

## Minutes, Brewster Ponds Coalition, October 7, 2021

Virtual meeting by Google Meet: Board members present: Susan Bridges, Nancy Ortiz, Marty Burke, Rob Condon, Marcia Kielb, Cameron Ferguson, Konrad Schultz, Mary Mauterstock, Ron Essig

Meeting started 6:06 PM

### Standing Topics

1. **Minutes of the August 14th Annual Meeting and September 2nd Board Meeting were approved - (Note: The 8/14/21 Annual Meeting minutes will be approved by the BPC membership at the 2022 Annual Meeting.)**
2. **Minutes of the September 23rd Strategy meeting were approved as amended. Ron made an amendment to Strategy Meeting notes which was approved. - Nancy**
3. **Confirm and document Email votes between Board meetings (if any) - there were none - Nancy**
4. **Incoming mail (if any) - Rob/others**
  - a. Nancy mentioned her neighbor Meredith Reilly thanked the board for the \$50 gift certificate to Crocker Nurseries for the use of her dock for aerosol testing.
  - b. Susan mentioned that Kim Comart from The Deep Pond Association in Yarmouth is meeting with Susan on Tuesday to discuss starting a Yarmouth Ponds Coalition.
  - c. Marty is looking to set up a meeting with Joe Swaluk, the VP of Trout Unlimited (who lives in Brewster), to discuss making a presentation by BPC to the local chapter of Trout Unlimited. Marty would like to have Ron attend if that is possible. The date of the potential meeting is still TBD.
5. **Treasurer's report - Rob**
  - a. Financial statements - Payment in the amount of \$6,400 was made to UNH for the aerosol testing. The current bank balance is \$108K. The Blueberry/Sols group's balance is currently \$30K. The increase is due to \$4.5K received from their yard sale drive. There was no change in the Elbow Pond balance. There was no change in the reserve balance. Expenses are lower than previous years. BPC has met 85% of the budget with \$42,788 of Y-T-D income.
  - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. **Misc. administrative matters - All**
  - a. Business cards - Ron, John, and Marcia need business cards. Marty needs additional business cards. Konrad informed the board that it's less expensive to order large quantities of business cards through an online company than a smaller amount from Staples. Konrad will order business cards.
  - b. BPC hats - Marcia, Ron, Cameron, and perhaps John need BPC hats. More will be ordered by Marty.
  - c. John (not present at the meeting) suggested the Board meeting time be changed to 5 PM. Board decided the meeting start time should remain at 6 PM.

- d. Cameron requested Board members submit volunteer names, hours volunteered, and a general description of tasks preferably within two weeks or prior to the next board meeting. Once volunteer info is entered into NEON, detailed reports can be created. Marty suggested each committee chair complete a monthly tally of volunteer hours in order to stay up to date with the accounting.

## **New Business:**

### **Current Priorities**

#### **1. Strategic planning and goal setting for the new term**

##### **a. Review Strategic Planning Meeting decisions**

###### **Long Term Goals:**

**Goal #1 - Update water protection plan** for Brewster. Action: meet with town officials re: sewerage and alternative septic funding. BPC is meeting with the town officials in January re: the town updating the water management plan. Board suggested specifying “pond” as opposed to simply “water” The last time the plan was discussed was in 2009 and focusing was on pond water quality as opposed to the aquifer (drinking water).

**Goal #2 - Update water quality report** related to ponds every two years. Board agreed that a short update is needed by the town every two years as opposed to a “full blown” report.

**Goal #3 - Identify trends in nutrient source reduction.** BPC has a lot of information regarding the cyanobacteria test results over the last four years. Marty has four years of data that he has been compiling and has saved in a library type folder. This data can be considered in addition to the PALS reporting that has been done by SMAST since 2001. The PALS data is reported on an annual basis. Marty reiterated that he is working with a couple of members in compiling the PALS data in a usable format. It is still questionable, in his opinion, if the data is credible enough to develop a solid trend analysis.

**Goal #4 - Educate the Public.** This can be done via newsletter, Ripples, pond outreach, programs for adults, Pond Protection Pledge, etc. Publicizing completion of stormwater remediation projects is very effective in educating the public. Marty stated that this is an area where BPC can have significant influence in the community to change consumer type behavior to slow down the level of nutrients that reach our ponds.

###### **Short Term Goals:**

**Goal #1 - Meet with town officials to discuss long term goals.** Town has already agreed to meet with BPC every six months. The next meeting will be in January and the following meeting will be summer 2022.

**Goal #2 - Adult workshops** regarding septic systems, personal products, fertilizers, native plants, rain gardens, etc.

### **Goal #3 - Develop pond outreach.**

b. **Committee Action Plans.** Committees should continue to work on action plans.

c. **Operating Plan.** Dates for events will need to be determined. Discussion ensued regarding the number of events organized by BPC such as bike rides, paddles, and hikes. These events involve a lot of work regarding publicizing, tracking participants, liability waivers, rescheduling due to weather, etc. This year there were four eco paddles scheduled. Perhaps next year three will be enough. The eco paddles do bring in revenue, however. Perhaps the time would be better spent on adult education programs, pond outreach, and working with pond associations.

Discussion ensued regarding how to engage the town and obtain funding for pond remediation, i.e. nutrient reduction. BPC's goal is to partner with the town. Perhaps BPC could invite town department heads to talk to BPC members regarding pond issues. Members could learn from the experts such as Noelle Aguiar from Conservation, Scott Horsley from Horsley and Whitten, Griffin Ryder from the DPW, Amy von Hone from the Board of Health, Paul Anderson from the Water Department, etc. A winter speakers series for members, the Select Board, and other town officials could be enlightening.

Cameron suggested communicating with other Pond Coalitions in the US. Have others been successful in pond remediation? Konrad mentioned Scott Horsley from Horsley and Whitten is currently working on bringing IA (innovative/alternative) septic systems in Wellfleet

d. **2022 budget** Board members should work on their committee budgets.

#### **2. Events**

**Bike Tour #4 - Marty reported that the ride took place on 10/7 with a total of 8 riders. All had a very nice time.**

**Eco Paddle - Quivett Creek 10/17 - Nancy will greet the group.**

#### **3. Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed**

See folders

#### **4. Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships - Updates as needed - none mentioned**

### **Wrap-up**

- **Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments:**

**Board to submit volunteer info to Cameron**

**Susan and Mary to come up with ideas for adult ed programs**

**Board to create action plans and budgets for various committees**

**Board to update inventory list**

**Hats (Marty) and business cards (Konrad) to be ordered**  
**Konrad and John to work on how to approach Select Board re: pond remediation**  
**and other water related issues**  
**Marcia,Cameron, and Mary to work on 2022 scholarship program**

- **November Board meeting - November 4, 2021 - Google Meet**
- **December Board Meeting - December 2, 2021 - Google Meet**

Meeting adjourned 7:45 PM

Submitted by Nancy Ortiz, Clerk