

Board Members Present: Karen Malkus-Benjamin, Rick Kuzman, Tony Ortiz, Gwen Pelletier, Konrad Schultz (by Skype), Tom Vautin, Dawn Walnut. Guests attending: Sue Leven, Town Planner

On a motion by Dawn Walnut, seconded by Tom Vautin, the minutes of the January 8 meeting were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION BY TOWN PLANNER, SUE LEVEN

The Board had invited her to update us re possible warrant articles for Annual TM in May.

- Spring Town Meeting issues: There is a possibility that there will be a warrant article for General By-Law addressing Storm Water Run-off. Issues discussed include:
 - Mitigation of Storm Water effects “nitrogen loading credits” relative to requirements for sewage treatment so there is a definite benefit for the Town to have regulations governing storm water run-off.
 - Whether the article will be ready for Spring Town Meeting will be decided within the next few weeks.
 - ❖ Details will need to be firmed up
 - ❖ There will need to be adequate time to schedule a Public Hearing and for review by Fin Com.
 - ❖ If not ready for Spring Annual Town Meeting, it will be scheduled for Fall Town Meeting.
 - Separate treatment of residential and commercial properties
 - Issues around commercial property run-off are more complex and will most likely require engineering plans.
 - Issues around residential property relate to how much land will be disturbed
 - ❖ One consideration is a menu of solutions that a homeowner can address with requirement for certain ones and/or ability for homeowner to choose x number from the list
 - ❖ Stating clearly on the building permit what measures will be done so that it can be monitored
 - ❖ Properties within the 100 foot setback for the Wetlands Protection Act will still have to submit applications to the Conservation Commission.
 - ❖ Storm water run-off is an issue throughout Town, not just for areas abutting Towns so any by-law will be Town Wide.
 - ❖ The by-law will apply to renovations/additions as well as new construction.
 - ❖ A large component of the by-law will be providing education so property owners understand the issue of storm water run-off and how to curtail it.
- Restore Your Shore: At previous meetings we have talked about initiating a program similar to the Minnesota RESTORE YOUR SHORE program. Konrad talked with Sue about the program and whether the Town and BPC might work together. Konrad provided a brief outline for the Board to consider relative to moving forward with small pilot program in Brewster. The discussion this meeting with Sue included the following:
 - The Mill Pond Study includes education for shore line property owners
 - A pilot project on either private property or a Town Landing is a possibility
 - Any project would require a filing with the Conservation Commission. Konrad’s conversations with Conservation Agent Jim Gallagher indicate that there is a “public interest” clause that could allow a less complicated filing.
 - Local businesses in the landscaping management and design field might be interested in working with us.
 - Ask Brewster Conservation Trust to work with us

- Question of funding---local foundations or businesses, grants
- Goal is education, teaching what around a pond helps the pond and why it is important.
- Possible demo on one pond working with pond association, i.e. Elbow, Blueberry, or Cobbs Pond which appear to have well organized groups.
- Next step. Develop basic education materials. Konrad and Dawn offered to collaborate to develop material that can be used for a brochure and on the website.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- CLERK—Gwen reported the following.
 - ❖ She attempted to register BPC with Department of Revenue on line. However, registration requires SS # of all Board members; everyone has now given her their numbers so she will complete filing.
 - ❖ When she applied to PO for Bulk mail permit, she learned that a permit for BPC would cost \$250 to apply and then \$250 a year. Also for it to be cost effective, we would need to mail a minimum of 200 pieces per mailing and a minimum of 2,000 pieces per year. She also learned that it is possible to use a “ghost bulk mail permit” managed by a local printer. To use that procedure still requires submitting the application. Board agreed to pursue the “ghost” mailing permit and Gwen will talk with Sir Speedy in Orleans about the process for working with them.
- TREASURER/FINANCE COMMITTEE ---Tony reported that he had mailed all the letters thanking current members/donors for their contributions last year and giving them our tax exempt status and that we have received an additional contribution of \$100.00
- MEMBERSHIP ---Rick reported that he had attempted to reach three people who had indicated a possible interest in “membership”, with no success—either person not interested or he had not been able to reach them. He indicated that he would work to recruit three people to be on the membership committee, working from our membership list or folks he knows, prior to our March meeting. Tom reported that he continues to work at collecting the names of all pond associations and neighborhood organizations abutting ponds. It is a challenging task since there is no place to go for such a specific list. He continues reaching out through our limited membership list, personal contacts, and whatever connections he can make. He gave us a list that he has been able to create to date and asked each of us to continue to give him names of people whom he might contact.

Our discussion about the need to reach out to folks with an interest in ponds included the following

- Using the database that DNR had provided containing 443 parcels, of pond front property owners. We agreed that those are logical folks to reach. Gwen volunteered to draft a letter addressed particularly to that group. Dawn offered to help. During this conversation, we agreed that hand addressed envelopes would be more successful at getting folks to open the envelope. When we are ready, we will have a gathering of all of us to help address them.
- Listing all the committees on the website and asking folks to participate in one of them
- Having a special table to sign up for membership at the workshops in March and April
- Creating an annual membership drive when we are more established
- Connecting with pond and neighborhood associations when they have their summer meetings.

- COMMUNICATIONS---Konrad submitted a written report summarizing committee activities.

- The next newsletter is being developed. Deadline for ideas is March 18 Sue Spencer is working on a feature article.
 - Press releases will be prepared to announce workshops currently scheduled.
 - Konrad provided us a “Proposed talking points” so that we are all delivering the same message when we talk about our organization. We agreed with the points as outlined, with one change--- that relative to “Pond Health”, we should not include “fish kills” in Long Pond after Karen pointed out that there was no significant fish kill in Long Pond.
- EVENTS AND EDUCATION---Dawn and Karen submitted a written report detailing contacts and plans for workshops. The following dates are confirmed
 - March 28 : History of Brewster Ponds. 10 AM at First Parish Brewster in collaboration with the Environmental Action Committee of First Parish.
 - March 31: Brewster Pond Management History. 6 PM at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.
 - April 25: Ecological Landscaping-Greenscaping: 10 AM Location to be determined. During the discussion of this workshop, it was noted that date might be the Beautify Brewster date and we would want to participate in that, not conflict with it. Agreed to check dates and reschedule topic if necessary.
 - June 6 or June 9: Invasive Weeds. To be determined.
- ADDITIONAL TOPICS DISCUSSED
 - Procedures Manual. Postponed discussion until next meeting. Meanwhile Tom will begin collection materials for inclusion.
 - Karen participated in Brewster Fin Com meeting on January 14 where BCT , Open Space Committee, and Community Preservation Committees met with Fin Com to talk about benefits to Town of continued preservation of Open Space. She read letter from BCP into the record supporting it.
 - Reminder of February conference re 208 Wastewater planning and need for folks to be present to continue to remind people that fresh water ponds should also be included in discussions.
 - Gwen reported that Senator Stanley Rosenberg, President of the State Senate, is scheduling meetings around the state to solicit input from residents relative to what is important in their communities. The meeting for the Cape /South shore area had been scheduled for February 9 at Mass Maritime Academy; however, it is being rescheduled now because of the predicted snow storm. Gwen will get the info to us.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 6:00 PM . Karen and Tony have said they cannot be there. Gwen will check with John Keith and poll all members to determine if we will have a quorum and may need to reschedule.

POSTSCRIPT: Poll has been completed as of date of writing these minutes! Confirmed for meeting on February 5, 6 PM at library. VP John Keith will chair meeting in Karen’s absence.

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier, Clerk