

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
December 2, 2021 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Board Members Present: Susan Bridges, Marty Burke, Mary Mauterstock, Cameron Ferguson, Ron Essig, Konrad Schultz, John Keith, Rob Condon

Board Members Absent: Nancy Ortiz, Marcia Kielb

Visitor: Amaya Giannini

Meeting Called to Order: 6:05 PM

Konrad Introduced Amaya who is a high school sophomore and is helping with BPC communications. Amaya has created a BPC Instagram page and is now actively posting to it.

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the November 4th Board Meeting - Minutes approved unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings (if any) - None
3. Incoming mail
 - a. Konrad reported an Email from a new property owner regarding best practices for planting vegetation, tree felling, and avoiding stormwater runoff. Konrad provided feedback to this person and suggested that BPC connect with new residents soon after they buy a home about ways to protect our ponds.
 - b. Konrad also responded to an inquiry on different types of fertilizers
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder
Current total balance of \$116K represents an increase of \$6,700 from last month
Blueberry Pond still has \$30K in coffer
Monthly expenses \$16K are mostly for BPC caps at about \$12 per cap
Over 100 caps in stock deemed suitable for latest membership appeal
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements - None
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
 - a. Update on business cards - Susan has new business cards for drop off or pickup
 - b. Stormwater bylaws and regulations - Susan reported that these passed at the most recent Town Meeting.

New Business:

1. Sea Camps donation

Susan toured the Bay parcel on Monday. Susan and John previously met with Brewster Conservation Trust leadership. BCT pledged about \$1.8 million over a four year period

for acquisition of the Long Pond parcel. Susan initiated discussion by proposing a \$5K donation to the BCT toward this. Significant discussion ensued on whether \$5K is enough and whether it should go to BCT as opposed to the Town. The dollar amount of potential donations from other organizations is not known, but \$5K would at least get BPC a seat at the table when future uses are discussed. Marty commented, and others agreed, that the money should be used toward the Long Pond parcel as opposed to the Bay parcel. He thought that a BPC lab/research center for cyanobacteria and other water quality analyses could be located there. Rob expressed concern on the lack of specificity on what the BPC donation would be used for and suggested a pledge at this point instead of a donation. Marty questioned whether BPC funds should go directly to the Town instead of through BCT. Susan noted an upside of working through BCT and making sure the Town knows of the BPC contribution.

Motion - BPC donate \$5K to BCT for the acquisition of the Long Pond parcel. Motion passed by a vote of 7 to 1.

2. Cape Cod Pond Viewer

Ron highlighted a recent request from the Cape Cod Commission for comments on the form and function of the viewer. He submitted these comments along with BPC concerns about private access points being displayed. Konrad shared negative experiences with an access path being displayed from a GoogleMaps pushpin in his neighborhood. Marty mentioned that a private boat launch on Seymour Pond was in the viewer. Susan suggested that a conference call with Heather at the Commission would help clarify the audience and their vision for including private access points. Ron volunteered to schedule this with Konrad, and possibly Marty and John on the call.

Current Priorities

1. 2022 Budget - Rob stepped through the proposed 2022 budget with income of \$80K and expenses of \$47K. The \$71K revenue anticipated from donors is based on 30% annual growth. The newly created Communications budget represents the largest expense at \$14K with Administration second at \$12K. There is a net gain of \$32K that could go towards projects, project reserves and grants. Two areas were identified that needed correction - \$2K in revenues from the hydrangea festival and an additional \$1K toward scholarships. Rob built in some cushion for increased accountant and NEON fees. A vote on the budget was delayed until after discussion of potential new projects.
2. Septic system nutrient reductions study - John and Konrad developed an action plan that is in the December Board meeting folder. It has three steps:
 - a. Developing convincing trend data on water quality, cyanobacteria, etc. This should come from someone with respected credentials, not just BPC. This should be accomplished before the 2022 Ponds Summit.
 - b. Alternative septic systems should be highlighted, as opposed to just sewers.
 - c. Actions should include phasing, as was done in Wellfleet.

A meeting with Town officials for their buy-in and a series of speakers are envisioned. The focus should be on phosphorous, but nitrogen cannot be ignored. \$20K is thought to be needed for a consultant or professor to accomplish the first step. PALS data limitations include collection by many different volunteers and suboptimal times of the

year. So a summary of available data might also spur better data collection and analyses by others. Rob pointed out that this work is part of a long view due to decades of neglect. BPC also needs to take a short view with pond remediation and plantings. He volunteered to help coordinate remediation projects.

3. Stormwater spreadsheet/map - John reported that the current data are 4-5 years old and needs updating. This can be done at minimal cost and can help identify hotspots for homeowners and pond associations to take action. John estimated that \$8-10K could accomplish two stormwater management projects. Several projects currently considered include Leyland Road, Slough Pond, Flax Pond Road and Long Pond beach parking lot.
4. Bioremediation Study - Tom Vautin would like to speak on this topic at the January Board meeting. A consultant will likely be needed and funds set aside in the budget, but the dollar amount is unknown at this time.
5. 2022 Budget continued
Motion - Add \$10K for short term stormwater management projects - Approved unanimously
Motion - Add \$20K for septic system nutrient reductions study - Approved unanimously
Motion - Approve overall 2022 budget with changes agreed to this evening - Approved unanimously
Rob will modify the budget and distribute to the Board

Events

1. Susan mentioned that Paul Anderson of the Brewster Water Department will likely speak at an April event.
2. Mary reported that Peter Jensen of Terra Firma will speak on environmentally friendly gardens at a future event. The Board has an open invitation for a one-hour tour of his gardens.
3. Earlier in the meeting, Mary noted that securing two member gardens would be ideal for the 2022 hydrangea tour.

Committee Reports

Konrad mentioned a two week deadline for the January newsletter

Wrap-up

- **Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments**
- 1. Motion approved to donate \$5K to the BCT for acquisition of the Long Pond parcel of Sea Camps
- 2. Ron will arrange a video conference with the Cape Cod Commission about their Cape Cod Pond Viewer
- 3. Rob will edit the 2022 budget line items for the hydrangea festival and scholarships
- 4. Motion approved to add \$10K to the 2022 budget for stormwater management projects. Rob volunteered to help coordinate these
- 5. Motion approved to add \$20K to the 2022 budget for septic systems nutrient reduction study

6. Motion approved for the overall 2022 budget with changes agreed to this evening
7. Rob will modify the 2022 budget and distribute to the Board

- **Next Board Meeting - January 6, 2022 - Google Meet**
- **February Board Meeting - February 3, 2022 - Google Meet**
- **March Board Meeting - March 3, 2022 - Google Meet**
- **April Board Meeting - April 7, 2022 - Google Meet**

Meeting adjourned 8:38 PM

Submitted by:

Ron Essig