

MINUTES, BREWSTER POND COALITION, October 4, 2018

Board members present: Gwen Pelletier, Judy Pirani, Sue Searles, Konrad Schultz, Tom Vautin, Marty Burke by “FaceTime”.

Member: Sue Bridges. Konrad introduced Sue and welcomed her to meeting. She has expressed an interest in becoming involved with BPC in the areas of fundraising and membership development. Sue shared that she moved to Brewster 2 ½ years ago. In New Jersey, she worked as a volunteer with the “Great Swamp Watershed Area”.

VP Konrad Schultz chaired the meeting.

Copies of all documents referenced are available on request.

STANDING TOPICS

- Minutes for the September 6, 2018, meeting were approved unanimously.
- The following email votes were confirmed unanimously:
 - Approval of the MOU with Friends of Elbow Pond outlining expectations of each party for the work to be performed.
 - Approval of AGREEMENT FOR RECEIVING AND DISBURSING OF RESTRICTED FUNDS with Friends of Elbow Ponds.
- Mail received: Tom shared a letter addressed to the Conservation Commission and copied to BCP from an abutter to Cobb’s Pond, opposing work being proposed there.
- Treasurer’s Report:
 - Financial statements for October were approved. Tom pointed out that he has worked with Glivinski Associates to set up separate reports for the two restricted accounts: Save Blueberry and Sol’s Pond; Friends of Elbow Pond. This provides a clear separation of funds and expenses as we increase the number of Neighborhood and Pond Associations we support.

- Each month we will receive one report for BPC's operating account and a separate report for each restricted account.
- Elbow Pond is currently collecting donations toward their \$10,000 for the project; the account now has \$5,500.

Board confirmed payment of \$1000 voted in June to Brewster Conservation Trust in honor of Hal Minis for his Facilitating our Strategic Planning Process.

Board requested Gwen write check to BCT and to reimburse Judy Pirani for the \$50 gift card to Jim Holland, recognized as BPC Volunteer of the year at our Annual meeting.

CURRENT PRIORITIES AND ISSUES

- **Annual calendar and operating plan for 2019**

Agreed on overall procedure

- Working groups carry out activities and report monthly to Board
- Add events in which we participate, i.e. Clean-up day, Brewster Conservation Day
- Working Groups are getting organized now
- Sue reported scheduled meeting in Nov for Pond Education program
- Gwen reported in process of scheduling Citizen Scientist/Cyanobacteria meeting with Karen to begin planning/outlining for coming year
- Judy reported Communications Team working on stories now for RIPPLES

- **2018-2019 Member Appeal**

Konrad and Judy reported. The conversation went beyond plans for the Annual Appeal and discussed staying in touch with membership and increasing volunteer efforts.

Discussion and information included the Following:

- ❖ Currently working on content. Communications committee members are working on articles.
 - ❖ Konrad working with companies for printing and mailing prices
 - ❖ Approach to increase size of donations from current donors
 - ❖ Indicate funds for specific projects
 - ❖ Increase contact with members, letting them know what is happening, i.e. Elbow Pond project.
 - ❖ Increase what we already do with newsletters and email blasts
 - ❖ Plan evening “get together”; challenge with that is seasonal and year-round membership
 - ❖ Concern re amount of work required and our need for staff to support efforts
 - ❖ Work to increase members to serve on committees
- **Cape Cod Foundation grant request**

Tom reported that the grant request was submitted; we expect announcements to be made this month. The subsequent conversation included the following thoughts/ideas:

 - ❖ Increase relationship with Brewster Conservation Trust. Would they provide funds for our projects or even consider merging our organizations.
 - ❖ Need to identify other possible funding sources
 - ❖ Possible membership with COMPACT OF CONSERVATION TRUSTS, approximate \$2,000 annual membership. Membership provides access to their resources. Tom is meeting with their Board at the October meeting.
- **Capacity Building Update**

Continued discussion of recruiting members for committee participation and possible Board membership. Need to continue to identify current members to become more involved.

- **BPC Officers for 2018-2019**

Board agreed to postpone making a decision about President until the next Board meeting. Discussion included the following thoughts/ideas/decisions:

- ❖ Need to resolve the issue.
- ❖ Noted that other officers have agreed to serve, but have not yet been elected: VP Konrad Schultz; Secretary Gwen Pelletier;
- ❖ Treasurer Tom Vautin
- ❖ Tom has served as president for 2 years already
- ❖ Tom will chair the November meeting.
- ❖ The ByLaws outline that officers shall be elected by the Board after the annual meeting for 1 year terms. Board membership is limited to two full three year terms.
- ❖ We have scheduled annual meeting for the summer to allow for participation and attendance by our members who are not year round residents.
- ❖ We could decide to have officers terms to begin in January, instead of immediately after the Annual Meeting.

- **Board Organization and working groups**

We reviewed the chart designating working groups and leaders. We agreed, as we develop the working groups, to add names of members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Brewster DNR.**

Tom informed shared the following points of discussion recently with DNR director Chris Miller:

- ❖ Tom, Konrad, and Gwen have met with him to stay in touch around Pond related issues.

- ❖ Mark Nelson, Horsley Witten, recently held a design charrette to review possible systems that might be allowed in proposed regulations for septic systems within 300' of ponds. Tom and Gwen attended. Most of the other attendees were septic system installers
- ❖ Tom and Chris are asking Ed Eichner of SMASS for an update of the data from the PALS program. There has not been an update since 2009. The goal is to see how ponds have changed over time. The data is available but has not been put into a report. Ed Eichner will submit a proposal for the work to be performed.
- ❖ Update for Chris on efforts of Friends of Elbow Pond to form and develop a proposal to go to Conservation Commission for removal of weeds. Specific discussion to this topic include:
 - Suggestion by Chris for Friends of Elbow Pond to have an early meeting with Cons Com before submission of NOI
 - Possibility of use of Town Weed Harvester. Conditions need to be worked out and agreed to.
 - Role of BPC.
 - Advocate for private pond groups to be able to use machine.
 - Assist in working out terms.
 - Emphasize that this is a pilot project
 - Sharing observations with other groups
 - Project will be a model for other pond groups. BPC will facilitate sharing
- ❖ DNR in “new building”, the old fire station. Getting settled in
 - Sharing with Conservation Department
 - Still working out who will be where
 - Has meeting rooms that may be available to other groups
 - Possibility of BPC having storage space. (Wait and see!)
 - APCC has “lab” for testing pond samples for cyanobacteria

Follow-up:

Sue Searles: Lucas Dinwiddie , Karen Malkus- Benjamin re Advisory Board

Konrad Schultz: Sue Bridges re Development Committee

Judy Pirani: Chuck Madansky, Cindy Doutrich, business cards for new Board members

Tom Vautin: Compact of Conservation Trusts

Marty Burke: Join meetings with Chris Miller, DNR

Next Meeting:December 6, 2018

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier, Secretary