

MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, MARCH 2, 2017

Board members present: Tom Vautin, John Keith, Karen Malkus-Benjamin, Judy Pirani, Sue Searles, Gwen Pelletier. Konrad Schultz by Skype and telephone

Minutes for February 2, 2017 were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Copy available upon request. Report submitted by Judy Valverde and Treasurer Gwen Pelletier approved as submitted. Gwen explained that, when appropriate, expenses are split between "Administration", "Education and Outreach", Fundraising, and programs. For instance, the brochure printed for the Chamber of Commerce mailings had an educational component as well as fundraising so the expense was shared 50% between them. Board members suggested that as our expenditures increase, it would be helpful to them to have an attached memo highlighting expenditures.

- Approval of Expenditures: The following were approved unanimously
 - ❖ Brewster Baptist Church. \$187.50
Use of Community Room for Membership Meeting, March 4, 2017
 - ❖ Sir Speedy. \$107.56
1,000 #10 envelopes with BPC return address
 - ❖ Staples \$45.91
Printer ink for Nancy Ortiz, membership committee writing thank letters
 - ❖ Nancy Ortiz \$146.04
Reimbursement for stamps and padded envelopes; mailing letters and hats
 - ❖ Sue Searles \$ 29.64
Reimbursement for purchase of clipboards. For use at events, sign-up, etc.
- Considering upcoming involvement of volunteers who may incur expenses, Board discussed need to be sure we take advantage of Tax Exempt status. Also discussed whether to provide volunteers making purchases with "gift cards" or to reimburse. Discussion also included need to be certain that all purchases made by volunteers are approved in advance by appropriate Board member. Gwen will check to be sure appropriate State ST-2 and ST-5 documents are posted and available to Board members at Google Docs and will review requirements and procedures with anyone who wishes. She also pointed out that Tax Exempt status is registered at STAPLES and that BPC number needs to be provided at time of making purchase.

CURRENT PRIORITIES

- **Winter Members Meeting, March 4, 2017**

Board reviewed agenda prepared by Dawn. Copy available upon request.

At Brewster Baptist Church, Community Room 9:00 to 11:00. Agreed to Board members being there by 8:30 to help with setup. Food arrangements being made by Dawn, Sue, Tom.

Copies of documents available in Google Docs Board folder: EVENTS: 2017 Winter Member Meeting.

Board to follow-up with meeting to be scheduled as soon as possible next week, not wanting to wait until next Board meeting in April. Also follow-up to include postings to website and inclusion of article in newsletter.

- **Upcoming Events**

- ❖ Septic Program with George Heufelder, March 14

At First Parish Community Room. 6:30 to 8:30. Board to meet there at 5:30 for Setup. Tom will open meeting. Karen will introduce speaker. Speaker will have presentation, followed by Q & A. Konrad will release PR week of March 5.

Jim Holland and Allison Argo have offered to video presentation, which will be posted at BPC web site and local cable network.

- ❖ Beautify Brewster Day, April 29.

Gwen informed Board that she would be away and would not be able to lead that event. Sue Searles offered to do so. Gwen will work with her to review last year's arrangements.

- ❖ Brewster Conservation Day, July 8. Agreed participation. Discussion of what BPC's display/presentation this year.

- FLUSH your kid

- POND HERO

- Introduction of BLOOM WATCH, a mobile app: "crowd sourcing to find and report potential cyanobacteria blooms". Karen has talked with Hilary Snook who has indicated that he is interested in bringing the mobile lab to the Cape this summer to train citizen scientist. This could be an introduction of this citizen scientist project to the Cape by BPC.

Board agreed to continue this discussion at April Board meeting. General Agreement by Board that it would be good if we were able to establish a three year rotation of presentations, including Pond Hero and Flush.

- ❖ Interview on Community Radio. Gwen informed Board that she and Tom have

been invited for interview about BPC for Community Development Corporation's weekly radio program by Susan Lindquist. Interview scheduled for March 13. Broadcast at later date. Will keep Board informed.

- **Master Calendar**

Brief discussion about content and general agreement that we need to review upcoming events, be realistic about how much we can do, and make some decisions based on results of membership becoming more involved after "Membership Meeting" on Saturday, March 4, and number of events already scheduled based on annual participation. In planning events, we also need to include planning time for PR and responses to invitations.

