

Minutes, Brewster Ponds Coalition, August 5, 2021

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

Meeting started: 6 PM

Standing Topics

1. **Minutes of the July 1st Board Meeting approved - Nancy**
2. **Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings - Nancy**
 - a. BPC letter re continued participation in the CCIWPF sent to Peter Lombardi & the Select Board - approved unanimously
 - b. Support of the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative letter addressed to the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates opposing the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards - approved unanimously
3. **Incoming mail (if any) - none - Marty takes care of all website inquiries. There have been lots of questions regarding water testing, blooms, status of using ponds for swimming, etc.**
4. **Treasurer's report - Rob**
 - a. **Financial statements** - see Board folder - July was a slow month. The current bank balance is \$112K. July donations were \$1,384 and expenses were \$1,417 including the NEON annual fee. The year-to-date income is \$38,591 which is 70% of the budget. The hydrangea festival income was \$2K. Christie Boskus - Yoga on the beach donations totalled \$835.00 per Marty.
 - b. **Approval of expenses and reimbursements** - none
5. **Misc. administrative matters All**
 - a. A date for the board strategic planning meeting needs to be set. The Board decided the date should be set via Email.

New Business:

- a. **BPC support of environmental issues related to Brewster and/or other areas on the Cape.** The Board discussed setting guidelines for involvement in environmental issues, especially those not specifically related to ponds. Konrad mentioned the tighter our focus on our mission, the less chance of alienating members and others. Case in point: the possibility of alienating veterans by our opposition to the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards. On the other hand, the Board acknowledged the difficulty in separating general water issues from specific pond issues and also the risk of not getting support from various groups if we don't speak up. The Board decided to make decisions on a case by case basis. This subject will be further discussed at the BPC strategic planning meeting.
- b. **Update on meetings with Town Administrator, Peter Lombardi, and Brewster Department Heads** Susan Bridges and Konrad Schultz met with Chris Miller from the DNR, Noelle Aguiar from Conservation, Town Administrator Peter Lombardi, Cindy Bingham, Chair of the Select Board, Sherrie McCullough from the DOH (Assistant

Director), Paul Anderson from the Water Dept., and Griff Ryder from the DPW to discuss upcoming BPC projects. A welcome kit to new homeowners stressing the importance of not using fertilizer, keeping septic systems maintained, etc. was discussed as well as the grant program, Tom Vautin's bioremediation project, stormwater remediation, storage space for BPC, and Walker's Pond erosion control. All were invited to attend the annual meeting on August 14th. Susan Bridges, Peter Lombardi, and Konrad Schultz discussed the CCIWPF letter today expressing BPC support of the water protection fund. The town is "wrestling" with funding the CCIWPF. This will be discussed at the BPC strategic planning meeting.

- c. **Sea Camps** The purchase of the CCSC property on 6A and Long Pond will also be discussed at the BPC strategic planning meeting. The Long Pond property is of special concern to BPC due to the proximity to a pond. The 6A property is on the Bay and, therefore, less relevant to BPC's mission. Due to the 800 members on the BPC mailing list, BPC has a chance to make a difference. (Marty received accolades from the other board members for his exceptional job in recruiting new members.)

Current Priorities

1. Events

- a. Annual Meeting - August 14th
 - i. **Details:** The meeting will be held outside at the Cape Cod Bible Alliance Church due to Covid. Participants have been asked to bring their own chairs. Coffee and pastries will be provided. Konrad will provide a list of participants and Mary will create name tags. Per Konrad, Bill Pomeroy will take photos of the meeting and the board should have a group photo.
 - ii. **Proposed agenda:** Susan is creating a slide show which is almost finished. Brian Baumgaertel is the keynote speaker.
 - iii. **Splash Award:**- nominations - The Board unanimously approved Chuck Madansky as the recipient of the Splash award. Marty will contact Chuck to make sure he attends and write a short speech. Susan will frame the award. (The Board decided the gift certificate to Shirley and Tom Vautin will be presented separately from the annual meeting.)

2. Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships

- a. **Canoe Pond:** Bruce viewed the Canoe Pond aerosol pumps that have been recently repaired. One aerator out of the six is not working. A commercial company will either blow out the line or replace the aerator. The Canoe Pond Association has been notified of the grant approval and will submit the invoices to BPC to receive one third reimbursement from the grant. The drain issue off Canoe Pond Drive will be addressed next. During a storm, runoff runs directly into the pond. Canoe Pond Drive is a public road with a drain so perhaps the town can get involved.
- b. **Seymour Pond:** Bob Melia, President of the Seymour Pond Association and High Point Drive resident does not believe the runoff at the end of High Point Drive is significant. There is a berm which drains into a catch basin then drops off into the pond. Marty asked Bob Melia to take a video when there was significant rainfall. Bob did that and sent it to Marty who shared it with Konrad and Wayne for review. Bob Melia felt that this was not a big issue worth pursuing at this time.

Marty communicated that to Konrad and Wayne who all agreed to drop this project.

- c. **Slough Pond:** Konrad visited the clogged storm drain. Once the drain is cleaned by the town this Fall, the runoff will be reevaluated.
 - d. **Leland Rd (Upper Mill Pond):** The cul de sac at the end of Leland Drive does not have a storm drain. There is a rise in the middle of the cul de sac. One half of the water goes toward an easement and the other half drains into Upper Mill Pond. The town owns the road and will remediate the top portion first. The Board believes newly hired Griff Ryder, Superintendent of the Brewster DPW will be a strong ally of BPC. His understanding and experience in storm water runoff will be a great asset. Griff Ryder believes installing a rain garden is better than using a storm drain to solve the runoff problem. The next challenge is educating the residents about their responsibilities in keeping the pond clean.
 - e. **Elbow Pond:** Per Mary, Elbow Pond has \$2K in savings and \$3K in upcoming expenses including a \$775 Damselfly study. Brewster Conservation approved a fourth harvesting campaign which will take place between 8/18 and 8/20. More harvesting volunteers will be needed which could be found via NEON. The board unanimously approved grant funding for Elbow Pond.
3. **Committee Reports** - Written/verbal reports as needed
- a. **Review of July events** - Conservation Day, bike ride led by Marty, Hydrangea Festival (Board needs to think of ponds/gardens for next year's festival), septic center tour. Susan, Nancy, and Konrad toured the MASSTC facility in Sandwich on July 12th. Brian Baumgaertel of the MASSTC who gave the July 12th tour will speak at the Annual Meeting on alternative septic systems
 - b. **Pond Education** - Sally Bullard was the turtle at the Drummer Boy Park kickoff event. Per Marcia, six kids participated in the successful pond education pond program on the pond.
 - c. **Membership** - Per Marty, BPC has 426 donors and 900 subscribers. The renewal rate is 76% which is high. Marty will set new goals for 2021-22. Marty will need to tailor all NEON communication to reflect the new Appeal Year 2022. This will take time.

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Executive Session - Board recruitment - Konrad announced that John Keith is considering returning to the board. His background in environmental engineering would be a great asset. Cal Mutti is an individual that Konrad is working with. George Penner, Scott Kerns, and Bill Wood, were interviewed by Marty. All are committed to BPC but unable, at this time, to join the board due to family responsibilities. Marty has three more board possibilities that he has had initial conversations with.

Wrap-up

- **Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments**
A group photo date and strategic planning meeting date need to be made. The Splash Award will be written by Marty. Susan will finish the Annual Meeting slide show. Name

Tags need to be printed for the meeting and light refreshments purchased. Susan will send the Board final assignments for the Annual Meeting.

- **Next Board Meeting - September 2, 2021** - Google Meet
- **October Board meeting - October 7, 2021** - Google Meet
- **November Board Meeting - November 4, 2021** - Google Meet
- **December Board Meeting - December 2, 2021** - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned 7:45 PM

Submitted by Nancy W. Ortiz, Clerk