

## MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, JUNE 1, 2017

Board Members Present: Konrad Schultz, Sue Searles, Karen Malkus-Benjamin, John Keith, Gwen Pelletier. By Skype Voice: Tom Vautin

Due to President Tom Vautin's participating by Skype, VP Konrad Schultz presided over the meeting.

**Minutes for May 4, 2017**, were approved unanimously.

**E-Mail Votes:** Unanimously confirmed email vote for Treasurer, Gwen Pelletier, to sign contract with ARDEO'S, CAPTAIN'S COURSE, and pay \$200.00 deposit for Annual Meeting on August 12, 2017.

**Incoming Mail:** Gwen shared invitation by AmeriCorps for "Graduation Ceremony and Community Recognition Event," recognizing this year's service. Corey Bray, who has been serving BPC, is part of the event. Karen, Sue, and Gwen plan to attend the event on July 27, at 9:00 AM at Cape Cod Community College. Gwen will respond to invitation for the three of us.

**Treasurer's Report:** During review of the report, the following points were made:

- Sue pointed out that we had agreed to reimburse the three schools participating in the Pond Education Kit project for their expenses for buses to transport the students to the pond for field trips. No school has yet asked for reimbursement. Board agreed to have Sue ask the schools to submit invoices by June 30 in order to be reimbursed.
- Tom noted that the insurance bill payed to Chub includes liability insurance in addition to "Officers and Directors" Insurance. He suggested we change the name of that line item simply to "Insurance".

The report was accepted unanimously.

### CURRENT PRIORITIES AND ISSUES

- Debrief on George Heufelder Presentation and Video, Alternative Septic Systems

Comments included the following:

- ❖ Presentation by George Heufelder was excellent
- ❖ Video by Jim Holland and Allison Argo was excellent and is now available on our website
- ❖ Attendance was approximately 50. We had hoped for larger audience but felt this was a good showing.

- ❖ Discussion of event included value of having speakers on weekend days or week day evenings. We agreed, as we schedule future events, to try both and evaluate. All agreed the Library auditorium is excellent location; Brewster Baptist Church good location when serving food.
- Pond Education Field Trips
  - ❖ Karen and Sue reported that they are having fun with the field trips with the students, that the teachers and students are enthusiastic about them, and that volunteers are being most helpful.
  - ❖ Tom emphasized that we need to celebrate this project and its success, with publicity. The Board thanked Karen, Sue, and Corey for their efforts.
  - ❖ Sue and Karen indicated that we need to discuss and plan how to move forward with this project, how to support it in these three schools, and how to involve the two elementary schools in Brewster.
  - ❖ Karen suggested that we need to consider whether we might be able to use volunteers to manage it or consider the expense of having someone to manage it.
  - ❖ In order to publicize this project, we need good pictures. It will be helpful if we can get parents' permissions to have kids in pictures, not just their backs. Volunteers and teachers have been taking good pictures. Karen and Sue will follow-up.
- Cyanoscope and Citizen Scientist Project

Karen showed the Board the Cyanoscope Kit that we had purchased from Leland Enterprises to use with the "Citizen Scientist" pond observation project. Karen also pointed out that Leland Enterprises donated an additional kit to BPC to be used with the monitoring project. The particular second kit is geared to use with "middle school" age students, but can be used with adults as well. Discussion about how to move forward with this project included the following:

  - ❖ This effort is follow-up to the BLOOM WATCH workshop hosted by APCC recently, and managed by Hilary Snook with the Boston EPA office..
  - ❖ Karen will use the kit BPC purchased to monitor Long Pond and Greenland Pond, both of which abut her property
  - ❖ Nancy Leland will come to the Cape to meet with BPC folks to teach how to use the equipment
  - ❖ Karen will invite BPC members who signed up for the "Citizen Scientist" project to this training session.
  - ❖ Use of the Cyanoscope kit will provide good data to be added to the data obtained through the PALS monitoring program

- ❖ We should focus on five or six of the most problematic ponds and get BPC members to focus on those
- ❖ This project provides BPC with an opportunity to grow our base of volunteers
- Brewster Conservation Day, July 8
  - ❖ Konrad will coordinate with Karen and Sue. Konrad will link with Hal Minis.
  - ❖ Sue and Karen are primarily responsible for content of day, which will include Pond Kit display, Magnet “fishing game”, Take-away bags, Ponds in Brewster book.
  - ❖ Dawn will be responsible for membership table; Konrad will arrange Powerpoint
  - ❖ Discussed but did not settle whether to have “Brewster Ponds Coalition” hats available for suggested donation.
  - ❖ Planning group of Konrad, Sue, Karen, Dawn if available, will meet soon to coordinate.
  - ❖ All Board members should be available to help out that day.
  - ❖ Good opportunity to have volunteers assist, too.
- Board Recruiting
  - ❖ Konrad shared that he, Dawn, and Fred Budreski, Nominating Committee, had met on Monday to begin reviewing.
  - ❖ He emphasized that they see their responsibility as greater than nominating board members for vacant slots, but developing membership and leadership. See report submitted by Dawn, “Leadership Development Action Team Meeting, May 29, 2017,” Copy available on request.
  - ❖ They reviewed names that have been suggested by Board members to date.
  - ❖ The team will begin scheduling meetings over the next week. Konrad asked Board members to participate in the process.
- Annual Meeting
  - ❖ Gwen confirmed that location at Ardeo’s, Captain’s Course, has been confirmed for Saturday, August 12, with a buffet breakfast. We will need to give number week prior to meeting.
  - ❖ Discussion re whether to charge for event or not, led to decision not to charge members, suggest donation for non members and have “donation jar” available.
  - ❖ Tom confirmed that Andrew Gottlieb, recently appointed APCC Executive Director has agreed to be keynote speaker. Tom will be talking with him about content and asked Board members to share thoughts about topics for his focus. We noted that his background includes experience with both coastal and

freshwater pond issues and we would ask him to focus on issues with ponds, climate change effect on ponds, and his personal experience.

