board Meeting - Nancy - accepted unanimously (Kevin had a minor correction)
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings, if any - none
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Rob/others - none
4. Treasurer's report - Nancy (in Rob's absence)
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - June expenses \$7,199 - largest expense was APCC grant and cyanobacteria equipment @ \$2,566. June donations \$3,824 - total balance \$246,777.54. Income is 60% of budget and

Expenses are 29% of budget at halfway point of calendar year. Expenses will increase this fall with the septic system/pond testing initiative.

- b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
- a. Pond Summit recap - All agree the Pond Summit was a success. The high attendance included many out of town attendees interested in creating similar organizations in their towns. Suggestions for next year are noted in the Pond Summit file.
 - b. Newsletters from other organizations (APCC, etc.) - Susan suggests that all board members individually subscribe to newsletters to eliminate the need to forward.
 - c. Nancy mentioned Mill Pond Association purchasing a sign stating "Erosion Control Area/No Vehicles Please" as vehicles have been driving down to the pond in the area that was remediated in 2020. Violators should be directed to Upper Mill Public Landing.
 - d. Marty noted that he has heard from Pond and Town groups in Falmouth, Wellfleet and Chatham to discuss the programs of the BPC including the Pond Protection Plan.
 - e. Susan met with Town Manager Peter Lombardi regarding a storage facility for Citizen Scientist and other BPC supplies currently stored in Gwen Pelletier's garage and other locations. Peter said there would be a new shed constructed on the Long Pond property that could be available for BPC usage. A water hydration station is also in the plans. This water could be used for rinsing citizen scientist equipment. Separately, per Peter, the Select Board will not grant permission for Eco Paddle events launching from the Long Pond public landing between Memorial and Labor Days even if the events take place after 5 PM when parking permits are not needed. Kayaks for this Brewster event will have to be launched from the Harwich public landing. A BPC volunteer party is scheduled to take place after Labor Day and prior to the 9/11 commencement of construction at the Long Pond public landing. The town has concerns about the lack of port-a-potty availability on the sites used by Eco Paddle and other BPC events This will need to be taken into consideration when planning future events on public property.

New Business

- 1. Annual Meeting - August 12th
 - a. Presentation - Keynote speaker John Keith will present what the BPC believes should be included in the Townwide Comprehensive Water Management Plan slated for the Fall Warrant. The focus of the August Water Management Task Force meeting will be the development of this article. John plans to have the final presentation ready for the annual meeting and intends to share the presentation with the task force prior to the meeting. A preliminary suggestion of the budget for this item is \$150K for the next three years totalling \$450K. FinCom and the town will make the final determination of the budgeted amount. John emphasized that there is no "one size fits all" solution to the water management challenge and resources should not be wasted where not effective.
 - b. Splash award nominations - Susan requested all board members consider Splash Award nominees. Kevin suggested "broadening the candidate pool to include anyone in Brewster who has made a strong personal commitment to pond quality regardless of their volunteer status." Meghan Taylor who started the

Pond Pledge program was mentioned as an example. (Nancy, when writing the minutes discovered the volunteer list in the Winter 2023 Newsletter which could be used to find candidates and informed the board.)

2. CWMP - article on fall town warrant - see 1a above.

Current Priorities

1. Conservation Day 7/8/23 - The ending time has been corrected to 1:30 PM. Clean up will begin at this time. Konrad will do a repeat performance of Dapper Dan the Septic Man, Shelly the Turtle will attend, the Big Flush will be installed along with the famous Flush Button which has finally been located and revamped by Konrad. Volunteers should bring personal water bottles and chairs. Free food will be provided for volunteers. The Education Team, Membership, and Citizen Scientist will have tables. The Pond Pledge Program will be advertised. Pond Pledge signs from Upper Mill, Sheep and Seymour Ponds will be on display. The QR code on the Pond Pledge yard sign and bumper stickers for UPM and Seymour Pond will connect interested individuals to the BPC website.
2. Septic system/pond testing initiative for summer 2023 - status report. The contract has been signed with Horsley Whitten. Well drilling has been scheduled for the week of July 17th. The homeowners on Elbow and Griffith Ponds are enthusiastic about participating in this project. Jane asked if there should be space within the BPC website for updates to this project. Marty asked if dates have been set for the various tasks and John said that no dates have yet been set.
3. Board recruitment - Currently there are no candidates available. Susan is requesting all board members to search for potential candidates. Susan spoke with Town Manager Peter Lombardi and Select Board member Ned Chatelain about possible board candidates from their contacts that are of the "younger generation."

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

1. Pond Outreach
 - a. Canoe Pond - Kevin reported that Tim Chase has prepared a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Canoe Pond aeration project per Conservation Director, Bill Grafton's recommendation. John Keith assisted in the preparation of this document. Kevin thanked John and Nancy for their assistance on this project. BPC will reimburse a portion of the cost via the grant program.
 - b. John has advised Seymour Pond regarding the location of the catch basins. This also will qualify for the matching grant program. Kevin put Scott Kerns from Myricks Pond in contact with Tim Chase regarding the Canoe Pond aeration project. Myricks Pond has major pollution challenges.
2. Other - Ron suggested that recent information on the Pond Protection Pledge program be added to the BPC website.

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments
The Comprehensive Water Protection Plan write-up needs to be continued.

Conservation Day is on Saturday. Board members should check the schedule for assignments.

Board Members should consider Splash Award candidates.

Board Members should search for possible board candidates.

- Next Board Meeting - August 3, 2023 - Google Meet
- September Meeting - September 7, 2023 - Google Meet
- October Meeting - October 5, 2003 - Google Meet
- Strategic Planning Meeting - Date TBD

Meeting adjourned: 7:58 PM

Submitted by: Nancy Ortiz, Secretary