Brewster Ponds Coalition **5JUNE2025; 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
Board of Directors Meeting **Video Conference**

Present: Susan Bridges; Rob Condon; Ron Essig; Karyn Frey; Kevin Kearns; John Keith; Jane Savio
Absent: Tim Chase; Marcia Kielb
Meeting called to order: 6:04 PM

Standing Topics

1. **Reviewed and approved minutes of the 1 May 2025 Board Meeting**: Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes as written; unanimous approval
2. **Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings:** none
3. **Incoming mail:** none
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
   a. Financial statements: Rob presented the financial files, noting that the BPC has $215,248.76 in assets. For the month of April, there were $1,742.21 in expenses, and $1063.00 in donations.
   First half of year total earnings: $34,998
   First half of year total expenses: $40,800
   b. Approval of expenses: Motion made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report; unanimous vote in favor of its acceptance.
5. **Miscellaneous administrative matters:**
   a. Board meeting date changed from 3 July to 9 July
   b. Board party date scheduled for 17 July at Susan's house

New Business
Current Priorities

1. **Impending Board vacancies**
   a. Executive Committee: President and Treasurer positions up in August
   b. Committee Chair positions: Membership head needed
   c. Others at large

   Volunteers needed – please reach out to folks you know

2. **Speaker topic for the annual meeting**
   Ron will reach out to Dr. Julie Hambrook of APCC to speak on cyanobacteria.

3. **Summer Newsletter**
   Need all input by 13 June; newsletter to be released last week of June (around the 26th)

Committee Reports

1. **Membership - 2025 Appeal**

	YTD Donations	Number of Donors	Average
2025	$64,429.40	295	$218.40
2024	$93,000.78	503	$184.89
Behind	$28,571.38		

2. **Citizen Science** (see Addendum 1)
3. **Pond Education (**see Addendum 2)

4. **Water Resources Task Force**
   The town task force is looking at 4 alternatives related to the proposed affordable housing at the Sea camps Long Pond property :
   - Package treatment at the Long Pond property with additional houses hooked up to offset the nitrogen from the proposed affordable housing
   - Pump all treated effluent discharge outside of the Herring River, Long pond, and Zone 2 watersheds
   - Locate the wastewater treatment plant and effluent discharge outside of the Herring River, Long pond, and Zone 2 watersheds.
   - Build expanded treatment plant somewhere else
5. **Pond Protection Pledge Program**
   Having issues with NEON's ability to program thank yous
6. **Conservation Day**
   Saturday, 12 July - Sea Camps rain or shine
7. **Annual Meeting**
   Saturday, 9 August
   Ron to approach Julie Hambrook, APCC director of ponds and cyanobacteria monitoring programs about speaking on cyanobacteria

Executive Session: None

Wrap-up:
- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments
- Next Board Meeting – 9 July 2025 - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 7:58 PM

Submitted by: *Karyn Frey, Secretary*

Addendum 1
Citizen Science Report - June 2025
Ron Essig and Karyn Frey

Cyanobacteria Water Testing (BPC/APCC)

- The 2025 monitoring season began on May 27 and will end on October 29.
- Twenty ponds are being sampled again in 2025.
- The Citizen Science team currently stands at 61 members for the season.
- May 1 - Chuck Madansky purchased one-micron mesh netting for testing its use for sampling pico cyanobacteria.
- May 8 - APCC led a field training session at the Long Pond town beach where approximately 20 BPC citizen scientists attended. Ron presented a $3500 grant check to APCC staff there after the session.
- May 9 - Chuck collected and analyzed water samples at Seymour Pond in response to photos of a bloom the previous day. The level of cyanobacteria was deemed to be Acceptable.
- May 12 - Ron had planning calls with Amy Von Hone and Karyn Frey.
- May 23 - Many BPC citizen scientists attended a virtual training session for a smartphone app called Survey123 to eventually replace paper data forms.
- May 27 - The water was not turned on at the hydration station on the first day of sampling. A garden hose from Ron's house was used to clean off sampling gear. After the Water Dept was alerted, the water was turned on later that day as part of the Town's seasonal turn on program.
- May 27-29 - Many calls and emails were exchanged between Ron and folks staffing the shed during the first week of sampling. Several minor glitches and adjustments to days sampled were addressed to complete sampling at all 20 ponds.
- May 28-30 - Ron had several conversations with the interim Health Dept director leading to decisions for the Town to post an advisory at Schoolhouse Pond on May 30 and not at two other ponds that were deemed to be Potential for Concern. Karyn put up a Town advisory sign at Schoolhouse Pond. All three ponds will be retested by Karyn and Kristi Dondlinger the following week.

Pond Satellite Imagery Study (BPC/NOAA/EPA)

- Studying the use of satellite imagery to monitor ponds to answer questions; 1) can satellite images correlate with on-the-ground conditions? 2) can satellite imagery be a screening tool to deploy monitoring resources?
- Marty Burke will again have the BPC lead for this study in 2025 and will work directly with NOAA without involving the Cape Cod Commission.
- Anticipated 2025 NOAA Volunteer team: Burke, Essig, Ferguson, Giannini, Proujansky, Craig, Bleichman, Bellush and Kerns.
- Ponds in study: Long, Seymour, Sheep, Upper and Lower Mill
- The 2025 season is expected to start in July and end in October.
- A total of 60 measurements are planned across the five Brewster ponds.

Other:

- May 7 - Ron virtually attended the annual harmful algal bloom workshop organized by the Mass Dept of Public Health.
- May 8 - Ron attended the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting where there was a stated goal to distribute the Pond User Survey in June.

2025 Annual Budget: $6,000
January 2025 Expenses: $0
February 2025 Expenses: $0
March 2025 Expenses: $0
April 2025 Expenses: $3,500 (APCC grant)
May 2025 Expenses: $379.94

Addendum 2

BPC Pond Education committee
June 3, 2025

The Pond Ed Committee has been working fervently to provide the best field trips ever fo!r the 2nd (Stony Brook Elem. School) and fifth graders, Eddy School. We had about 60 2nd graders last week and will have approximately 68 fifth graders along with 20 staff and over 15 volunteers each day.

The weather the first week was a challenge and today there was a large pine tree that succumbed to the wind storm last week. We have tarps to cover wet ground and have learned how to handle them in all kinds of weather.

We are struggling with no port-a-potties and would like to check into BPC paying for them for next year for both the volunteers and the participants. One class had 8 kids using the woods! That was a first but would like to eliminate this happening again. Marietta Nilson will check into the cost of getting this to happen at the beach for the last week in May.

Scholarships will be awarded this Wednesday and Thursday. Marcia and Cindy Doutrich will go to Nauset Regional High School on Wednesday and Sue Meyer and Marcia will attend CCRTHS on Thursday for the presentations of the award letters. The recipients will need to meet us for their checks later near a pond for a photo op!

Thanks for the Board support!

Marcia Kielb