

Minutes, Brewster Ponds Coalition Sept 10, 2015

Board Members Present: Karen Malkus-Benjamin, Rick Kuzman, Konrad Schultz, Gwen Pelletier, Dawn Walnut, Tom Vautin. Communications member present: Judy Pirani

Minutes for the August 6, 2015, meeting approved unanimously.

CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY EMAIL DURING THE MONTH

- Letter sent to Board of Selectmen in support of proposals at September 2 Town Meeting for storm water run-off improvements at Brewster Town Landings on Sheep, Long and Slough Ponds. The letter had been drafted by John Keith and was circulated by email to all Board members. Approval was unanimous.
- Request for Tom Vautin to speak at Town Meeting in support of these projects. Tom had agreed in email circulation. Board thanked and complimented Tom for his comments
- Setting date of Annual Meeting for October 29. Conflicts were determined for the date of October 13 set at the August meeting. An email circulation determined that October 29 was acceptable to all.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- **CLERK'S REPORT**

Gwen suggested that her tasks had been met with submissions to the IRS and the Commonwealth to establish BPC as a nonprofit. She suggested there is no reason for continuing reports from the Clerk other than minutes and filing reports when due. It was agreed that this agenda item is no longer necessary.

- **TREASURER'S REPORT**

In Tony's absence, he submitted the following information:

- ✓ There was minimal financial activity during the month of August.
- ✓ \$150 in memberships; \$204 spent

- **MEMBERSHIP**

Rick Kuzman reported the following:

- ✓ He ordered and received 300 Brewster Ponds Coalition Member stickers and distributed one to each Board member.
- ✓ One new member has joined---Joan Bentley from Slough Pond

During a discussion the following decisions were made:

- ✓ A letter will be sent ASAP to anyone submitting a membership request or donation. The letter will include one of the BPC member stickers. Rick indicated that he and Tony have an agreement for mail pick up from the Post Office. Rick takes whatever information he needs as membership chair; Tony deposits checks and Nancy adds members to the membership database.
- ✓ Letters will be signed by Rick as membership chair.
- ✓ Letters will be similar to the letter previously proposed by Rick.
- ✓ Memberships or donors of \$150 or more will receive letters indicating the BPC hat will be personally delivered by a Board member and that a Board member will call to arrange that meeting.

- **EDUCATION**

Dawn and Karen indicated the following for September and October:

- ✓ September 18 & 19. Participate in the Orleans CELEBRATE OUR WATERS week end with a BPC display in their tent at Depot Square. We agreed on coverage for the two days.
- ✓ October Annual Meeting will include speaker and presentation by John Keith.

- **COMMUNICATIONS**

Konrad and Judy Pirani reported the following:

- ✓ They had done considerable research on printing for the annual meeting and an annual appeal with Sunderlin Printing in Hyannis and Cape Tech's printing department.
- ✓ Konrad showed us three examples of kinds of documents and talked about prices and purpose of each type. He indicated he would meet with Sunderlin Printing again in the near future and would get prices for what we conclude we would like.
- ✓ Judy is able to do an analysis of who responds to our FB page. At this point the number of responses doesn't seem to be adequate to provide significant information

During a wide ranging discussion relative to what are our goals in printing for the annual meeting in October and for an annual appeal, the Board reached the following conclusions:

- ✓ We need to increase membership so we will have members to carry out activities to focus on improvement of ponds.
- ✓ We like the "all-in-one" type mailer for the annual meeting and could tie it in with annual meeting.
- ✓ The Annual Report can be a simple one page document with financials and a list of accomplishments. It can also be presented as a Power Point document.

Konrad also shared this additional information:

- ✓ October 1 newsletter will announce annual meeting
- ✓ Additional PR for annual meeting will include press releases and an email blast to the DNR Brewster Flats Mail Chimp list.
- ✓ He is in contact with Karin Delaney for arrangements for Orleans Pond Coalition "Celebrate our Waters" weekend.
- ✓ Introduced Bob Cortez who has recently joined BPC and is interested in our goals, etc.

