

MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, June 3, 2021

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

Tom Vautin attended to present the Bioremediation Study Proposal.

Nancy arrived at the meeting at 6:37 PM due to an appointment in Boston. Gwen took minutes prior to Nancy's arrival. Mary and eventually Marcia left early to attend a scholarship meeting.

Meeting started: 6 PM

Standing Topics

- 1. Minutes for the May 6, 2021 board meeting approved - Gwen**
- 2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meeting (if any) - none**
- 3. Incoming mail - none**
- 4. Treasurer's Report - Rob:**
 - a. Financial statements (report in folder): Board approved unanimously.**
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements:**

There were no expenses to be approved.

5. Miscellaneous Administrative Matters.

Susan suggested that with changes in COVID restrictions, we might be able to begin in person meetings at the Police Station meeting room. She is waiting to hear from Jill at the Police Station. Board members suggested she also check with the Health Agent.

Bioremediation Presentation - Tom Vautin

Tom Vautin had submitted, in advance, to the Board a summary of a proposed study of bioremediation methods to address the health of ponds. The documents included an outline of an initial study to be conducted by a consultant to be hired by BPC. Included in the information were documents addressing bioremediation processes and implementation around the world.

After a substantive discussion, the board voted unanimously "to support a Bioremediation Project as outlined by Tom Vautin to the board to study the efficacy of various bioremediation techniques on freshwater ponds."

Particular points discussed included:

- The concept is to study what is being done around the world re: bioremediation.

- The project will complete research before formulating a strategy based on the research and endorsing any one method.
- This is seen as a multipart project with the research being the first part.
- The point of the study will be to study bioremediation methods of pond treatment that are not being used on Cape Cod.
- It is hoped that the research may provide information that would be applicable in Brewster.
- The key to the research will be to maintain objectivity.
- The study by BPC will be independent from the Town.
- BPC has a responsibility to keep the Town informed. Development of the plans for the study will include conversations with the DNR, Health Department, Administration, and Select Board.
- Tom has agreed to chair the committee and asked that the Board develop a “planning/study” team to oversee the project with him.
- A research assistant who is at least a graduate student or otherwise experienced in scientific investigations is desirable.
- Board noted also that many of our members are retired members of the scientific community and may be interested in working with/on the study. There will be a concentrated effort to recruit/include them, either on the planning team or assisting with the research..
- Tom and Susan will proceed with development of the plan.
- At a future meeting, financing the project will be discussed.

Tom Vautin left meeting at 6:54 PM

Nancy resumed minutes.

New Business

a. Cape Cod Commission Meeting regarding PALS sampling results of freshwater ponds.

Chris Miller set up a meeting with an associate of the CC Commission. The CC Commission agreed to present the town with updates of the PALS testing data which dates back to 2007. Chris will speak with Town Administrator, Peter Lombardi about going forward with this project. BPC asked Chris Miller to keep BPC “in the loop” regarding communication updates. Konrad mentioned the value of presenting this data to the various pond groups. The aerosol study results could also be included in the data.

b. Planned meeting with town officials to discuss an educational welcome kit for new homeowners, the new grant program, and proposed research project.

BPC continues to work closely with Paul Anderson of the water department, the Select Board, and Chris Miller of the DNR regarding a welcome kit for new homeowners.. This kit to include:

1. Information regarding the importance of protecting pond water by not using fertilizers.

2. BPC's new grant program.
3. The recently approved pond water research project.

Paul Anderson suggested distributing bags with pond friendly information and other water related items at the time of purchasing beach stickers. Cameron suggested including the entire town regarding disseminating information about the care of well water, septic tanks, and the negative impact of fertilizer as this should be an ongoing, townwide educational endeavor. Perhaps information could be included with the property tax bill. Bruce suggested including information with the water bill. The ultimate goal is educating the public about protecting Brewster's water. Konrad reminded the board that Ripples is distributed to every property owner. New property owners are more discrete. The more information distributed, the less our message comes across.

Current Priorities

1. Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed.

a. Communications - Konrad

Bill Pomeroy, new Communications Team member and professional photographer, took some great photos of the Baker's Pond walk which are posted on the BPC website.

There are spots open on the Bike to Ponds event.

The Children's Pond Education program can be viewed on YouTube. APCC, the Lower Cape TV, and the Brewster Conservation Trust will help promote the program.

Rich Eldred of the Cape Codder and Cape Cod Times interviewed Susan and Konrad about the new BPC Pond Remediation Grant Program. Rich will promote the program via the newspaper publications.

