

MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, July 2, 2020

Board members present: Virtual meeting by Google Meet: Susan Bridges, Marty Burke, Jack Clarke, Rob Condon, Cameron Ferguson, Wayne Jenkins, Mary Materstock, Nancy Ortiz, Gwen Pelletier, Sue Searles, Konrad Schultz, Bruce Swiren, Tom Vautin. Also present: Amy Darbyshire, volunteer for Communications committee.

Susan Bridges welcomed the 4 new Board members: Jack Clarke, Cameron Ferguson,, Mary Materstock, and Bruce Swiren.

Konrad introduced Amy Darbyshire and thanked her for doing a really good job on the newsletter, her first one filling in for Judy Pirani.

All documents referenced are available on request.

Standing Topics

- ❖ Minutes of June meeting unanimously approved
- ❖ Confirmed email vote by Board to elect the 4 new Board members, named above.
- ❖ Save Lower Mill Pond: Board unanimously approved creation of “Restricted Account” for “ Save Lower Mill Pond” for their erosion control project.and agreed to agreement as presented.
- ❖ Treasurer’s report: Rob Condon
 - Financial report approved unanimously.
 - Letter to be written to Brewster Conservation Trust and include a check for \$2,000 committed by BPC towards BCT purchase of property near Slough Pond.
- ❖ Approval of expenses and reimbursements
 - Voted unanimously to reimburse Wayne Jenkins \$127.42 for upgraded ZOOM platform for implementation of Virtual Annual Meeting, August 8.
- ❖ Miscellaneous Administrative Matters
 - Konrad shared that he had an email from Hal Minis expressing his wish that BPC had agreed to BCT’s request that BPC solicit our members suggesting that they donate to BCT towards the purchase of the property near Slough Pond, acknowledging that the nearby property will help protect Slough Pond. During the discussion of the issue, Board members made the following points.
 - We indicate to our members that we will not share their names for solicitation purposes other than BPC projects.

- The \$2,000 donation from BPC actually does come from our donors because general donations to BPC are unrestricted.
 - Concern re conflict with BPC's fundraising goals
 - Summary: Susan agreed to call Hal for a conversation and to write a letter to accompany the \$2,000 check already voted.
- Business Cards. Tom pointed out that we need to order business cards for the four new Board members. Konrad indicated that he will take care of it.
- Contacting each other. Susan asked all Board members to add telephone numbers and addresses to an information sheet she has posted and then for each of us to include each other's telephone numbers in our "Contact" lists to make communication easier between us when necessary.
- Board acknowledged the recent resignation from Board by Steve McKenna for personal reasons. Susan Bridges had written to him and thanked him for his service and that his departure is a loss. Board agreed for Gwen to write a note to him thanking him for his service on behalf of the Board..

Current Priorities

- ❖ Board recruitment and succession planning
 - Marty presented copies of the following position descriptions for Board positions: Board Member; Volunteer Coordinator; Pond Association Outreach Coordinator. Discussion of the need for a substantive discussion of "who does what" and the next topic on the agenda.
 - "Off site" meeting to discuss committees and roles for 2020-2021
 - Agreed to plan such a meeting after August 8 Annual meeting, some time in late August or September
 - Concern re how to plan for meeting around concerns re status of COVID 19 pandemic at that time. Suggestion from two board members that the meeting should be outside.
 - Prior to our next meeting, Board members should review "Position Descriptions" and the existing POND ASSOCIATIONS excel spreadsheet
 - New board member packet.
 - Susan indicated that she created a new "New Board Member Packet" folder saved to the share drive which includes the board members contact information, a document titled "Who We Are," the board position description, the BPC by-laws, and the BPC Strategic Plan.

