

Board Members Present: Karen Malkus-Benjamin John Keith, Rick Kuzman , Gwen Pelletier, Tom Vautin, Dawn Walnut

- Minutes for the May 7, 2015, meeting approved as amended. Gwen noted that under Projects, she had written that comments on the Horsley Witten report by John and Karen “ had been submitted” when it should have indicated that they will be submitted. Gwen moved to amend the minutes to say, “John and Karen are developing comments to be submitted.” The amended minutes were approved.

## MONTHLY REPORTS

- COMMITTEE REPORTS

- MEMBERSHIP----Rick Kuzman

- In Tony’s absence Rick has been checking and holding responses. There have been eight membership responses that he has picked up. He inquired about whether he should go ahead and make deposits into bank account. There was consensus that since Tony returns from his trip very soon, just wait to give them to Tony to deposit along with others he may have already received.
- In the mail also were notices from the MA Attorney General’s office, including the approved “Certificate for Solicitation” with our assigned AG’s number #058015 and a letter outlining filing requirements. Gwen will scan and send copies of those to board members.
- Rick shared a letter that had been received from New York Community Trust indicating they had received a recommendation for a donation and with a request to respond to a questionnaire. After a brief discussion, Karen indicated she would investigate. Tom volunteered to take the letter home and scan and send to each of us.
- Rick and Konrad have worked on a draft of a membership form to include specific information about membership and dues. Rick presented a one page outline with key points. He said he would email it to Board members prior to the July meeting. Board discussed their suggestions and agreed to review and make a decision at the July meeting. They suggest the following
  - ❖ Setting annual membership fee or dues of a set amount
  - ❖ 4 levels of membership: student, individual, household, business
  - ❖ 4 levels of donors: \$50, \$150, \$250, \$500
  - ❖ Gifts for different levels of membership: hat, shirt, decal?
- Gwen reminded the board that we have discussed setting up a Pay Pal account on the website and haven’t done so yet. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Gwen, seconded by John, the board voted unanimously to authorize to Konrad to do so.

- EVENTS AND EDUCATION---Dawn Walnut and Karen Malkus-Benjamin
  - Feedback on May 16, Pond Friendly Landscaping. Brief discussion that overall it was successful. The attention level was good. Perhaps a bit long. First speaker used old data, would have been better if more up to date; second speaker was more engaging. People went away discussing among each other and stayed to chat briefly with the two speakers.
  - June 6, Identifying Pond weeds, First Parish Church, Brewster, 10 AM Need help setting up
  - July 11, Participation in Brewster Conservation Day, Drummer Boy Park, Karen to provide THE BIG FLUSH, a model toilet and septic system. Need help. Karen scheduled meetings for June 18 and July 9 to organize for Conservation Day and will be in touch with folks who offered to help.
  - On Saturday, June 6, John Keith will meet with the Blueberry and Sol Pond Associations, on behalf of BPC, to talk about HEALTH OF THE PONDS, WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE PONDS, AND IMPACT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS ON HOMEOWNERS. Topics to be included in the discussion will be
    - ❖ Geography and hydrology
    - ❖ Phosphorous issues
    - ❖ Proposed Brewster regulations to control nutrient flow
    - ❖ Invasive and nuisance water plants
  
- COMMUNICATIONS
  - In his absence, Konrad submitted to the board an outline of items needed for the July 1 newsletter and a summary of committee activities.
  
- PROJECTS:
  - Letter to Pond Front Property Owners: Mailed week of May 18. Tony is away and had received some replies before his departure. Rick has picked up mail and received others. We look forward to report from Tony at our July meeting.
  - Submission to Sue Leven of comments from BPC, written by John and Karen, relative to the MILL POND REPORT by Horsley and Witten. John indicated cover letter would ask for answers to our questions and that the Town and Horsley Witten continue to involve BPC in the pond study process. The Board voted unanimously to send the report to Sue Leven with a request that it be forwarded to Horsley Witten.
  - GOOGLE app for document organization and reference. Tom Vautin reported that he has set up an account in the “Google Aps for Non Profits” and that BPC has been approved. He is still testing the process and will provide training to us and set up accounts for each of us as he proceeds.
  
- REQUESTS FOR ENDORSEMENTS AND COMMENT ON PUBLIC ISSUES
  - ❖ Tom Vautin had emailed each of us a draft “**Endorsements and Public Policy Positions**”. Gwen suggested adding to the end of the first bullet under “**Actions and Limitations**”, that such discussion can also be done by email. On a motion by John Keith, seconded by Rick Kuzman, the board voted unanimously to adopt the Policy. Copy attached to these minutes.