The Hydrangea Festival information has been posted.

Konrad reminded the board that all can contribute to July newsletter articles. The suggested list of topics has been sent by Konrad to the board in a recent Email.

b. Pond Education - Marcia

Marcia left the meeting to attend the scholarship meeting. A party will take place in the near future celebrating the success of the past year's Pond Education program.

c. Citizen Scientist - Marty

Per Susan, Walker's Pond water looks polluted. Marty confirmed that there are already high levels of cyanobacteria which appear to have risen to the surface since the water temperature has increased.

The virtual water testing training meeting was well attended. 18 ponds will be tested on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of every other week. (i.e. 6 ponds per day). All 45 volunteers have been vaccinated. UNH started aerosol testing on LM and Walker's ponds on June 1st. Marty stated that the testing costs will be over budget by approximately \$400-\$600 since APCC did not receive the expected grant. The initial budget was \$7,500. Marty anticipates expenses of

\$7,900. Per Rob, the budget cannot be changed, however, the board can approve the additional expense. Marty will present the new budget estimate at the next board meeting.

Per Cameron there were 43 responses to the survey and additional volunteers can be found on NEON.

2. Events

a. Eco Paddles - Herring Run and Long Pond - Konrad

The Herring Run Paddle was a success. The video can be viewed on YouTube. Bill Pomeroy will take pictures of the June 5th Long Pond Paddle.

b. Baker's Pond Hike - May 23rd - Gwen.

Per Gwen, the Baker's Pond walk was a success. Gwen suggests the leader of future walks carry water and sugar snacks as emergency supplies. The walk should be advertised as a leisurely pace event since there are many different levels of walkers. Those that want to go at a fast pace should be forewarned. Bill Pomeroy photos of the hike were much appreciated. The BPC banner should be displayed at future hikes.

c. Hydrangea Festival 7/13 & 7/14 - Mary

John O'Reilly will talk about alternative septic systems and remediation projects. Cameron helped Susan navigate the volunteer database on NEON and download a list of potential volunteers for the festival.

d. Brewster Conservation Day/Week - July 10 - 17 - Susan/Konrad

Conservation week will be a virtual event this year. The in person kick-off will be July 10th. The Pond Ed Committee has been asked to consider hosting an in person pond field trip for parents and adults. Online pre registration would be required.

e. Annual Meeting

Mary has had challenges finding a location for the annual meeting. Susan suggested alternative septic systems as a keynote speaker topic. Brian Bragington-Smith was mentioned as a possible speaker. Gwen believes more research for a speaker is needed. Marty suggested Susan Baur (turtle lady) as a possible speaker for a short segment of the annual meeting.

3. Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships

a. Canoe Pond

A new aeration system is needed at Canoe Pond. This project qualifies for the BPC matching grant program.

b. Sheep Pond

Per Bruce, Sheep Pond Association is eligible for a BPC matching grant for a rain garden, however, it appears the residents don't want to sacrifice parking spaces for the project.

c. Leland Rd.

Bruce is having difficulty getting John O'Reilly from J M O'Reilly Environmental Engineers to do an evaluation of the two Leland Road erosion sites. Andy Barto from Leland Road is on board for the project but is frustrated as well with getting an evaluation. Susan suggested reaching out to other landscaping companies.

Bruce suggested hiring a professional to evaluate the erosion problem as opposed to trying to find a professional at no charge.

Executive Session

Bennett received the BPC scholarship award along with 3 other awards at Nauset HS graduation. Dee Smith from Nauset HS gave a nice synopsis of all the scholarships. BPC efforts were well received.

Marty has two meetings in the near future with potential board members. He will present findings at the next board meeting.

Wrap up

Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments.

Susan Bridges to meet with town police re: setting up in person board meetings at the police station. Per Governor Baker, non-profit meetings should remain remote until September 1, 2021. The Board questioned whether this applies to BPC. A short discussion ensued regarding the board preference for virtual versus in person meetings. A few members preferred virtual meetings especially during the winter months.

Marty will present the board with the budget increase needed for water testing and also possible board candidates at next month's meeting. .

Next Board Meetings:

July 1, 2021 - Google Meet

August 5, 2021 - Google Meet

September 2, 2021

October 7, 2021

November 4, 2021

December 2, 2021

Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM

Submitted by Nancy W. Ortiz, Clerk and Gwen Pelletier, Board Member