

## **MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, JULY 5, 2018**

Board members present: Gwen Pelletier, Sue Searles, Konrad Schultz, Tom Vautin, Dawn Walnut. Guest: Bryan Horsley, APCC.

Tom opened the meeting by thanking Brian Horsley, Restoration Technician with APCC, for coming to the meeting to update us on the MILL PONDS CYANOBACTERIA monitoring program in coordination with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources and BPC.

A copy of the slide show is available on the BPC website.

The slide show includes the following:

- What has been done so far
- Explanations of what has been found
- Slides to show images of what has been found
- Graphs showing how much is there
- Graphs showing what happened in 2017
- Explanation of what samples mean
- Next steps
- In summary, the samples at this point indicate that there is likely some level of toxic cyanobacteria present in the three ponds, but it does not yet exceed the level considered toxic for dogs. Editorial note: The level that could be toxic to dogs is much higher than that considered toxic for humans.

Points raised during the discussion and review of the slides included the following:

- All cyanobacteria is not toxic
- APCC staff and interns monitor Upper Mill and Walker Pond on Tuesdays
- APCC staff, interns, and BPC volunteer Nancy Ortiz monitor Lower Mill Pond on Thursdays
- Water samples are beginning to show some changes
- Based on last years experience, there is an expectation that by the end of the summer there are likely to be signs of toxins
- Volunteers can participate based on visual inspections. If scum is seen on shore or on the surface of the water, one could/should take a picture and send it to the EPA website BLOOM WATCH/CYANOBACTERIA MONITORING and also to [bryan@apcc.org](mailto:bryan@apcc.org)
- If APCC encounters a bloom, they notify the Brewster Department of Natural Resources.
- Tom noted that BPC would like to see the Town develop a protocol for testers and private citizens to use if a bloom is suspected.

Documents referenced in these minutes are available upon request.

**MINUTES** of June 7, 2018, meeting unanimously approved.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Financial Statements through June accepted as presented. Sue noted that the Pond Education Program will begin restocking the kits for next year soon.

**CURRENT PRIORITIES**

- **Brewster Conservation Day**
  - ❖ Reviewed Layout and BPC location
  - ❖ Agreed on shifts for Board member coverage
  - ❖ Agreed on presentation videos and materials to be displayed
  
- **Farmers Market, July 29**
  - ❖ Judy Pirani in charge
  - ❖ Reviewed schedule 9 to 1 PM; Simple display with printed materials
  - ❖ Bookmarks for children with “stick-ons”
  - ❖ Talk about opportunities for volunteers
  
- **Recruiting Board Members and Volunteer leaders**
  - ❖ Reviewed spreadsheet of recommendations to contact
  - ❖ Report of meetings/contacts so far
  - ❖ Agreed on continued follow-up meetings
  
- **Strategic Plan**

Brief discussion included following:

  - ❖ It is premature to include timelines for action items at this time
  - ❖ It is an “operational plan”, with flexibility and ongoing review
  - ❖ Priorities may change as we move forward
  - ❖ Will introduce at Annual Meeting on August 18.
  - ❖ Voted Unanimously to accept the latest version posted in Google Docs prior to this meeting.
  - ❖ Judy and Jim Holland will work on formatting for presentation at Annual Meeting.

- **Grant Applications and next steps**

Tom updated the Board on the agreement with Moira Noonan-Kerry

- ❖ Agreed to develop two tasks
  - Reach out to EDDY FUND to see if BPC could be invited to submit application for fall funding round
  - Submit application to CAPE COD FOUNDATION for capacity building program with fall funding round
  - Agreement not to exceed \$1,500.
- ❖ Tom is working with Moira to fine tune the contract in areas where he believes the legal language is “overkill” for the level of agreement between us.

Tom also shared with the board conversations he has had with Mark Robinson, Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, about professional services available through membership. Tom recommends joining and will send Board members more detailed information about the membership benefits

- **Annual Meeting**

- ❖ The Board package had included a proposed amendment to the BPC by-laws to change board membership from “to consist of nine members” to “to consist of a maximum of fifteen members”. The Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed amendment and present it to the membership at the Annual Meeting on August 18. Gwen and Tom will work with Judy Pirani to post the proposed change as required by the BPC by-laws.
- ❖ Tom will follow-up with Rich Delaney, speaker for the Annual Meeting
- ❖ Board voted unanimously to recognize Jim Holland as the Volunteer of the year with the SPLASH Award.

- **Other Business**

Feedback from BCN (Brewster Community Network) “Meet and Greet” on June 26. Sue Searles and Tom Vautin attended. Both thought it was definitely a worthwhile net working event and that it was good for BPC to have representation. Tom shared that he had a conversation with Select Board Chair Cindy Bingham about BPC possibly attending a Select Board meeting in September.

Report submitted by Communications Action Team

Next Board Meeting: August 2, 2018

Annual Meeting: August 18, 2018

Submitted by,  
Gwen Pelletier, Secretary