- ❖ Sandy Bayne is working with APCC to sponsor a presentation by Ed DeWitt, Director of APCC, on the “Effect of Sea Rise on Cape Cod Groundwater”. Various relevant organizations across the Lower Cape are being invited to co-sponsor the event to be scheduled in September. BPC had been invited to be a co-sponsor, which means to allow our name to be used in the invitation and to circulate to our membership. On a motion by Tom, seconded by John, the board voted unanimously to co-sponsor.
- **Development of a Strategic Plan:** In our discussion we considered the following topics/issues and agreed to continue the discussion at the July Board meeting.
  - **Goals, fulfilling our mission**
    - Why do we care about ponds and what does a healthy pond mean to us?
      - ❖ Evidence of overall quality of life on the Cape
      - ❖ Recreation—swimming, boating, fishing
      - ❖ Seeing evidence of what has happened to ponds and lakes in other areas
      - ❖ Areas of the world where people cannot swim in ponds
      - ❖ Preserve what we have
      - ❖ Addressing all the aspects of keeping ponds healthy, all the details—plants, aquatic animals, shore lines.
      - ❖ Reflecting on the message of the Dr. Seuss book, THE LORAX
      - ❖ Biodiversity
      - ❖ Ecological diversity
      - ❖ Many issues, not just phosphorous—oil, nitrogen, invasive species
    - Importance of Communication and Education
      - ❖ Will help build political momentum
      - ❖ Will take lots of people to get action
      - ❖ Help people to understand we are part of the picture
      - ❖ Building into existing curriculum in schools; offer instruction for teachers
  - **Actions**
    - Continuation of Education Programs
    - Need to increase membership
    - Give members something to do
    - Increasing donations and funding
    - Differentiate between members who are action oriented themselves and members who will and can provide funding
    - Consider assuming coordination and working with Town for the PAL’s program (pond sampling)
    - Reach out to pond and neighborhood associations
    - Advocate for funding for a specific project
    - Learn from other organizations. What have they done, i.e. Orleans Pond Association, Skinnikit Pond in Harwich
    - Work with Town in taking advantage of AMERICORPS members assigned to Town.
  - Our discussion will continue at next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: July 2, 2015 6 PM, Library

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier, Clerk

*Endorsements and Public Policy Positions  
Adopted June 4, 2015*

**Introduction**

There are occasions when the Brewster Ponds Coalition (BPC) may be requested to publicly support or comment on various proposals or policy issues advocated by other non-profit organizations and government agencies.

Many of these issues are worthy and deserve public support and debate. Furthermore, the BPC desires to maintain cooperative working relationships with these organizations and agencies, especially where there are areas of common interest and shared objectives.

Nevertheless, as a tax-exempt charitable organization, the BPC must ensure its continued independence and avoid unnecessary or inadvertent controversy on matters that do not relate to the objectives and purpose of the organization.

To that end, the Board of Directors of the Brewster Ponds Coalition has established the following policy with regard to supporting or commenting on proposals and public policy positions advocated by others.

**Policy Statement**

The mission statement of the Brewster Ponds Coalition is:

*The Brewster Ponds Coalition is dedicated to preserving and nurturing the natural beauty, healthy habitats, and recreational opportunities of Brewster's Ponds, and to safeguard them for current and future generations.*

Consistent with this statement of purpose, it is the policy of the Board of Directors that any public position taken by the BPC - or by its leaders, members, or any other agents acting on behalf of the BPC - must relate directly and specifically to this mission.

**Actions and Limitations**

Implementation of this policy shall be guided by the following actions:

- All requests for support or comment on political or policy issues shall be referred to the BPC Board of Directors for open discussion and resolution, such discussions may also be done by email.
- On matters where the Board of Directors has determined that the BPC should take a public position, the Board will approve a clear statement to guide responses by any individuals representing the BPC.
- Unless otherwise specifically established by a vote of the Board, only members of the Board of Directors may represent official positions of the Brewster Ponds Coalition.
- Where possible and appropriate, the Board of Directors will designate an official spokesperson to make public statements and/or respond to media inquiries.
- Members of the Board of Directors shall be free to voice their personal views and opinions on any matters, whether or not such issues have been engaged by the BPC. However, when doing so, such personal statements must clearly establish that the comments are solely those