

MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, OCTOBER 6, 2016

Board Members Present: Konrad Schultz, Karen Malkus-Benjamin, Judy Pirani, Sue Searles, Gwen Pelletier

Vice President Konrad Schultz opened the meeting.

Minutes for Sept.1, 2016 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report. None available due to absence of Treasurer Patricia Monahan due to her mother's hospitalization. Konrad reported that he had received in the mail a check from Jonathan Spriggell and turned it over to Gwen for deposit. Konrad also asked Gwen if she could follow-up with Patricia relative to deposits of checks that were given in September to Membership chair Dawn Walnut to pass on to Treasurer Patricia Monahan for deposit. Gwen said she would and noted that she knew that Patricia was dealing with challenges due to her mother's hospitalization.

Working Group Updates: Copies of reports referenced are available upon request.

Communications: Written report submitted.

Judy Pirani reported, beyond the details in the report, that BPC information on the website relative to the proposed Septic Regulations by the Board of Health had generated a high level of activity on both the website and the BPC Facebook page. Konrad noted that as the website is being redesigned that it will be helpful for all of us to be cognizant of the ways we gather data, using MailChimp, Weebly data base management, and Excel.

Membership: None available due to illness and absence of Dawn Walnut.

Education: Written report submitted.

Karen Malkus-Benjamin noted that Sue Searles has joined the Committee. Karen supplemented the written report with the following information.

- Re APCC, discussions continue re convening pond groups Cape-wide and the value of shared information.
- APCC is co-ordinating with Cape Cod Commission re use of data from PALS program
- Education committee planning "pond education" walks for October at Upper Mill Pond/Punkhorn Park Lands and November at Bakers Pond. Karen, Sue, and Gwen are currently planning the walks and agreed to provide details to Konrad for PR by Sunday, October 16.

- Re the AmeriCorps/Pond Education project, Karen noted that we meet the member on October 19 at the County AmeriCorps swearing in ceremony and that the assignment begins October 16. More details available in report from Gwen.
- Karen took pond samples of Myrick's Pond from Scott Kern and evaluated them for him. The evaluation indicated the presence of anabaena but at level of low concern.
- Discussing plans for the coming year, Karen and Sue suggested we consider a "Family Picnic" in May, on a pond and make summer plans for kayaking and biking trips connected with ponds.
- Gwen suggested that she thinks we should consider another "pond summit" as follow-up to summer meeting with pond and neighborhood associations, offering to provide guidance and assistance to them in planning remediation efforts. She noted that she had recently attended two workshops hosted by APCC about rain gardens and particular plants best used for "vegetative remediation" because of the value of their root systems.
- During discussion of possible winter workshops/meetings, Karen suggested that George Heufelder, County Health Agent, would be a good speaker on alternative septic systems. The conversation also included the possibility of BPC hosting a "site visit" to the location of the tests, for members, similar to the site visit made by the Board in the summer.

Current Projects: Written report re AmeriCorps/Pond Education project

Gwen's written report summarized the beginning of the program and co-ordination with Brewster Conservation Trust and Brewster Department of Natural Resources.

Following-up on the discussion at the last Board meeting re BPC's AmeriCorps member having space at the BCT Hay Center, Gwen reported that BCT has requested monthly reimbursement of \$150.00 for use of space, computer, and supplies. She asked for a Vote to approve the monthly payment. On a motion by Gwen, seconded by Sue Searles, the monthly payment of \$150 was approved unanimously.

Outreach and Advocacy:

Konrad summarized activity on the following two topics;

- Board of Health Proposed Septic Regulations Hearing on September 21.
The BoH recognized and expressed appreciation to BPC for our comments relative to the proposed regulations. The attendance at the hearing was large. There were property owners present with questions and negative comments. A video of the Hearing is available at the Town website and will be posted at the BPC website. BoH will discuss at a follow-up meeting.

