

Brewster Ponds Coalition Board Meeting
October 1, 2015 6-8pm
Brewster Ladies Library

Board members attending: Karen Malkus-Benjamin, Konrad Schultz, Rick Kuzman, Tom Vautin, Tony Ortiz, Dawn Walnut

Guests: Chris Miller, Ryan Burch, Judy Pirani

Report from Chris Miller, Natural Resources Department: Chris updated us on the three pond projects that were approved at the September 2 Town Meeting.

- Work at Fisherman's Landing will start in the fall and finish in the spring. There will be one minor modification made to the plan, to do with the road near a neighbor's well. The goal is to capture a lot of the water (from the bike trail down) before it gets to the pond.
- This project has not progressed much, and engineering and permitting work is still needed. The Conservation Committee will also need to approve permits. This is an area of archeological concern. There may be a need to bring the project to town meeting if more funds are required. The focus is on the boat ramp, and only storm water drainage will be changed in the parking area.
- J.M. O'Reilly is finalizing engineering plans, and once that is complete the project will need Conservation Committee permits. The work can be done in house, and may be started either in the fall, or after grass seed is started in the spring.

Chris also discussed potential ways for the BPC to help the town. Providing our feedback is useful. It would also be useful for our website and newsletter to discuss what the town is doing. Another project that the town is unable to undertake would be to inventory and verify outfall pipes. Chris mentioned that there will be political advocacy needed, especially for pond work that will be costly, where there is competition. He suggested that the BPC can champion projects. Other suggestions included:

- Spreading the word that people need to understand the town has a permitting process they must follow if they have pond work they wish to do.
- Helping identify boat owners who might be willing to allow PALS testers to use their boats. We have interested volunteers who don't have boats to do the testing. Ryan mentioned that he would like to make more connections with PALS volunteers – perhaps have a dinner in the spring.
- Advocate for WetFest in Brewster.

Working with the AmeriCorps Volunteer: Konrad met with Aaron, the new AmeriCorps volunteer, who has a background in environmental science and seemed very interested in our ponds protocol project. Ryan reported that he is enthusiastic and willing to learn. Ryan suggests that we set deadlines and schedule frequent check-ins to make sure his work on other projects doesn't take over. John will be the point person to work with Aaron on our project, with Karen as a backup.

Celebrate Our Waters Feedback: Gwen requested feedback on our participation in Celebrate Our Waters with the Oreland Pond Coalition. The general feeling was that information tables don't get much attention without an interactive feature. In future we would rather do an activity, perhaps at Baker's Pond, since it sits in both towns. We would like to find out what activities have been done in the past, and ask The Orleans Pond Coalition how they manage liability and risk.

Membership Report: There have not been any new members in the past month. Rick offered to take over Tony's membership lists.

Google Doc Update: Tom explained a bit how Google Docs makes it possible to share and edit documents with one another. Once we have joined Google Docs for Brewster Ponds, we can upload photos and files to the drive.

Communications Group Update: Konrad and Judy summarized their research into printing companies and costs associated with creating an appeal letter and an annual report. They recommended that the BPC create an 8½ by 14 appeal letter, to be mailed to every Brewster resident. The lowest bid came from Curley Direct, who would both print and mail the appeal. Konrad offered to personally donate \$1000 toward covering the fees. Cape Cod Regional Technical High School was the recommended choice to print the annual report. The board approved a motion authorizing the Communications Committee to create both the appeal and the annual report, and to authorize payment to both Curley Direct and the Tech school. Judy volunteered to draft the annual report and Konrad offered to draft the appeal letter.

Next meeting: November 5th at 6:00pm.