- Annual Report Plan

- ❖ Konrad and Judy have begun planning.
- ❖ Discussion around whether to have glossy, significant like last year or “downsize,” Perhaps greater emphasis on Annual Appeal in late fall.
- ❖ To include emphasis on Pond Kit project, financial report? (or do this as a Power point), list of contributors, educational component.
- ❖ Konrad and Judy will begin working on and stay in touch with Board members by email.

- Decision on Pond and Neighborhood Summit.

- ❖ Wide ranging discussion led to conclusion not to hold a summit this year, to consider this an “every two years” event.
- ❖ Decision based on not having “significant content” to be a draw and proximity to Annual Meeting, which will have a “significant draw”.
- ❖ Recognition that good to stay connected with group and to do so this year with “special letter” addressed particularly to this group, using list of folks who attended and were invited to 2016 Pond Summit.
- ❖ Suggested content of letter to include: PAL Sampling, Individual meetings of BPC Board with specific pond groups, Citizen Scientist Project, update on proposed macrophyte harvesting at Walker’s Pond.
- ❖ Electronic and paper form for letter, Tom to draft
- ❖ Question of how best to report data.

- Update on Walkers Pond project

Tom reported that he had conversation with Chris Miller yesterday and learned that request for bids for “macro harvester” have not been requested yet, that Tara Nye from Horsley Witten is developing specs. Chris was scheduled to meet with Horsley Witten today and Tom had hoped to get info from Chris before this meeting. However, he heard nothing.

Discussion by Board included the following:

- ❖ BPC should proceed with education component
- ❖ Hold off on plans for a walk at the moment. Perhaps in August or September when have a better sense of Town’s schedule.
- ❖ Citizen Scientists have opportunity to do more pre-harvesting data gathering
- ❖ BPC can train folks this summer for monitoring ponds, with cyanoscope and other techniques.

- ❖ Concern re safety of volunteers testing in areas where there may be cyanobacteria because of exposure, noting that there were blooms in Walkers Pond last year.
  - ❖ Tom has list of “Walkers Pond” interest group, has had one meeting with them and will schedule another soon.
  - ❖ Tom has had conversation with Chris about scheduling a meeting re the entire “Mill Pond project” to include DNR, consultants Horsley Witten, APCC, and BPC.
  - ❖ We considered that it might be useful for BPC to have a preliminary meeting with APCC staff re our joint interests in the project. Tom will reach out to both APCC and Chris.
  - ❖ Effects on ponds and algae blooms are multiple, including fish stocked by the State, cranberry bogs, impervious surfaces.
  - ❖ RE Cranberry bogs, we should follow-up with Ralph Tucker, Sue’s neighbor who has a cranberry bog and has offered to meet with us about cranberry farming and provide a “walking tour” of his bog. We also agreed it would be useful to learn more about cranberry farming from the UMASS Cranberry Station in Wareham.
- Possible EcoTour Pond Paddle Event  
Board discussed possibility of planning an event this summer, including the following:
    - ❖ Which pond? Possibly Little Cliff and Eel Pond (would land and walk over to Eel.)
    - ❖ August or September
    - ❖ Include a science/education component
    - ❖ Limit number of people. Too many will make it difficult
    - ❖ Must plan very carefully
    - ❖ Small planning group: Sue, Konrad, Gwen
  - Policy and Procedure for Memorial Gifts to BPC  
Recently the family of Carroll Johnson designated BPC as one of three agencies for donations in lieu of flowers. We made the following decisions for Johnson family and policy for future:
    - ❖ The Board President should write a letter to the family thanking them for honoring BPC.
    - ❖ Treasurer should write thank you notes to individuals making donations.
    - ❖ Treasurer should send names of donors to the family.
    - ❖ E-newsletter should include recognition and thank you.

## **REPORTS AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

- Written reports were submitted and are available upon request from the following:
  - ❖ Communications: Judy Pirani
  - ❖ Education: Karen Malkus-Benjamin
  - ❖ Membership/Nominating: Dawn Walnut

## **WRAP-UP AND FOLLOW-UP**

- Contact APCC re meeting with BPC--Tom
- Coordinate with other Board members re meetings with possible Board member and leadership positions----Konrad
- Letter to Jane Johnson thanking for designation of BPC as donation in lieu of flowers in honor of Carroll Johnson--Tom
- Thank you notes to donors who honored Carroll Johnson with donation to BPC---Gwen
- Notice to Jane Johnson with names of donors in honor of Carroll Johnson---Gwen
- Meeting re plans for Conservation Day---Konrad, Karen, Sue,Dawn
- Contact schools to request permission from parents to use pictures of students in or publicity re the Pond Education Kit project---Karen and Sue.
- Request participating schools in Pond Kit project to submit invoice for bus travel to field trips by June 30---Sue
- Begin preparing Annual Report---Konrad and Judy
- Draft letter for “Pond Summit” group.---Tom
- Send Tom ideas of items to include in letter to “Pond Summit” list.---All of us.
- Begin planning for Pond Eco Paddle Tour---Konrad, Sue, Gwen

Next Board Meeting: July 6, 2017

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier, Secretary