

Brewster Ponds Coalition Board Meeting Minutes
5 September 2024, via video conference

Call to order at 6:04 p.m.

Attendees: Susan Bridges; Tim Chase; Rob Condon; Linda Darbyshire; Ron Essig; Karyn Frey; John Keith; Kevin Kerns; Marcia Kelb

Absent: Jane Savio

Standing Topics

1. Minutes of the 1 AUG 2024 Board Meeting reviewed and approved

2. No email votes were taken between Board Meetings

3. No incoming mail

4. Review of treasurer's report

a. Financial statements (may be found in above referenced folder)

b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements

Kevin suggested investing a portion of money in CDs or money markets

John suggested maintaining 3 months' worth of expenses in a cash account and investing the remaining monies

5. Misc. administrative matters:

Reminder that Marty Burke will need access to documents through the end of the calendar year. Susan will reinstate this.

6. Inventory update: Board advised to update the inventory spreadsheet as needed (found in the Board Resources folder)

7. Board Contact List

Board members are requested to update their contact information, and are encouraged to include a cell phone number for contact. (this spreadsheet may be found in the Board Resources folder)

New Business

1. Election of officers:

President: Susan Bridges

Vice President: John Keith

Treasurer: Rob Condon

Secretary: Karyn Frey

All nominations approved by unanimous vote

2. New assignments:

Assistant treasurer: Karyn Frey

Newsletter/Pond Tip: Karyn Frey

Hikes: Linda Darbyshire and John Keith

Bike rides: Kevin Kearns and Marty Burke

Supplies/Swag: Jane to oversee ordering; Marcia and Linda to oversee swag

3. Brewster Board of Health (BoH) vs. the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC)

Board discussed the ongoing issues between the Brewster BoH and the APCC regarding the posting of the cyanobacteria health risk status of Brewster Ponds.

The disagreement between the town and APCC centers on the authority and decision-making roles of the town and MA DPH in responding to and issuing public health advisories. A meeting took place on August 7 with the MA DPH, Town of Brewster, Brewster BOH, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), APCC, and the BPC to discuss roles and protocol in these situations. The DPH confirmed that their role is to provide technical assistance, when asked, to the local MA Town BOH, however, that any assistance they give is consultative and not intended to oversee or replace the towns' decision. A followup meeting is planned for the fall. However, in the meantime, anyone looking at the cyanobacteria map on APCC's website will see that Brewster's ponds are grayed out and a message to contact Marty Burke for information about pond health.

The Board also discussed posting cyanobacteria test results and the BOH evaluations (Acceptable, Potential for Concern, Use Restriction) on the BPC website and asking APCC to direct people there rather than to Marty.

There was also discussion about whether the Town will respond to a misleading article that appeared in the Cape Cod Chronicle.

4. BPC and BCT regarding the Long Pond Property development

a. Initial meeting 19 AUG

b. Joint Meeting with Brewster Conservation Trust (BCT) and BPC Boards, Tuesday, 10 SEP @ 5:00 at the BCT office and via ZOOM

c. Common resolution regarding future planning for the Long Pond property

d. Joint Strategy Plan

The Board discussed what the BPC should do moving forward; suggestions included the following: sending email to all BPC members; letter to the editor of local papers; resolution to the town; explanation of our stance in the next Newsletter. No action will be taken until after the joint meeting between BPC and BCT.

5. Meeting updates

a. July Task Force meetings

- Town submitted Herring River Plan: Susan to forward package

- Pond Management Plan and Pond Studies: Ron is working with the Natural Resources Advisory Commission on its development, - Chris Miller thought public facing information could be better written outside the scope of work for a contractor. A draft scope of work should be available at the next NRAC meeting on 10 OCT.

- Conservation Commission: approved work at Lower Mill Pond (John's phosphorus study)

- Crowells Bog Road Upgrade: Ron mentioned we would be interested in having input into the stormwater management part of this project.

b. Conservation Commission

6. Susan distributed magnets to Realtors

Current Priorities

1. Fall Newsletter (1 OCT)

- Member's Corner (Tim)
- President's Message (Susan)
- Recap of BoH and APCC controversy
- Select Board Letter
- Citizen Science (Ron)
- Critter Corner (Ron)
- Summer Events; Annual Meeting
- Pond Tidbit (Nancy)
- Business Partner (Peacemaker)
- Shed at Long Pond
- Pond Education Field Trips

2. 2025 Ripples Magazine

- Central Article: why we need a comprehensive wastewater plan now
Make it about how town management plans to hold feet to the fire
 - Another article could be on the pond management plan

3. Volunteer Fair 6 SEP

4. Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage 14 SEP

5. Volunteer Party 21 SEP (rain date 22 SEP) – Long Pond (Crowells Bog Road)

Committee heads, please send a follow up note to your teams

6. Strategic planning Meeting- 12 Oct 8:30 am Rob's house

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

1. Pond Outreach

a. Myricks Pond

John Higgins (NSF grantee and inventor of the A-pod) – we would like to ZOOM with John, as we have questions, including cost and how do we deploy here for our use.

[Note: Meeting subsequently scheduled for 19SEP]

b. Canoe Pond

Discussion with Bill Grafton included use of the compressor; can we make it permanent; when to shut down for the winter; and possibly 6 bubblers covering the whole pond

Ground penetrating drilling at Ortiz house: potentially add 2 – 3 additional wells?

Rob's house: first set of wells was to determine the plume; second set of wells to be drilled

Pursue Pond Pledge Program: rather than door-to-door, explore some sort of online effort for sign-up

Need to follow-up with the Homeowner's Associations

2. Events

- a. Annual Meeting a success!
- b. Evening Glow Paddle - 11 participants
- c. Peter Jensen - Meadowscaping - Saturday, 12 OCT

Executive Session (not needed)

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments
- Next Board Meeting – 3 OCT - Google Meet
- Strategic Planning Meeting – 12 OCT - 8:30 AM @ Rob's House
- November Board Meeting – 7 NOV 2024

Submitted by Karyn Frey, Secretary