

Minutes, Brewster Ponds Coalition, October 21.2014

Board Members Present: John Keith, Karen Malkus-Benjamin, Gwen Pelletier, Konrad Schultz, Dawn Walnut.

Others Present: Rick Kuzman, Sue Leven.

John Keith, VP, opened the meeting and welcomed Sue Leven, Town Planner, and Rick Kuzman, Coalition member.

Minutes for the October 4, 2014, Organizational meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Konrad, seconded by Karen. Minutes for the October 7, 2014, Board meeting were approved unanimously, on a motion by Dawn, seconded by Karen.

John reviewed briefly the ideas and decisions from the October 7 meeting. One item was to educate ourselves about items being proposed for Town Meeting on November 17 and other items or issues being considered by the Board of Health.

Town Planner Sue Leven attended this meeting to give us information and discussed with us the following topics/items:

- Consultant Ed Eichner met with the Comprehensive Water Planning Committee and provided a report on proposals for the Mill Ponds watershed management. Sue reported that a video of the meeting is available at the Town's website. She indicated that the management plan has many options and will take time to implement. She suggested that Coalition Board watch the video and review the plan, noting that it represents a town-wide approach to watershed management.
- The Board of Selectmen voted this week on a proposed "Fertilizer by-law" to be presented as an article in the warrant for Special Town Meeting on November 17. She will forward a copy of the article to Gwen who will then forward to other members for us to ready and discuss at our November 6 meeting. She summarized the proposed by-law as follows:
 - addresses use of fertilizers in Brewster
 - is an attempt to reduce use of nitrogen in storm water run-off into water sheds and ponds and to educate homeowners.
 - is a general by-law, presented by the Board of Selectmen, thereby, requiring only a majority vote. A by-law to be included in Board of Health or Planning Board regulations would require a 2/3 vote.

- outlines
 - Broad management practices
 - Dates when fertilizers can be used
 - Amount per year based on square footage

- The Planning Board is working on a by-law addressing storm water management, possibly having it ready for Annual Town Meeting in the spring. She suggested the Coalition might want to attend Planning Board meetings.
- The Board of Health is working on revised septic system regulations. The BoH is empowered to create regulations so it does not have to go to Town Meeting. They will address new construction and requiring up grades upon the sale of a property. There will be public hearings. Sue recommended attending those hearings.
- Sue also shared thoughts she has on broader issues the Coalition has discussed
 - The Natural Resources Department has an AmeriCorps member assigned to it this year; it might be possible for the DNR staff to allow AmeriCorps member to work in some way with the Coalition. (Konrad said he would talk with Ryan Burch of DNR.)
 - co-sponsoring workshops with the Town Committees and Departments, such as Conservation Regulations, focusing on what a homeowner can do and the permitting process.
 - workshops by the Coalition re pharmaceuticals and septic systems.
 - Coordinating with the Water Management Planning Committee
 - Purchase of shared equipment for pond testing.

Other discussions and actions by the Board included:

- Elected Rick Kuzman to one of the two remaining open seats on the Board. On a motion by Gwen Pelletier, seconded by Konrad Schultz, Rick was elected to fill the seat until the next election of Board members at the Annual Meeting. The election of Rick followed a conversation between him and Board members about

his interest in the Coalition, his activities for Myrick's Pond, his experience on the Planning Board, and his involvement with other organizations.

- Konrad reported on his work with developing a website and reviewed with the Board a website structure. He indicated that he is developing a very basic website and is still testing it, not ready to go live yet. He also said that he has already recruited three members for the communication committee, all of whom have media experience. He will confirm with them their willingness to serve on the committee.
- Decided to have members of the Board serve as liaison to each of the committees:
 - Education---Karen and Dawn
 - Membership and Outreach---
 - Communication—Konrad Schultz
 - Finance---Tony Ortiz
 - Executive Committee---The Board as a whole
- The Board will have an "oversight" role, keeping the committees moving forward with the mission, ponds and all activities and issues that relate to ponds.
- To ask each committee to make a monthly report to the Board, preferably with a written copy of the report submitted to members in advance of the meeting.
- To pursue the following workshops
 - Working with Town Planner Sue Leven and the Conservation Commission to plan for a winter workshop (maybe January) "demystifying" what is allowed and not allowed around and in ponds, with the focus being on what one can do.
 - A spring activity or workshop with a focus on invasive and nuisance plants in ponds. Karen will contact a staff person at DNR who is an expert and excellent speaker.
 - A March workshop on storm water runoff issues

- Another workshop, at a time still to be determined, on emergent contaminants, pharmaceuticals, and personal products

The Next meeting of the Board will be 6:00 PM, November 6, at the Library. Both Konrad Schultz and John Keith informed the Board that they would not be able to attend the next meeting in person. Konrad would be available by SKYPE. Dawn will facilitate that. John will not be available by SKYPE.

The agenda for the next meeting will include

- Electing a president of the board
- Reviewing the proposed Fertilizer by-law and determining an action the Coalition may take
- Committee reports
- Review of the Articles of Organization and plans for submission to the State.

Submitted by

Gwen Pelletier