

## **MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, FEBRUARY 1, 2018**

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

**Tom welcomed Moira Noonan-Kerry, consultant in fundraising, development, and grant writing, thanked her for coming to inform us about her services.** Gwen introduced Moira, explaining that she had been on staff at the Community Development Corporation when Gwen was ED.

Moira introduced herself and her 6 months as a consultant

- ❖ explaining that she had started with the CDP in the small/micro business support department
- ❖ held various positions over the last 15 years, including interim Executive Director and most recently in Development and Communications
- ❖ She left the CDP 6 months ago to establish her own consulting business in fundraising and grant writing, with a focus on non profits.
- ❖ She shared that she had reviewed BPC's website and our recent annual report/appeal RIPPLES; she was impressed with the professionalism and clarity and enjoyed reading it

Speaking to her experience at the CDP and her consultancy, she shared the following points:

- ❖ Was responsible for \$500,000 in grants at the CDP
- ❖ Plus another \$500,000 in grants in cooperation with other staff members
- ❖ Her work includes a variety of areas: primarily grant writing, research
- ❖ During the 6 months she has submitted proposals totaling \$200,000
- ❖ One of her advantages is a well established relationship with local funders
- ❖ Her process for working with a client
  - Meet with Board as appropriate
  - Determine what your goals are
  - Research sources,---local, state,national-- private and and public funding
  - Meet with funding sources if appropriate
  - Develop proposal

In answer to questions from Board members, she shared the following:

- ❖ At the CDP, environmental areas of funding were in solar and renewable energy for CDP properties, rentals and homeownership opportunities
- ❖ No specific work with/for ponds, but she is a frequent "pond user" and is aware of the issues

- ❖ She did some research prior to meeting with us and thinks BPC goals are ripe for funding opportunities
- ❖ She already has relationships with most local/Cape Cod funding sources
- ❖ She uses research tools for access to state and national sources
- ❖ She has written proposals for “specific projects”
- ❖ Her success rate after 6 months is 60%
- ❖ She has experience working with local business for sponsorships and support
- ❖ There are basically three types of grants
  - Operational (for staff; the hardest but possible)
  - Education (her strongest area)
  - Specific projects ( knows there is funding that would fit BPC)

Points shared by Board members with Moira:

- ❖ Currently in strategic plan review/development
- ❖ Challenge to take BPC from a “start-up” to being sustainable
- ❖ Have developed projects successfully with board
- ❖ Need at least a part time staff position to keep things going
- ❖ A challenge for BPC is that most ponds in Brewster do not have public access, are surrounded by private property owners, most of whom are not year round residents.

With no additional questions, Tom thanked Moira for her time and indicated we would be in touch with her.

Board continued with the meeting. Copies of documents referenced are available upon request.

**Minutes for January 11, 2017**, were approved unanimously.

**Email votes confirmed:**

- January 19, 2018: To offer registration for the APCC POND TALK series for all three simultaneously, free to BPC and APCC members, suggested \$10 donation for others.
- January 16, 2018; Approved purchase of roll of 100 stamps for \$49.00 to be provided to Nancy Ortiz for mailing thank you letters to donors.

**Incoming Mail:** Tom shared letter from Brewster Chamber of Commerce inviting ads for BREWSTER BOOK for 2018. Board agreed to same size ad ¼ page as last year. Konrad and Judy will create ad and submit as requested. Board approved payment for cost of ad of \$375.00

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Gwen and Tom informed Board that we are still in the process of setting up arrangements with Glivinski Associates for BPC Financial Management Services so the monthly report is deferred until systems are in place.
- Gwen explained more detail about her request last month for reports of volunteer hours needed for completion of the 990 report. She had included in Board package an email with a couple of samples of how to report. Board members agreed to provide information needed: Name, Date, Activity/Service performed, # of hours by March Board meeting. Gwen also pointed out that the reports to be filed also asked for number of beneficiaries, which we will need to estimate in some cases. Dawn indicated that there is a published annually acceptable rate for hours for service to non-profits, looked up the number for Mass and found that for 2016 it was \$29.88 per hour. The 2018 \$ amount has not yet been posted to the website. Dawn also indicated that with the database she is using she can track information in a variety of ways so that we should be able to enter data re volunteer hours regularly and have the report at the end of the year.
- Tom had included in the board package the revised budget as authorized at the January Board meeting. Tom noted that based on the conversation and totaling the amounts for categories required some adjustments. Board agreed to review again at March Board meeting.

## **CURRENT PRIORITIES & ISSUES**

- Membership and Annual Appeal 2018 progress report  
Konrad reported that to date we have received \$24,110 from 219 members. Discussion included the following:
  - ❖ Personal contact by telephone or email with folks who have not yet responded is important and generates for contributions. Some folks just let it slip and most appreciate being reminded.
  - ❖ Additional reminders by FB
  - ❖ All of us should review list provided by Tom and Dawn and follow-up with calls or emails
- Employment Practices Policy  
Dawn put samples in Google Docs for Board to review. Board agreed to review and discuss at March meeting.

- APCC Educational Series Update
  - ❖ Gwen reported that everything is set with APCC and the Library for February 8, 15, and 22
  - ❖ Judy reported that she sent out Press Release and PSA this week and will continue to post reminders
  - ❖ Fred Budreski has agreed to take photos for the Feb 8 event since Judy will be away.
  - ❖ Tom will introduce speakers
  - ❖ Dawn reported 6 RSVPs to date, but expects more will come within next few days and that we are likely to have walk-ins as well.
  - ❖ Gwen, Karen, Tom, and Dawn agree to be there by 6 PM to help set up chairs, etc.
  