- Susan encouraged everyone to review all of the documents in the folder

Upcoming events

- ❖ Annual Meeting, August 8. Previous decision for Virtual Meeting
 - Susan reported that the committee had concluded that there was no need for consultants to put the meeting together, that the committee and board could do so. Wayne Jenkins had volunteered to coordinate the plans and work with the committee to develop it. He also acknowledged assistance from his college age daughters and their friends.
 - Committee members are Susan Bridges, Konrad Schultz, Wayne Jenkins.
 - Everything will be recorded in advance: Business meeting; speaker, Splash award.
 - Email will be sent to membership inviting to attend with a RSVP.
 - Requests for votes will be sent by email notices with reply requests.
- ❖ Brewster Conservation Day.
 - Annual Brewster Conservation Trust event being scheduled this year for virtual presentations. BPC had been given prime location in the tent with speaker. Karen-Malkus Benjamin had agreed to be the primary speaker on our behalf. Sue Searles is coordinating with her and arranging with BCT for her presentation to be taped in advance.
- ❖ Native Plant and Alternative Lawn Workshop. Susan B and Mary Materstock are working with Crocker Nursery to determine date and location.
- ❖ ECO Paddle. Ryan Burch, SUPFARi owner has offered this event and anticipates scheduling it in late August or early September. Susan B is coordinating with him.

Committee Reports

- ❖ Communications;
 - Konrad submitted a written report
 - He thanked Amy Darbyshire again for joining the committee and jumping right in to participate in developing the newsletter immediately.
- ❖ Citizen Science
 - Marty and Gwen submitted a written report summarizing the 2019 and 2020 projects. Marty presented the following additional information:
 - Emphasis on coordination with APCC for testing because of COVID 19 pandemic.
 - Marty is maintaining a close connection between BPC, APCC, and Amy Van Hoen, Brewster Board of Health Director around blooms and possible “Advisory” about cyanobacteria and warning.

- There was a recent bloom at Walker's Pond and the Town posted an advisory.
- Discussion by the Board expressed concern that postings are only at public landings and there are multiple other private accesses to ponds so that the public and private property owners may not know of warnings.
- APCC posts on its website and map.
- Town posts at its website
- Cliff Pond in Nickerson State Park is being tested and information provided To NPS staff about blooms and levels of cyanobacteria. Discussions have concluded that any decision to post an advisory will be made by the NPS and State staff..
- A recent report and site visit at Cobb's Pond determined that the issue was nuisance plants, not a Bloom.
- Reports of sampling at other ponds indicate all at safe levels.
- Brief summary of Food Web study being conducted by Lim-Tex and UNH. Samples being taken through summer. Analysis to be conducted in fall and winter.
- ❖ Membership
 - Marty submitted a written report summarizing statistics from the November 2019 appeal.
 - Indicated Strengths and challenges with recommendations for actions to consider.
- ❖ Fundraising/Development: Konrad Schultz
 - Committee would like for the Board to focus at the aforementioned "off site" meeting on grants and sources of revenue beyond current focus on individual donors.
- ❖ Pond Education
 - Sue Searles reported that the committee/participants are waiting to learn what the school situation will be relative to the COVID 19 situation.

Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships

- ❖ Lower Mill Pond Erosion Project:: Nancy Ortiz and Rob Condon reported progress.
 - Save Lower Mill Pond organization is planning a yard sale to raise funds for the project. Accepting donations (please Board members!) Purpose to draw attention as well.

- Proposed design of the retention basin has been reviewed by experts.
- Work to be done by volunteers.
- Crocker Nursery donation of \$250 in plants can be offered to SLMP if needed.
- Funds raised will pay for equipment and materials.

❖ Elbow Pond harvest

- Marty and Tom reported that the second season of harvesting vegetation at Elbow Pond is about to begin.
- Use of Town Harvester, managed by Ryan Burch.
- Association paying Town for use and Ryan's time.
- Harvesting will begin on July 7
- Volunteers from neighborhood participating
 - Peter Trull planting stakes for limit of harvesting.
 - Bob Materstock will take Drone videos.
 - Association still raising \$5,000 for this year's work.. Had raised \$10,000 last year, which included required studies

❖ Owl Pond

- Marty reported that the project in that neighborhood is proceeding but there have been delays for a variety of reasons related to the terrain.

Wrap-up/ reap:

- Susan Bridges: Call to Hal Minis; Letter with check to BCT for Slough Road.
- Konrad Schultz: Business Cards for new Board members
- Gwen Pelletier: Note to Steve McKenna

Submitted by:
Gwen Pelletier, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: August 6, 2020

September Meeting: September 3, 2020. Google Meet