

Minutes

Brewster Ponds Coalition, October 7, 2014

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

Others present: Nancy Ortiz

Dawn Walnut opened the meeting.

The first order of business was to approve the proposed by-laws. On a motion by Dawn, seconded by Konrad, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the by-laws as proposed at the October 4, 2014, organizational meeting.

The second order of business was to elect officers. Gwen volunteered to be clerk; Tony volunteered to be treasurer. It was suggested that John would be a good president. He pointed out that because of his traveling, he wouldn't always be in attendance and although he plans to take an active role, it would be better if someone else were president; he volunteered to be VP. After a lengthy discussion of the merits of Konrad, Dawn, or Karen serving as president and the pros and cons as expressed by each of them, the Board decided to wait until another meeting to discuss and/or elect a president, when Tom Vautin can be present and when there might be other candidates for the two vacant Board seats.

On a motion by Dawn, seconded by Konrad, the following positions were elected unanimously: John Keith, Vice President; Tony Ortiz, Treasurer; Gwen Pelletier, Clerk.

Board members then discussed what actions we can take short term to "jump start" the organization, to keep people involved and interested and to do something soon to keep the organization in the public eye. Ideas discussed include

- Public meetings with workshops and/or speakers---education opportunities providing specific "tools" people can use for pond protection.
- Begin outreach to existing pond and homeowner associations, using the Horsley and Witten maps to provide them education based on what H and W is showing about their ponds and watersheds. It was noted that we need to find the pond associations and home owner organizations abutting ponds that exist in order to contact them.
- Educating ourselves about proposed Town regulations that may be coming up from the Board of Health or at a fall or annual Town Meeting. Noted that Fall Special Town Meeting is November 17.
- A workshop on invasive species, perhaps in the spring and based at a specific pond to provide "hands on" information and as an "action"
- Setting up a website. Posting and/or creating videos to be used on the website. Posting all organization information and activities on the website.
- Establishing committees
- Review spread sheet created by Tony for names of people who have volunteered in particular areas of interest and work.

- Developing an “action item” for the membership.
- Working with Americorps members for a 1 day project, a work/activity in May or June
- A workshop on disposal of pharmaceuticals and personal care products. Silent Spring as a source from their work on the issue.

The Board decided

- To get ourselves educated re proposals being made by the Board of Health and proposed articles for Town Meeting on November 17
- To establish three committees immediately
 - Education to begin considering workshops
 - Membership to begin outreach, especially to identify individual pond associations and homeowner associations abutting ponds
 - Communication to establish a website and develop useful information and links

Nancy Ortiz volunteered to work with the spreadsheet based on what committees or areas of interest members indicated on the membership application. She will contact all members who indicated an interest in outreach or membership and invite them to become members of the “Membership committee” with a specific first task of identifying existing pond associations and homeownership associations and who the primary contact person would be.

Konrad Schultz volunteered to begin the initial stages of setting up a website.

Dawn Walnut said she would contact Sue Leven and Paula Miller to arrange for them to meet with us to provide us with information on proposals coming from the Board of Health and the Water Planning Committee.

Next Meetings

- Tuesday, October 21 in the evening or Thursday, October 23 daytime. Dawn will let us know based on availability of Sue Leven and Paula Miller. A special meeting so we can prepare for November 17 Town Meeting.
- Wednesday, November 5. It was noted that we had indicated to membership that we would meet the first Tuesday of each Month. However, November 4 is election day and buildings and folks may be otherwise occupied.

The agenda for the October 21 meeting will be

- Update on proposed BoH regulations; proposed articles relating to ponds or water for Nov 17 Town Meeting
- Establishing Committees
- An E newsletter
- Continued discussion of additional board members and election of President.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision.

Submitted by

Gwen Pelletier