Bob shared the following during the course of the meeting:

- ❖ He is a fisherman and sees problems with ponds
- ❖ Thought BPC was an older organization because of previous reports by the town and his awareness that pond testing has been happening for quite a few years. We explained that previous coordination around ponds was initiated by the Town and there is continuing effort by the Town to address impaired pond issues.
- ❖ He was curious about our primary thrust---to gain membership or improve ponds. We explained that in order to conduct activities and to raise funds that can help improve ponds we need to build a membership. Our overriding goal is improvement of impaired ponds. We also are an advocacy organization.
- ❖ Bob encouraged BPC to be proactive.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **SPECIALTOWN MEETING: Follow-up to Pond Articles**

- ✓ Dawn commented that in the future when BPC takes a position on an article for Town Meeting we should also submit a letter to the editor to the newspapers
 - ✓ We should co-ordinate with Chris Miller re the specific details of the three projects at Town Pond landings so that we know, can continue to support and share the information.
 - ✓ Tom Vautin will speak with Chris and ask him to come to our October Board meeting.
 - ✓ Although not directly related to Special Town Meeting articles, we also discussed, at this point, the importance of continuing discussions with Chris and Ryan Burch about BPC involvement with and support of the PALS program for testing ponds. Our support and coordination would provide an opportunity for our members to participate in an activity.
- **Annual Meeting Preparation: October 29.**
 - ✓ Konrad confirmed that Tom Cambereri, Water Quality Specialist at the Cape Cod Commission, has agreed to speak, with a focus on ponds. We agreed to ask him to specifically share information about the County's focus on Ponds in the 208 Waste Water Management Plan and how Pond Coalitions fit.
 - ✓ We agreed that Konrad, in his co-ordination with Tom, should ask him to send us high lights of topics he will discuss so we can tie them in with the presentation of our goals.
 - ✓ Konrad will work with John Keith and Tony Ortiz to prepare the Annual Report, in a simple format and for a Power Point presentation.
 - ✓ Tom will send out an email blast through the Brewster FLATS list with a "Save the Date" notice. He will also send an email to Town Officials and the new Town Administrator appointed to take the position upon Charlie Sumner's retirement.
 - ✓ Konrad and Judy will also do so with our membership list.
 - ✓ Gwen agreed to review the by-laws prior to the October 1 meeting to confirm relevant issues for annual meeting.
 - ✓ We briefly discussed the current vacancy on the Board and continued to agree that it is more important to find the right person for the vacancy than it is to fill the position.
 - ✓ Gwen and Konrad agreed to serve as the Nominating Committee and to prepare as required for Annual Meeting.
 - **Celebrate Our Waters**
 - ✓ Konrad has coordinated with Karin Delaney relative to BPC participation in Orleans Pond Coalition's CELEBRATE OUR WATERS WEEKEND.
 - ✓ We will be under the main tent at Depot Square. OPC will provide a table and chair.
 - ✓ BPC's display will include the Power Point developed by Konrad, membership applications, other relevant handouts that we have about pond protection, our banner, and Poster Boards showing Brewster Ponds and Pond protection activities that individuals can do.
 - ✓ We agreed on a schedule of coverage: Konrad and Gwen, Saturday morning; Dawn and Rick, Saturday afternoon; Karen and Tom, Sunday morning.
- **AMERICORPS**
 - ✓ Konrad reported that he was following-up on a request from John Keith to set up a meeting with Jim Gallagher, Conservation Commission Chair, to share with the Con Com and

- develop a cooperative relationship for the proposal BPC had submitted for an AmeriCorps project now that we have learned the DNR has been assigned an AmeriCorps member.
- ✓ A tentative date had been set for September 18, but not yet confirmed.

- **OUTREACH TO PART TIME RESIDENTS**

- ✓ Karen related an incident she had with a neighbor, a part time resident, who talked about actions he was considering taking on his pond front property. When Karen began telling him about limitations on what he could do based on the Wetlands Protection Act and permissions he would need from the Conservation Commission, he was “clueless”.
- ✓ This led to a discussion among the Board about how we can engage pond front property owners and let them know what can be done.
- ✓ We agreed to begin that discussion at our November Board meeting.

- **Annual Calendar**

- ✓ At Tom’s suggestion, we agreed that we need to develop an annual BPC Calendar now that we have completed a year and there are certain activities that will become annual and it will be easier to prepare for if we are not remembering or considering at the last minute.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 1, 2015. 6 PM at the Library

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier, Clerk