- **Other Business**

- ❖ Sue informed the Board that she had followed-up on previous conversations by Board about learning more about cranberry bogs and their relationship to fresh water ponds. Ralph Tucker, who owns and operates a small bog in her neighborhood, has agreed to meet with us to and share his experience and knowledge and give us a "tour" of the bog. A Saturday morning appears to be the best time. Sue will talk with him now about dates and be in touch with Board members.
- ❖ Tom informed the Board that because we are increasing our volunteer activity and that we have considered "water events", he has inquired of our liability insurance company what the costs would be for including both of those in our policy. The policy renews in June so we need to consider activities and decide when/if to increase our coverage.

REPORTS AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES:

- Copies of the following reports were submitted and are available upon request: Communications; Advocacy and Outreach; Education and Events.
- In addition, copies of the following are available: Article written by Judy Pirani and ad designed by Konrad for the Chamber of Commerce **BEST OF BREWSTER** publication; brochure developed by Judy Pirani for inclusion in the Chamber of Commerce mailing to new property owners.

- Specifics of reports shared or discussed included the following:
 - ❖ Karen shared that “Field Trips” for Pond Education project are being scheduled. The first one with Laurel School will be during the first two weeks in May, date still to be set. The second, with the Partnership School is scheduled for May 23. Third with Family School still to be scheduled. The POND KITS for teachers are in the process of being assembled. One of the “Volunteer Opportunities” for Saturday’s membership meeting is for assistance in assembling kits. Prototypes have been developed by Karen, Sue, and Cory. They now need to be created in triplicate.
 - ❖ Tom thanked and congratulated Judy Pirani for the article and Konrad for the ad for BPC for the BEST of BREWSTER publication by the Chamber of Commerce
 - ❖ Karen reported that she had recently seen Mark Nelson of Horsley Witten at a county event and had a conversation with him re: Brewster septic regulations; he indicated that the Town is applying for EPA 319 Grant funds in the continued efforts of the Brewster Planning Department and Board of Health to update the Town’s septic regulations.
 - ❖ Tom reminded Board Members of the annual Town Meeting on May 1 and that BPC was a participant in meetings when DNR discussed and decided on macrophyte removal at Walker’s Pond as the first Town project.. The Conservation Commission has approved the project. Tom has had conversations with Chris Miller, DNR Director, in which Chris indicated that the department and Town leaders are still deciding whether to recommend purchase of a machine, rental, or contracting for the work. Whichever it is, at previous Board meetings, we had agreed that BPC should be supportive of the Town’s efforts at both the Finance Committee review and at Town Meeting. The Board then had a substantive discussion of exactly what the position of BPC is relative to the macrophyte removal. It became clear from the discussion that, although we support efforts to protect and improve ponds and do support the Town’s efforts at Walkers Pond, we have not clearly defined our role or position relative to this project. The following points were discussed:
 - There is no one procedure, alum, macrophyte removal, or other that will address the phosphorous or nitrogen problems in ponds
 - Each treatment has pros and cons, and by definition, any management approach will have an impact on the overall ecosystem. In the case of Walkers Pond, the nutrient problems are so severe that macrophyte

removal - done properly - should begin the process of restoration and return to “natural” conditions. Nevertheless, we consider this to be a somewhat experimental process from which we will help measure results and apply any lessons learned to any future activities.

- The approach of science oriented folks is that every treatment has negatives. For instance, macrophyte removal impacts the habitat of insects, such as dragonflies. Alum can destroy fish habitat.
- A significant question to be asked for any restoration project is “what is the goal” of any treatment.? A clear pond for swimmers? Protecting habitat for pond creatures?
- Are we assessing what the condition of the pond is prior to treatment, what the result is during treatment, and what is the end result.
- BPC has offered to document the process at Walker’s Pond.
- How will we document the “outcomes”?
- How will we document the lessons learned?
- Are there protocols already established for the project?
- If the Town purchases a machine, who will be trained to use it? How would it be made available for ponds with macrophyte issues that do not have Town landings or frontage?
- BPC needs to review the Order of Conditions and have further discussions with the DNR about specific procedures to be developed.

Board agreed that we need to develop a BPC position and that doing so will be an agenda item for the April 6 Board meeting.

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier
Secretary