

## MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, Feb 7, 2019

Board Members Present: Marty Burke, Wayne Jenkins, Gwen Pelletier, Judy Pirani, Tom Vautin, Dawn Walnut. Sue Searles and Konrad Schultz by Skype

- **Guest:** Mark Robinson, Executive Director, Compact of Conservation Trust  
BPC voted in December to become a member of the Compact. Gwen and Tom attended the January Board meeting. Mark is attending this meeting to introduce us to the focus of the COMPACT and benefits to the BPC. Mark and Tom had met this week to review possibilities for BPC. Mark provided a summary of that meeting and an information sheet introducing the COMPACT..
  - ❖ Primary focus of COMPACT
    - To work to preserve open space
    - To support Conservation Trusts and Foundations across the Cape in negotiations for and purchase of land for conservation purposes. There are 29 member organizations across the Cape.
    - To provide administration for non profit organizations
      - Payroll services for member organizations
    - Assistance with grant writing and proposal development.
  - ❖ Benefits to BPC
    - BPC's interest is how we can take advantage of the grant writing and administration COMPACT activities.
  - ❖ Discussion about taking advantage of assistance from COMPACT. Referring to Mark's summary, the Board agreed with Mark's recommendation that BPC focus on 3 potential projects.
    1. Organize Pals Data from 2009 to 2018
    2. Increase BPC Organizational Capacity to assist Brewster DNR with pond water sampling quality sampling analysis.
    3. Increase BPC's organizational capacity re the Cyanobacteria research and analysis program
  - ❖ COMPACT will begin research to find funding resources for BPC, looking at focus of grants and looking at funding cycles. Many grant opportunities focus now on CLIMATE Change. There may be opportunities to link water quality to those.
  - ❖ BPC will forward to Mark the resource list we already have
  - ❖ Board will need to determine a Board member to work with Mark.

- **DEP Water Quality Monitoring GRANT**

- ❖ BPC became aware of a DEP grant that is currently available for which BPC might qualify. Tom met with Mark to discuss whether it might be beneficial for BPC to submit a proposal, considering the tight deadline for a March 1 due date.
- ❖ Board members and Mark discussed the issue and concluded that despite the initial appearance that it fits within our mission and goals, this is not the time for us to put so much effort into this proposal when it is highly unlikely that we would be funded. Board voted unanimously not to proceed with this proposal

All documents referenced are available on request.

### **Standing Topics**

- Minutes of January meeting were approved unanimously
- Treasurer's report
  - ❖ Board voted unanimously to approve December and January Financial Reports as presented.

### **Current Priorities**

- 2019 Membership Appeal Update

Marty presented a summary with detail statistics of the results of the appeal to date.

  - ❖ Donations received to date: \$25,410
  - ❖ 216 donors
  - ❖ Calls made to previous donors who had not yet contributed by early January
  - ❖ Filemaker PRO, the database we have been using is expiring. We need to replace it. Tom, Dawn, Judy, and Konrad agreed to work with Marty researching and reviewing other similar programs to meet BPC's needs
- BPC 2019 Budget

Tom presented the proposed budget, based on discussion at the January Board meeting. Approved unanimously by the Board with the understanding that there may be revisions during the year

- Winter Members Meeting- March 2, Brewster Baptist Church
  - 9 am. Breakfast. Frittata Dawn has arranged
  - 9:30. Introduction by Tom
  - 10:00 Ice Breaker by Dawn
  - Program
    - Volunteers to speak about programs
      - Pond Education, Field Trip
      - Citizen Scientist
      - Speaker programs
      - Communications
      - Beautify Brewster
    - Offer opportunities for Volunteers
    - Dawn organizing. Will need help for set up
  
- Fundraising. Konrad reported on the recent meeting of the Fundraising team, which focused primarily on two subjects:
  - A summer event: **Secret Ponds and Hidden Vistas**  
 Konrad had included in the Board Package an outline of an event and pictures of examples of activities at sites, possible event end of July.. Questions asked by Board members during the discussion:
    - Number of properties
    - Parking
    - Self guided? Time for people at sites to be there, all day?
    - Costs of tickets
    - Sponsorships
 After discussion consensus of board was for committee to continue exploring possibility
  
  - How to package what we have in order to show sponsors the benefit to them.
    - opportunity to sponsor the events
    - Sponsorship of the “POND BOOKLET” that is so popular in the summer and buses for the Pond Education Program field trips
  
  - Committee also created lists of possible other fundraising opportunities

- Capacity-building updates
  - Discussion of possible Board members. New names were added to the list.
  - Board agreed that if positive response is obtained from nominee that Marty plans to meet with the next day, he should invite the person to serve on Board.
  - Tom agreed to explore with another person.
  
- Other Working groups/Committee progress reports
  - ❖ Education and Programs
    - Citizen Scientist (Committee members Marty, Gwen, and Karen)
      - Marty and Gwen shared they had just met before the Board meeting with Brian Horsley and Karen Malkus-Benjamin to begin planning for the summer testing program. Details of schedule and coordinated efforts are still being worked out.
    - Elementary Pond Education Program (Committee members Sue Searles and Jan McGann)
      - Sue reported that materials have all been printed and field trip dates have been scheduled. Volunteers have all committed.
  
  - ❖ Projects and Partnerships
    - Elbow Pond Restoration
      - There are indications that this project may be delayed and not implemented this summer. DEP is requiring a report of threatened species, to be conducted by a certified botanist during the summer season
  
    - Town of Brewster, Department of Natural Resources
      - Tom continues to meet with Chris Miller, with other Board members invited to attend when possible. Continued positive relationship.

Next Board Meeting: March 7, 2019

Submitted by.

Gwen Pelletier, Secretary