

MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, MAY 4, 2017

Board members present: Tom Vautin, Judy Pirani, Dawn Walnut, Karen Malkus-Benjamin, Sue Searles, Gwen Pelletier. By Skype voice: John Keith, Konrad Schultz.

Minutes for April 6, 2017, were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Report was accepted as presented. Copy available upon request. In addition, the following expenses were approved: Sue Searles, \$21.67 for membership breakfast; Dawn Walnut, \$178.23 for membership breakfast expenses; Shirley Vautin, up to \$50 for expenses for BPC display at CC Five Cents Savings Bank.

CURRENT PRIORITIES & ISSUES

- Beautify Brewster Day: Sue reported that the day had been very successful. There were 7 teams with 16 cleaning the designated sections, plus Sue, Gwen, and Louise at the beginning site. Gwen and Louise drove the route and checked in with the teams, which appeared to be appreciated. One team found a turkey's nest with eggs and was able to get pictures which will be shared. Sue reported that she will create a folder in Google Docs with information and guidelines for following years. There had been confusion about the date, with a couple of folks thinking it was the weekend prior, coinciding with EARTH DAY. Sue will clarify in folder information that Beautify Brewster day is planned to be the week before "Brewster in Bloom" to have the town clean for that day.
- George Heufelder Presentation on May 9: Topic, "The Future of Septic Systems on Cape Cod." Confirmation that event will begin at 6:30 PM at the Brewster Ladies Library. We should all be there by 5:30 PM to help set up. Jim Holland will videotape the presentation. Tom will welcome the attendees; Karen will introduce George Heufelder. Dawn will set up a "welcome table" for sign in, copies of annual report, and a donation jar. Tom shared that Carmen Scherzo, chair of the Board of Health, had asked if he could present a recognition to George Heufelder from the Board of Health, in appreciation for his efforts on behalf of the County and support to the Brewster Board of Health. The Board agreed unanimously to welcome Carmen to make the presentation after Heufelder's presentation.
- Pond Education Kits and Field Trips: Karen and Sue shared that field trips to ponds with students at the three schools have been scheduled for 5/19 with Laurel School; 5/23 with the Partnership School; 6/6 and 6/8 with the Family School. The teachers, and students are looking forward to them. Teachers have been very enthusiastic about receiving the kits. Volunteers from BPC have been most helpful in creating the kits and have indicated that

they are impressed with the content of the kits as “pond units” for the teachers; they are also enthusiastic about assisting/participating in the field trips. Karen and Sue will have “debrief meetings” with the teachers at each school after the field trips. We agreed that this project deserves a major publicity effort as our big project for this year. Karen, Sue, and volunteers are taking pictures. We should prepare a slide show/powerpoint to demonstrate the project with emphasis on the classroom, the field trips, and the participation by BPC volunteers. We need to place emphasis on photos!

- Board Recruiting and Succession Plan: In a wide ranging discussion, we recognized that we need to begin to concentrate our efforts on building succession and sustainability of the Board. Our by-laws have set term limits of three terms. Looking to Annual Meeting in August, we have four positions: Terms expire for Tom Vautin, John Keith, and Judy Pirani. And we still have a vacant position. Tom, John, and Judy agreed in this discussion to be nominated again. We need to fill the vacant position and also to consider asking people to be more actively involved as leadership positions for events and activities. The nominating committee elected at last year’s annual meeting: Dawn Walnut, Konrad Schultz, Fred Budreski, with Tom Vautin as an “ex-officio” member. Last year Konrad, Tom, and Gwen interviewed possible candidates. Dawn asked that each of us review our membership list and send her names of members whom the Nominating Committee might consider. The discussion also included consideration that the position of Treasurer becomes more complex as we grow; we should consider perhaps hiring a part time professional to perform the bookkeeping/accounting functions. Board recognized that the current situation with Gwen as Treasurer with volunteer support by Judith Valverde works for now but is not a long term solution.
- Annual Meeting Plans: Gwen reported that Rich Delaney is not available at any time in August as speaker. She suggested that we consider Andrew Gottlieb, the recently appointed Executive Director for Association to Preserve Cape Cod. Konrad suggested we also consider Stephen Smith, with Cape Cod National Seashore. Board members agreed that Tom should invite Andrew Gottlieb, with Stephen Smith as an alternate choice. Date still set for August 12. Gwen will pursue contract with Ardeo’s at Captain’s Course.
- Brewster Conservation Day: Saturday, July 8, 9:00 to 2:00 at Drummer Boy Park. Confirmed our participation. Konrad will be point person for co-ordinating with Hal Minis. Judy and Dawn will be responsible for “membership table”. Karen and Sue will be responsible for activity, based on the “Pond Education Kits”, to include the “fishing game” used last year, hand-outs of BPC bags with “education materials” of things we can do to help protect our ponds.

- Plans for Pond Summit- July 29? Discussion of whether this becomes an annual event or perhaps every other year. No decision was made. Considerations included the following:
 - Focus on neighborhood organizations
 - Topic that will be a draw
 - Keep leadership connection with neighborhood/association groups
 - Reach out to Leadership and ask what they would like
 - Build on “Waterfront Improvement Guide”
 - Build on Storm water issues
 - Emphasize role BPC can play with non-profit status for groups
- Insurance: Tom reported that our liability now includes volunteer accident coverage. When it renews in June, it will also include water activities.
- Walker’s Pond Project: Town meeting approved the purchase of a Weed Harvester by the Department of Natural Resources. Tom will follow-up with Chris Miller re when the project will proceed and how BPC can/will be supportive in the education/information component of the project. We talked about the possibility of leading a walk along the shore of Walker’s Pond in the Punkhorn and sharing information about the need for the harvesting and the project. John will be available during the summer to provide the “education” component and has an idea of trails that could be used and parking. Karen shared that she had followed up with Chris after the previous meeting and sent him her ideas about “monitoring and a possible plankton protocol” for Walker’s Pond. Konrad questioned whether we might consider paddle events as part of the “education”. Karen expressed concern about paddle events because of the possible exposure to cyanobacteria.
- APCC Workshop Series: Gwen shared that she had attended the three workshops presented by APCC as part of the Orleans Snow Library, Lifetime Learning series. She suggested that we consider asking APCC to present the series for BPC, possibly in the fall.
- Cyanobacteria kits: Karen asked the board if BPC would consider purchasing a Cyanobacteria Monitoring Kit. Those of us who attended the BLOOM watch workshop hosted by APCC and presented by EPA staff in Boston were introduced to the Kit. Karen indicated having one would bring our “Citizen Scientist” project to a higher level. We noted that we had budgeted \$1,500 for possible support of the PALS program by purchase of equipment that the Town has now purchased. Karen reported cost of the kit is approximately \$600 to \$700. The Board voted unanimously to approve Karen purchasing the Cynomonitoring Kit.

REPORTS & WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Judy Pirani submitted a written Communications report. Copy available upon request. Other reports were made verbally and included in agenda items in these minutes.

WRAP-UP AND FOLLOW UP

- Tom will contact Andrew Gottlieb re speaking at Annual meeting
- Gwen will confirm Annual meeting location in co-ordination with Dawn
- All of us will send names of people to consider for Board and Committee positions
- Konrad will confirm Brewster Conservation Day participation and plans with Hal Minis
- All will be at library by 5:30 on May 9 for Heufelder event
- Gwen will contact APCC re possibility of workshops in the fall
- Judy and Tom will develop list of leaders for Pond and Neighborhood Associations relative to Pond Summit connections.

Next Board Meeting. June 1, 2017

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier, Secretary