Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
October 3, 2024; 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference

Present: Susan Bridges, Tim Chase, Linda Darbyshire, Ron Essig, Marcia Kielb, John Keith, Jane Savio

Absent: Rob Condon, Karyn Frey, Kevin Kearns

Meeting called to order: 6:00 PM

Standing Topics:

1. **Review and approved minutes of the September 5, 2024 Board Meeting**: Ron made a motion to accept the minutes as written; unanimous vote in favor of their acceptance
2. **Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings**: a motion was made by Linda to accept the joint resolution between the BCT and BPC as written on September 19; accepted unanimously
3. **Incoming Mail**: Susan reported that there were two incoming emails, one regarding the Board's August letter to the Select Board regarding the Sea Camps property and the other the joint BCT-BPC resolution on the same topic. She has responded to the correspondence in keeping with the BPC's stance in both documents.
4. **Treasurer's report**: Susan provided the highlights in place of Rob
    a. Financial statements: In reviewing the financial files provided by Rob, Susan noted that the BPC has $218,164 in assets. For the month of September, there were $1,312 in expenses, mostly related to the Annual Meeting and Citizen Science. She also noted that she, Rob, and Karyn recently opened a money market account at Cape Cod 5 Bank in the amount of $150,000, with an interest rate of approximately 3.5%.
    b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements: None
5. **Miscellaneous administrative matters:**
    a. State citation: Susan noted that the citation received by the BPC from the State House of Representatives was delivered to her; she will bring it to the Strategic Planning Meeting on October 12.
    b. Inventory update and Board contact list: Susan asked members to add to both lists, located in the "Board Resources" shared folder. She noted that Marcia should recycle the 2023 Ponds Guides that she has.
    c. Other: Susan explained the email received and circulated to the Board members concerning the class action lawsuit against Google LLC. The BPC email addresses of approximately 40 individuals were apparently compromised. Further details are noted in the correspondence.

New Business:

1. **Collaboration with BCT:**
    a. Common resolution regarding future planning for the Long Pond property: Susan noted that the joint resolution has been sent to the Select Board. It was also received by the Sea Camps Advisory Committee on September 30 during its meeting, which Susan and Charlie Sumner (BCT President) attended. She encouraged members to watch the video of the meeting. The *Cape Cod Chronicle* has also written an article today (10/3) that conveys the comments that she and Charlie made at the meeting. Members agreed that this article should be posted on the BPC website; Jane will follow up accordingly. Susan said that both she and Amy Henderson (BCT Executive Director) are planning to attend all the Sea Camps Advisory Committee meetings. She noted that the committee is currently deciding on whether it wants to have the funding for the development of the Long Pond and Bay properties as one or two separate articles on the upcoming Fall town warrant.
    b. Joint strategy plan: A communications strategy plan is being developed with the BCT to include letters to the editor, community meetings, regular updates of developments, etc. A committee has been formed that includes the following: from BCT - Hal Minis, Amy, Charlie, Jeanie Yaroch; from BPC - Susan, John, Jane, Irene Penney.
    c. Study to determine the best places to locate affordable/attainable housing in Brewster: This feasibility study, suggested for implementation by the town, is the main push behind the BCT-BPC resolution.
2. **A-Pod exploratory meeting with Jon Higgins**: Ron noted that he was enthused about the presentation and information provided, indicating that he thinks it would be worthwhile to pursue a proposal in order to learn the cost for it to be used at Myricks Pond. John agreed and pointed out that Jon Higgins would first have a study to understand the whole pond. A-Pod is not a prevention program, but really more of a "remediation" method that isn't intended to prevent the next bloom. Any use of the system in Brewsters ponds would require working with the town Conservation Commission. Susan noted that the system was discussed at the 10/3 Water Resources Task Force Meeting. All members agreed that it would be worth obtaining a copy of the proposal that Jon Higgins gave the town for Walkers Pond. This will be discussed further with Kevin Kearns, at the Strategic Planning Meeting, and during the November Board meeting.
3. **Meeting updates:**
    a. October Water Resources Task Force Meeting: Susan advised that the 10/3 meeting was short and the following items were discussed: the wastewater grant for the Herring River watershed; A-Pod technology; water master plan; Walkers Pond landing (work is currently out for bid with projected start date of early November); status of the Pond Management Plan (to be further discussed at next Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting - week of 10/7)
    b. Joint Meeting Select Board & Board of Health: Susan and Charlie Sumner plan to attend the Select Board meeting on 10/7 to address the joint BCT-BPC

resolution. John reported that the Select Board only needs 18 homes connected to the 44 projected homes to be built on the Long Pond property. They are not concerned about the Pleasant Bay watershed basin and believe that they are already meeting the nitrogen reduction per the fertilizer reductions at the Captains Golf Course. He noted that there has been no action regarding the pond management plan and nothing about phosphorus reduction. The town's IWRMP is needed by June 30, 2025. Public meetings regarding this are planned for 1Q25, or perhaps earlier in December 2024. He noted that the pond management plan needs to be finalized first, and that process is moving very slowly.

