

**Brewster Ponds Coalition  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 7, 2024, 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
Video Conference**

**Present: Susan Bridges, Jane Savio, Ron Essig, Nancy Ortiz, Rob Condon, Kevin Kearns, Tim Chase, Mary Mauterstock, John Keith (arrived later), Marcia Kielb (arrived later)**

**Absent: Marty Burke**

**Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM**

**Standing Topics**

1. Review and approve the minutes of the February 1st Board Meeting - Nancy - accepted unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings (\$5K donation toward Long Pond property purchase.) Audubon and BCT have decided to release funds to town despite their objections to affordable housing construction plans on the Long Pond property.
3. Incoming Mail - Board agreed to renew our \$300 annual dues to the Cape Cod Compact for the Conservation Trust. Full membership is approximately \$3K which BPC discontinued years ago. That fee would entitle us to payroll services and assistance with grant writing which the Board deemed not useful at this time. The \$300 membership fee provides updates on Cape environmental issues which is useful. Rob mentioned \$1,160 owed by BPC to Rapid Marketing for Ripples publishing that is in receivership. BPC will most likely not be liable for payment.
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
  - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - The bank balance increased to \$233K from \$226K. February expenses of \$8,557 include Citizen Scientist equipment purchases. February donations were \$9,963. January and February combined income is \$28,336.
  - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All - NEON has recently experienced event registration challenges. Irene has set up a ticket requesting aid. Tim will investigate NEON registration. Another blast may be sent to encourage signups in light of the problems incurred. Mary mentioned her difficulty accessing Mailchimp. There is a significant cost to add other users to Mailchimp. Currently there are approximately 850 subscribers. (Spouses are considered one subscriber.) Over 1,000 subscribers require the next level of payment. Susan will investigate Mailchimp issues.

This year is the tenth anniversary of BPC. This milestone will be recognized at the Brewster in Bloom parade and the volunteer picnic.

### **New Business**

1. Sea Camps Long Pond property position - The Board unanimously voted to not to take an official stand on the construction of affordable housing on the Long Pond property. According to Mark Nelson from Horsley Whitten, approximately 150 houses in addition to those affordable houses slated to be constructed on the Long Pond property are needed to mitigate the consequences of a package sewage treatment plant. Ron and John suggested waiting for the results of a feasibility study before releasing the \$5K via BCT to the Sea Camps purchase. None of the board members opposed this suggestion.

### **Current Priorities**

1. Wastewater Management Plan update
  - a. Task Force Meeting and takeaways - As a result of the joint meeting with the Water Resources task Force, it is expected that the water resources warrant article will be expanded to include funding for an assessment of wastewater management in all town watersheds as part of the existing Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IWRMP.). Mark Nelson from Horsley Whitten confirmed that the IWRMP projects qualify for state funding. Per Susan, Peter Lombardi agrees with John's notes on the March 1st meeting but has a few comments. John mentioned that detailed analysis needs to be done regarding topics such as what houses need to be connected to a package water treatment plan and the associated costs. An article asking to fund a wastewater plan that includes a risk assessment; needs assessment and prioritization; identification and evaluation of methods to address wastewater management appropriate for each area; and development of a recommended plan would have been a "total win." This did not happen, but a needs assessment is the first step. The wastewater plan should emphasize ponds in the watershed. (Brewster ponds are mostly located in either the Herring River or Cape Cod Bay watersheds.) Per Ron, the Natural Resource Advisory Commission is currently reviewing pond management plans from other towns. Ron will keep the Board updated.
  - b. Upcoming events - Two tours of the Orleans wastewater treatment plant are scheduled in March. Dave Bennett will do a presentation on Neighborhood Package Treatment Plants on March 26th.
  - c. Peter Lombardi's request to co-host Dave Bennett's talk and community info sessions. Dave Bennett does not want to co host his presentation on Neighborhood Package Treatment Plants with the town. BPC will not co host any town presentation that includes the Sea Camps as BPC focus is the ponds. BPC will, however, co host any town presentation that entails a wastewater benefit.
  - d. Shed location. Susan visited the Long Pond shed location site with Peter Lombardi and Chris Miller. There will be a water station located near the boat ramp for community filling of water bottles. It is hoped that the Conservation Commission will also permit the BPC to use the spigot for cleaning citizen scientist equipment. The shed will have at least two windows to let in light.

2. April newsletter - Jane provided a list of proposed articles and mentioned that many have already been submitted. Events through July will be included.

3. 2024 Pond Guide stories - New articles are requested for the Pond Guide. Susan suggested an article about the history of cranberry bogs. Nancy suggested No Bottom Pond off 137 and John suggested Calf Field Pond in the Punkhorn, Ruth Pond, and Dark Bottom Pond off Sean Circle to be included in the 2024 Guide as "Hidden Treasures." Nancy will do a write up for the Guide. Ron will again do a write up on fishing and noted that alewives should be included in the listing of fish found at Slough Pond.

4. Pond Management Plan and Pond Studies - Discussion ensued regarding the accuracy of government GIS studies. John informed the Board that well water use affects the accuracy of the reports. The government will not conduct additional studies to confirm or correct past results. The GIS map inaccuracy caused the Darbyshire property on Elbow Pond to be chosen although some useful information was still obtained. John will start the phosphorous travel study on the Ortiz property in April. Contracts will need to be given to participating property owners for signatures. There was some confusion over the properties in addition to the Ortiz property that will participate in the project. Nancy will clear that up with John.

5. Potential speakers/topics for this year's Pond Summit - Topics included urinary diversion and Cinderella toilets, permeable reactive barriers, and cranberry bogs. A brief segment describing the Pond Pledge Program and a table at the entrance displaying the related materials was suggested.

6. Board recruitment - BPC will advertise vacant Board positions in the Spring Newsletter

**Committee Reports** - Susan encouraged the Board to read both the "Cape Cod Bay Memo" and the "iwpf.pdf" document. found in the Wastewater Management Plan folder.

### **Wrap-up**

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments  
Tim will be given access to NEON and assist with understanding and using functionality related to membership, events, and email blasts .  
Susan will investigate the cost and benefits of upgrading Mailchimp to accommodate more users and subscribers  
Nancy will write article on hidden ponds for Pond Guide
- Next Board Meeting - April 4, 2024 - Google Meet
- May Meeting - May 2nd- Google Meet
- June Meeting - June 6th - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 7:47 PM

Submitted by: Nancy Ortiz, Secretary