- Myrick's Pond. Konrad reported about a meeting he and Tom Vautin had participated in relative to Myrick's Pond. Scott Kern, an abutter to Myrick's Pond, had asked BPC to meet with him and Town officials to look at run-off issues he believed had an effect on the condition of the pond. Scott Kern arranged a meeting with Patrick Ellis, DPW Superintendent, and Conservation Administrator, Noelle Bramer. At Scott's request, Tom Vautin and Konrad Schultz attended that meeting on September 29. Konrad shared with Board members that observations by Noelle Bramer and Patrick Ellis acknowledged that street runoff does enter a drainage ditch that feeds into a vegetated buffer between the road and the pond and that they saw no need for action on that issue. Bramer and Ellis also acknowledged that drainage from a nearby cranberry bog may also have some effect on the pond, but regulating cranberry bogs is beyond their jurisdiction. Bramer and Ellis also observed that there are situations where storm water runoff from private properties feeds into the pond.

NEW TOPICS

GOALS for 2016-2017

Board members recommended the following three as specific goals

- The development of Science Based Pond Education Kits for teachers with the AmeriCorps member.
- Identify specific sites based on John Keith's review of stormwater runoff issues from Town owned roads. Create a plan that can be used to address them. Work with the Town towards solutions.
- Support of a specific neighborhood association in taking action to address their problem. Guide them in creating an "action plan" relative to remediation and stormwater runoff. Ones to consider include: Seymour Pond, Blueberry/Sol's Pond, and the Robin Hood neighborhood. All three of these groups have made direct contact with BPC for guidance/assistance. John Keith has made site visits and met with neighbors at both Seymour and Robin Hood neighborhoods.

BUDGET for 2016-2017

Budget consideration/categories include:

- Overall operations
- Special Projects: ie. Pond Education Kits; Videographer
- Department Budgets
 - Education
 - Events
 - Communications
- Goal for next meeting: Estimates to the extent possible.

YEAR-END ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN

Konrad and Judy shared with the Board members conversations with consultant John Curley including the following:

- A mailing, sample provided, of a “gate fold” brochure to Brewster addresses who are currently not members
- A personal letter to people who are current contributing members, with a personal note
- A separate letter to second homeowners
- A different letter to year-round Brewster residents
- Mailings second week of November
- Curley needs decision by October 24.
- 7000 addresses

During a lengthy discussion and review of costs for the variety of choices, Board recommended the following:

- “Gate fold” brochure to everyone
- Personalized letter to contributing members
- Estimated costs for these two choices: \$5,800
- Sample of “Gate fold” to be sent to Board members

ANNUAL MASTER CALENDAR

Karen has begun working on.

OTHER BUSINESS

CRANBERRY BOGS:

Konrad asked Board members to consider the issue raised repeatedly by members and neighborhood associations about the possible contribution of cranberry bogs to the impairment of ponds. He expressed his frustration at not being able to provide information, partially because there is not sufficient information or data available. He raised the question of whether BPC might be able to play a role in developing knowledge of “contribution from bogs to ponds”. Karen pointed out that the Cranberry industry is regulated by the state and in that sense has protections.

During a discussion of the issue, Board members concluded the following:

- That BPC might facilitate a discussion or research relative to what cranberry bog owners actually use relative to pesticides and fertilizers.
- That what is needed is scientific information/knowledge
- That BPC should further the conversation

GRANT WRITING

Sue Searles shared that her partner, Lynn Gorey, has become interested in our work, by association because of Sue's conversations at home. Lynn has experience in writing proposals and researching for possible grants. She has already being doing some research and is offering to assist BPC as we develop projects that could be funded by grants

ACTION ITEMS

- **Calendar---Karen will continue working on**
- **Budgets----**
 - **Events, Education, Pond Kits**
 - **Communications----Judy and Konrad**
- **Pond walks----Karen, Sue, Gwen info to Konrad and Judy**
- **PR for walks----Judy and Konrad**
- **AmeriCorps member to be invited to November meeting**

Next Meeting: November 3, 2016

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier, Secretary