- Strategic Planning update
 

Member survey results are in the TEAM DRIVE on Google Docs

  - ❖ The committee has summarized them and Tom encouraged us to look at them
  - ❖ 48 responses with Education being high priority
  - ❖ Surprisingly, outdoor events and social activities were not a priority
  - ❖ Open ended responses also, please look at them.

Venue for April 7 and May 12 facilitated discussions

  - ❖ Suggestions included
    - Hay House--Tom will check with Hal Minis
    - Meeting Room at Police Station---Tom will check
    - Ocean Edge---Konrad will check.

Interviews progress

  - ❖ All indicated they are either in process of scheduling interviews or planning to do so in near future
  - ❖ Tom asked that as we complete interviews that we summarize our notes and post in Team Drive for all to read
  - ❖ Goal is to have them completed by March Board meeting
  
- Annual Meeting Update
 

Gwen shared that the contract for the food service vendor for Captain's Course has changed and she is in the process of attempting to connect with the new vendor. She has gotten names, emails, and telephone numbers for new folks and has attempted to make contact but had no response yet. She will keep trying and keep Board informed.

- Proposed Alum Treatment

Tom introduced the discussion by sharing with the Board that Brewster Conservation Commission has approved alum treatment for Upper Mill Pond and also pointing out that is also a topic for discussion in Orleans, for Uncle Harvey's Pond. In Brewster, there is a proposed article for Town Meeting for \$180,000 for the treatment at Upper Mill. Because alum treatment is a controversial issue, we had a discussion of a BPC position including the following thoughts/issues:

- ❖ Karen shared copies of papers she had of recent research re alum and cyanobacteria issues.
- ❖ What is the purpose of alum treatment? Generally, to reduce phosphorus, reduce weeds, and improve for water activities
- ❖ Recent reports have indicated that alum does not successfully reduce cyanobacteria
- ❖ BPC's role is education.
- ❖ Public approach is generally to "fix" a problem and the problem they see is the growth of weeds that interfere with recreational use
- ❖ It is a complicated issue and people want a "quick fix" instead of long term solutions such as addressing septic and storm water issues
- ❖ The problems of excess phosphorus in ponds are related more to historical problems, not necessarily current use. Farming, septic over decades
- ❖ Alum will "knock down phosphorus", cover it up, but does not get rid of it and is not a long term solution. An application is projected to last about 10 years and then most likely needs an new application, never solving the problem.
- ❖ Alum will reduce plant growth but will not reduce cyanobacteria
- ❖ Example at Nickerson State Park, with alum treatment at Cliff Pond a couple of years ago, and a toxic cyanobacteria bloom in the fall of 2017, with closure of the pond at that time.
- ❖ There is no good alternative that addresses both phosphorus and cyanobacteria
- ❖ Concern that officials in towns facing issues with ponds and public use do not adequately understand the issue with cyanobacteria
- ❖ In Brewster, the decision has been made by the appropriate officials for alum at Upper Mill
- ❖ The challenge for BPC is what alternative can we offer as a credible answer
- ❖ One answer for BPC is that we are the researchers, providing education with the cyanobacteria testing program
- ❖ The public does not yet understand the issues with cyanobacteria; BPC is way ahead with providing information with our participation in the EPA and LimTex research
- ❖ Cyanobacteria issues should not be political but public health and safety

- ❖ BPC needs a nuanced approach; we understand that alum reduces weeds; however, public needs to be aware of issues with Cliff Pond and cyanobacteria after alum treatment and issues at Long Pond.
- ❖ BPC could consider a public forum to explain issues with cyanobacteria, perhaps a forum we present or through the Community Forum.
- ❖ What is our message? Issues with alum? Issues with cyanobacteria
- ❖ Education is our role
- ❖ An approach: there is no quick fix; alum is an interim solution for phosphorus but not long term or permanent; cyanobacteria, a growing and less obvious problem is not solved with alum and is a health and safety issue
- ❖ BPC approach: Education.
  - A Position paper.
  - Complicated issue.
  - Risk vs solution and limitations.
  - There will be harm to the ecology of the pond.
  - Factual information
  - Outline issues and complications: i.e. complications with Walker Pond feeding into Upper Mill, link between ponds and Herring Run and Stony Brook
  - Position based on risks
- ❖ John agreed to write first draft of BPC position paper, addressing a general approach to watershed management, not just the Mill Ponds issue and alum at Upper Mill
- ❖ Town Meeting is 1st Monday in May. If we participate in Town Meeting discussion, it will be part of our ongoing educational effort.
- ❖ Summary of Alum position discussion
  - John to draft position paper within couple of weeks and submit to remainder of Board for review.
  - Karen to create TEAM FOLDER in Google Docs and post research papers on alum, cyanobacteria to share with us.

**REPORTS SUBMITTED BY**

Communications Action Team  
Education Committee

Relative to Citizen Scientist Report, Karen indicated that BPC needs to consider purchasing equipment that she has been sharing/lending from Barnstable and additional equipment if we want to participate in possible expansion of project being discussed by other participants in the BLOOM Watch/Cyanobacteria testing program.

Next Board Meeting: March 1, 2018

Submitted by: Gwen Pelletier, Secretary