c. Sea Camps Property Advisory Commission: Already noted under "New Business, Item 1, A."
d. Water Commission: Susan noted that the Water Commission gave $275K to the Town toward the purchase of the Long Pond Property to help protect open space and the Zone II watershed. Now that there is a plan to build housing on the property, the Commission asked to have the funds returned. Peter Lombardi developed a plan to return the funds by creating a stabilization fund, however, creating the fund would require a town vote.The Select Board at their September 23rd meeting declined to put the proposed article on the fall warrant. In fact, no vote was taken because no one on the Select Board made a motion to put the article on the warrant.

Current Priorities:

1. **2025 *Ripples* Magazine:** Production of the magazine is now a priority. Jane has placed a rough outline of articles in the respective Publications folder and asked all to review it. The focus/main article was discussed with preliminary ideas raised including the pond management plan, IWRMP, and need for a comprehensive wastewater plan. Jane will include deadlines for copy in the outline. The list of 2024 members/donors was discussed and this led to a discussion of the current status of donations as compared to this point last year. It was determined that in August 2023 there was an influx of donations from those who signed up for the Pond Protection Pledge Program. Further, all agreed that the big push for the 2025 Appeal will be after the new year.
2. **Volunteer Party 10/19:** Susan noted that the rescheduled date for the party is Saturday, October 19 from 12:30 - 2:30 PM. The location stated in the invitation (Council on Aging) has to change to either the Arts Center at the Sea Camps Property or the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church given the COA's closure on Saturdays. The Select Board meeting on 10/7 will vote on the use of the Arts Center. Whatever the decision is, an email blast to all invited and who have RSVP'd yes will be sent with an update as to the new location. Jane asked that committee leads remind their members to RSVP as presently there are only 14 attendees.
3. **Strategic Planning Meeting 10/12:** Susan reminded members of this meeting beginning at 8:30 AM at Rob's house. Jane reminded all to have a new board photo taken for posting on the website.

4. **Other**: Susan noted that the Fall Newsletter was well received and thanked Jane and Amy Darbyshire for their efforts, along with all who contributed articles.

Committee Reports:

1. **Events:**
    a. Bike Ride: Marty held a bike ride on September 26 with 8 participants.
    b. Peter Jensen/Meadowscaping: There are currently 12 participants registered. The Events Team has everything organized for the program.
2. **Phosphorus Study**: John provided an update noting that 5 wells have been drilled on the Condon and Ortiz properties and MASSTC will start water sampling/surveying next week, with monitoring of the wells commencing thereafter. More funds will be spent during this ongoing process.
3. **Other**: Susan noted that she asked Adam Stern of Natural Systems Utilities if he might be interested in joining the Board given his business focus aligns with our mission; he is currently considering it. Members indicated that this might be seen as a conflict of interest given his involvement in bidding for wastewater projects.

Executive Session: Not done

Wrap-up:

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments:
    1. Board members will update their contact information in the contact list in the "Board Resources" folder.
    2. Members will review their contributing items for *Ripples* (as noted in the "Publications" folder).
    3. John and Susan will further discuss the main focus of *Ripples* as well as next steps regarding a blast to members concerning the joint BCT-BPC resolution and need for a feasibility study prior to the Fall town meeting.
    4. Members will review the outline/agenda of the upcoming Strategic Planning Meeting and also refer to the 2023 recap before attending the meeting.
- Strategic Planning Meeting: Saturday, October 12, 2024; beginning at 8:30 AM at Rob Condon's house (to include taking a photo of the Board)
- Next Board Meeting: Thursday, November 7, 2024 - Google Meet
- December Board Meeting: Thursday, December 5, 2024 - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 7:37 PM

Submitted by: Jane Savio, Administrative Consultant, on behalf of Karyn Frey, Secretary