

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
November 2, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Present: Susan Bridges, Jane Savio, Rob Condon, Marcia Kielb, Nancy Ortiz, John Keith, Marty Burke

Absent: Mary Mauterstock, Ron Essig, Kevin Kearns

Guests: Tim Chase, Kristi Dondlinger, Susan Meyer

Meeting called to order: 6:06 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the October 5th Board Meeting - Nancy - Minutes accepted unanimously.
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings, if any - none
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Rob/others Per John, The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has approved the technology for a new method of nitrogen reduction in septic systems which also reduces phosphorus. A Pilot study is currently being conducted to determine the effectiveness of this new technology. John will forward the report to the Board.
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - The bank balance as of October 31, 2023, is \$188K which is a decrease of \$3K. October expenses were \$4,255 for Horsley Whitten and Barnstable County MASSTC studies. October donations were \$943. The year to date income is \$59,751 and year to date expenses are \$50,723. Discussion ensued regarding the classification of Pond Protection Pledge income which is currently treated as donations. Susan asked if these donations could be tracked separately. Rob is not convinced separate tracking is worth the extra work involved as the campaign is relatively small. No final decision was made.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) October expenses approved unanimously.
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
 - a. CC5 debit card - Susan and Rob now each have a debit card to be used by board members for BPC purchases. This will reduce the amount of reimbursement checks needed for board purchases.

New Business - Education - The scholarship group has expanded scholarship eligibility to all NRHS and CCRT students rather than limiting applicants to Brewster residents. Jane has been asked to put information about the scholarship and the application form on the BPC website. John has offered to do a pond presentation program for Nauset Regional Middle School K through 4th grade special education students.

Current Priorities

1. Strategic Planning Meeting takeaways
 - a. Review committee action plans - Susan will create a template to facilitate the submitting of committee action plans. Each committee will address its action plan addressing both current 2023 tasks and additional tasks for 2024.
 - b. Review committee budgets - 2024 budgets need to be created by each committee. The goal is to have budgets submitted prior to the December board meeting.
 - c. Marty suggested that a folder be clearly marked "Strategy Plans" for clear access by board members. This folder will hold specific committee strategy plans for 2024 along with the overarching BPC Strategy Plan update.
2. Septic system/pond testing initiative for summer 2023 - status report - Per John, the next round of sampling in Elbow and Griffith Ponds wells will be completed by Brian Baumgaertel of MASSTC within a month. The GIS report for Elbow Pond (and perhaps other ponds) is incorrect, however the vertical migration of phosphorus can still be measured for Elbow Pond. Marty will contact owners of additional houses with the correct configuration for testing. Hopefully three more houses in addition to the Ortiz residence will be recruited. Kristi has offered to talk to any neighbors with houses that meet the criteria in the Greenland Pond area.
3. Ripples stories & focus - Ripples is almost completed. Susan and Jane will edit the final copy tomorrow. Betty Wiley has submitted some amazing drone photos of Brewster Ponds at the very reasonable charge of \$100. These photos will be used for the magazine cover.
4. The Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) for the town will be BPC's focus in 2024. John reminded the board that Brewster is the only Cape town with no CWMP. Federal and State wastewater treatment funding is dependent on a CWMP whether it be for town sewers, IA septic systems, etc. Susan uploaded a MA Dept. of Environmental Protection document titled "Guide to COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING" to the Nov. Board Meeting folder. The Orleans Ponds Coalition, among other organizations, could be valuable resources for information.
5. Board recruitment - not discussed. Board recruit Tim Chase was in attendance for the entire meeting.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed.

Susan recapped the November 1st BPC forum at the Council on Aging organized by the Events Committee. The purpose of the forum was to discuss the water quality articles slated for the November 13th town meeting. Town Manager Peter Lombardi was in attendance. Sharon Tennstedt, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, discussed the updated Vision Planning (Article 8 section 4) which no longer mentions the contentious boardwalk at Wing Island.

Susan presented the water quality articles. Fertilizer restrictions and stormwater runoff remediation were discussed. Remediation projects (Article 2 Section 5) for Leland, Red Top/Seaman's Way, and Crowell Bog Road along Black Pond will be completed in 2024 provided Article 2 passes. Walkers Pond remediation is slated for this Spring with money

already approved from last year's warranty. Per Peter, DPW Director Griffith Ryder is having difficulty finding workers. Once again, affordable Cape Cod housing is limited, reducing the pool of qualified applicants. Discussion ensued regarding a few attendees' concerns over the deteriorating pond water quality over the many years they have vacationed and now live on the Cape. All appeared to be interested in remediation projects. There were over 20 attendees excluding BPC Board members.

Article 2 section 1 refers to \$100K allocated for a Ponds Management Plan and Pilot Pond Study. BPC is offering volunteers from its extensive list to do much of the work, thereby reducing the cost of the study and freeing up funds for additional pond studies. Available data can be organized and consolidated by these volunteers. Ponds could be categorized as impaired or not impaired. Is stormwater drain management needed? Is shoreline protection needed? How many houses are located within 50 feet of the pond? Susan and John will meet with Peter to determine the best use of the BPC volunteers.

Marcia will be requesting additional funds for the Pond Education Committee to enhance the curriculum and buy better field equipment.

Marty announced that all 2023 tested ponds were in the acceptable category and no advisory warnings were necessary. Over 300 samples were taken in 12 testing rounds of 19 ponds. In addition, 6 off-cycling samples were taken. Marty explained how the change in temperature this time of year can cause cyanobacteria blooms. Marty has been in contact with the Town DNR this summer requesting that GPS coordinates be documented across town ponds and provided to the Citizen Science committee. Ryan Burch is looking into finishing this project. In addition, Marty has notified Ryan of missing or damaged buoys that need replacing. Water testing buoys are located at the deepest part of the pond. (Buoys should not be made of styrofoam which is bad for the environment.) Susan suggested that Marty might like to write an article for the winter newsletter about how water temperature affects cyanobacteria. Marty is happy to do that for the Winter 2024 newsletter. Marty mentioned that he and Ron would like to review the plans for the new storage shed on Long Pond that will be shared with the town and BPC. Marty attended the Falmouth Pond Coalition meeting in October and met with four or five potential speakers for BPC events in 2024. Marty said that the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association remote satellite study that the citizen science team participated in this summer was completed on October 31, 2023. This year we measured visibility at 5 ponds (UMP, LMP, Seymour, Sheep and Long) for a total of 60 tests. This surpassed the teams' goal of 50 tests for 2023. The results have been submitted to APCC and NOAA,

Kristi has already contacted ten of the twenty volunteer signups to decipher their interests in BPC 2024 volunteer opportunities.

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments
Susan will create a template for committees to add 2024 action plans.

Board members should work on the 2024 committee budgets.

Susan and Jane will edit Ripples.

Susan and John will meet with Peter re: volunteers for the Ponds Management Plan

- Next Board Meeting - December 7, 2023 - Google Meet
- January Meeting - TBD - Google Meet

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 PM

Submitted by: Nancy Ortiz, Secretary