

Minutes, Brewster Ponds Coalition, February 6, 2020

Board members present: Susan Bridges, Marty Burke, Steve McKenna, Gwen Pelletier, Sue Searles, Tom Vautin. Konrad Schultz by telephone.

Copy of referenced documents are available on request.

STANDING TOPICS

- Minutes of December 12, 2019 and January 2020 were approved unanimously
- Voted unanimously to confirm email vote to approve 2020 budget.
- Voted unanimously to accept Treasurer's report and Financial Statements for January.
- Approved payment to Marcia Kielb, \$25.00 submitted by Sue Searles, for supplies for Pond Education program.
- Administrative Matters
 - Gwen noted that OPC had sent letter re membership and asked whether BPC should consider joining. Consensus not to become a member of other pond associations.
 - This raised discussion of other membership
 - Compact of Conservation Trust: included the following observations
 - Annual dues of \$1,500
 - What is the value of our membership?
 - Compact provides grant writing services to members
 - BPC has not taken advantage of that. Need to determine if we are in a position to do so
 - What would be purpose of proposal and what is the potential funding source?
 - Grant committee (Tom, Steve, Judy, Konrad) to schedule meeting with Mark Robinson, COMPACT'S Executive Director
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Annual membership \$150; Ad in Annual Booklet \$375.
 - Benefits: Included in mailings to new property owners, included in membership materials, info at Chamber/Beach sticker office

CURRENT PRIORITIES

- Recruitment and Succession. A lengthy discussion of this issue included the following:
 - Judy Pirani had a meeting with Susan Bridges and Steve McKenna to tell them that when her current term ends in August, she will not be a candidate for another term on the Board.
 - Need to consider critical positions needed: Communication, Treasurer, Technical Person.
 - Two positions to fill at August Annual meeting
 - Board package included a list of Board terms for review.
 - Need to consider hiring staff or consultants. All of these may require a level of work that Board members may not be willing to do.
 - For example work that Judy does
 - Look at other environmental organizations. Consider sharing part time staff as is now done by other non profit organizations.
 - Create SEARCH COMMITTEE. Susan Bridges, Steve McKenna, Marty Burke, Konrad Schultz
 - For Board Members, possible volunteers, and possible consultants
 - Marty indicated that during calls to thank donors he has had some responses indicating desire to participate: possible Board, Trails, and Pond Sampling
 - Reach out to our membership
 - One on One outreach is important. Every Board member should participate. Now being done by only a few.
 - Some Board members do not have comfort level doing so.
 - Grant sources like to see organizations' efforts. Size of our Fund Balance could allow using our own funds to hire consultant or staff and then strengthen application to grant sources.
- 2020 Budget
 - Tom reviewed approved budget and emphasized that is a “road map” for the year. Changes can be made as we move through the year.
- Website Redesign
 - Konrad shared “Progress to Date” report and emphasized amount of work that Committee members (Konrad, Judy, Tom, Marty, and Susan B have done
 - Next steps include selecting pictures and providing descriptions for the program pages.
 - Sue Searles volunteered to do so for Pond Education
 - Marty and Gwen volunteered to do so for Citizen Scientist
 - Pictures to be selected from IMAGES MASTER FILE
 - Goal to have new Website with most pages “live” by end of February.

- Inventory Project. Susan Bridges thanked everyone for making it a useful document and encouraged adding to it or changing as necessary. Tom indicated he would create a location for it in the documents files.

- Upcoming Events
 - Winter Meeting: Spring Social and Volunteer Fair, March 28th.
 - Confirmed date. Details being arranged by Wayne Jenkins and Steve Mckenna. More info to be sent in near future with set-up and assignments.
 - Beautify Brewster: April 25. Coordinators Marty and Nancy
 - Brewster in Bloom: Weekend of May 1,2,3. BPC offered location for Tent. Still to be determined.

- Other Working Groups Progress Reports
 - Membership. Marty submitted a written report.
 - Emphasis placed on increase in contributions, total to date \$40,650.
 - Positive responses to calls.
 - Written report includes statistics re donors, amounts, and comparisons to previous year and thank you calls and letters/emails.
 - Fundraising: Susan Bridges submitted a written report for the “Business Partners Campaign”
 - Two partnerships to date. Each \$1,000
 - John O’Reilly, Pond Booklet
 - Leighton Realty, Annual Meeting or Pond Summit
 - List also includes businesses reached and indications of donations but no amount year.
 - Pond booklet to be ready by mid May for distribution by Memorial Day
 - Locations for Booklet
 - Town Hall
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - Public landings at ponds
 - Trail Kiosks
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Library
 - Nickerson State Park
 - In take home bags for students in Pond Education program

- Pond Education. Sue Searles gave the following report
 - Dates for the 4 trips to Ponds are confirmed.
 - May 26, 28, Rain dates 27, 29
 - June 2,4. Rain dates 3, 5
 - Take home bags have been ordered.
 - Sue Searles inquired about need for volunteer hours for upcoming report. Tom indicated those are no longer needed, but Board hours of program work is required and he will be requesting in near future.

- Citizen Scientist. Marty and Gwen submitted a written report.
 - Emphasis placed on following points.
 - APCC Cyanobacteria Water Sampling
 - Bryan Horsley leaving APCC
 - Hiring process is underway
 - APCC plans to continue Cyanobacteria Program
 - BPC will continue to work with APCC
 - Recruiting for BPC volunteers will begin in March/April
 - UNH Cyanobacteria Aerosol Sampling
 - Gwen and Marty to meet at UNH for final report on Summer season 2019 sampling and analysis last week in February and will report to Board at March 5 meeting.
 - Gwen and Marty have indicated to UNH that BPC will not commit to continuation on this project until receipt and review of 2019 report
 - UNH interested in continuing with BPC

- Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships.
 - Trail Monitoring. Tom indicated that there have been a dozen responses by individuals. Also Nauset Newcomers Walking group has indicated an interest and is working directly with Ryan Burch.

- Storm Water Run-off
 - Steve indicated he is working with Chris Miller re problem at Walkers Pond. Chris will be meeting with Select Board re project. Discussion re possibility of BPC participating in costs of design by engineers and work by Town's DPW.
 - Susan raised the issue of storm water run-off at all the Mill Ponds..
 - Tom pointed out that BPC has long time members who might get involved.
 - Marty indicated that he has had conversations with "Indian Waters Association" which is on Upper Mill Pond and there is a possibility that they would like BPC to meet with them at their annual meeting this summer.

Submitted by
Gwen Pelletier, Secretary

Next Board Meeting: March 5 at Brewster Police Station, Community Room