Brewster Ponds Coalition **9JAN2025; 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
Board of Directors Meeting **Video Conference**

Present: Susan Bridges; Tim Chase; Rob Condon; Ron Essig; Karyn Frey; Marcia Kielb; Kevin Kearns; John Keith; Jane Savio
Absent: Ron Essig
Meeting called to order: 6:00 PM

Standing Topics:

1. **Reviewed and approved minutes of the 5 December 2024 Board Meeting**: Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes as written; unanimously passed.
2. **Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings**: none
3. **Incoming mail**: FMLA again – Rob dealing with them
4. **Treasurer's Report**:
   a. Financial statements: Rob presented the financial files, noting that the BPC has $257534.31 in assets. For the month of December, there were $10,274.46 in expenses, and $22,900.30 in donations.
   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. Tax ID number will expire 21FEB2025; will automatically renew for 10 years.
   b. **Donation envelope:** proposal to remove the credit card information from the envelope insert in Ripples fall fundraiser. Motion made and seconded to accept proposal; unanimous vote in favor of its acceptance.

New Business:

1. **NEON contract renewal:** contract expiring. New version (IMPACT) will cost $109/month (increase from old version of $46/month). New version contains additional features, including the following: a volunteer package; ability to build newsletters. But the new version does not seem sufficient to replace MAILCHIMP
2. **Conservation Commission opening:** discussion concerning someone from Ponds to fill opening. Suggestion to reach out to Citizen Science to see if someone in the group would be interested in applying. The Conservation Committee meets 2x/month.

Current Priorities

1. **2025 Budget:** Susan working on a spreadsheet of expenses by committee.
2. **Strategic Planning Meeting – no followup**
   a. Action Plans
   a. Committee Budgets – reminder to members to update their committee budgets
   a. Strategic Plan update
2. **Long Pond property affordable housing project:** refer to email from Susan and John detailing update. Town got grants for moving forward with planning, but no money for design of housing.
   John to submit "guestitorial" letter to the Chronicle.

Committee Reports:

1. **Phosphorus Travel Study Update:**
   - Well-drillers were off for the holiday and will resume drilling soon.
   - Another round of sampling was completed at the Ortiz property.
   - Full-scale sampling will begin in the spring, with detailed sampling through the summer
   - Suggestion from the Water Resource Task Force to sample for more than nitrogen and phosphorus (like caffeine), however, the absorption property of soil is different for different elements & compounds.
   - In addition, before that occurs, the plume(s) need to be definitively located

2. **APOD Technology:** APOD organization is lightly staffed and overly committed.
   Scott Kerns is the key contact person at Myrick's Pond – APOD is to get back to Scott with cost.
   Before installation, the APOD team looks at water flow and other parameters – could this be done by volunteers to save on the cost?
3. **Pond Protection Pledge Program:** Plan to push out through our website and address the changing strategy. The previous signs were created through Sticker Mule. Want to have stronger (less flimsy) signs with our web address and a QR code that takes people directly to our signup sheet.
   We can link into NEON and track membership separately.
4. **Membership:** Donations are down compared with last year at this time. $39,743.40 from 196 donors.
5. **Events Committee:** Information is located in the Board Resources folder, including plan for this year's events.
   First presentation is Jonathan Idman – town planner – will do a presentation for the Board.
   Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage – still awaiting dates.
   Brewster Pollinators to present Nature's Best Hope in conjunction with the CC Museum of Natural History
6. **Donations:** suggestion made to change the way we handle the PDFs regarding donor information. | Rob to prepare proposal for alternate method.
7. **Pond Summit:** proposal to move to April
8. **Additional Board Members:** discussion to consider requesting Wayne Lencer join the board and to reach out to Gisele Gauthier concerning grant writing.

Executive Session: None

Wrap-up:

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments
- Next Board Meeting –6 February 2025

Meeting adjourned: 7:35 PM

Submitted by: *Karyn Frey, Secretary*