Brewster Ponds Coalition **9JULY2025; 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
Board of Directors Meeting **Video Conference**

Present: Susan Bridges; Tim Chase; Rob Condon; Ron Essig; Karyn Frey; Kevin Kearns; John Keith; Marcia Kielb; Jane Savio
Meeting called to order: 6:08 PM

Standing Topics

1. **Reviewed and approved minutes of the 5 June 2025 Board Meeting**: Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes as written; unanimous approval
2. **Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings:**
   Informal vote on Pond Pledge protection program; approved by majority vote
3. **Incoming mail:**
   a. Three letters of thank you from the CCRTHS Tech and NRHS Students who received scholarships
   b. Card from the Nauset Middle School Greenhouse students are sending profits from their produce sale as a donation to the Ponds Coalition
   c. Rob heard from the government about our numbers in "arrears" (they are working on it)
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
   a. Financial statements: Rob presented the financial files, noting that the BPC has **$**251,287.77 in assets. For the month of June, there were $8,599.95 in expenses, and $5205.00 in donations.
   b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements: Motion made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report; unanimous vote in favor of its acceptance.
5. **Miscellaneous administrative matters:**
   a. Board party date scheduled for 17 July 5 pm at Susan's house
   b. Responses to Help Wanted Ad in Summer newsletter:
      David Jacobs responded that he might be interested in joining the Board; Susan meeting with him Thursday morning
      Craig Caldwell interested in the photographer volunteer position
      Bruce Semple expressed interest in joining the Board.

New Business

1. Pond User Survey sent out by the Town of Brewster with responses encouraged by end of July
2. Select Board strategic planning input due by July 18 for their offsite strategic planning meeting (In Board folder), outline for last year
   John to draft a response to the planning committee
3. Pond Protection Pledge - new approach - pull from email
   Concerted effort to get signs to people

Current Priorities

1. **Brewster Conservation Day (12 July 2025 @ Sea Camps)**
2. **Herring River Watershed Permit**
   See Email from 24 June for details
   Everything in the permit assumes that the housing will be on the Long Pond property
   Susan and John to meet with BCT on 25 July
   Select Board meeting on 28 July
3. **Annual Meeting (9 August 9-11 am) Bible Alliance Church**
4. **Splash Award nominations**
   Meghan Taylor as the Splash Award recipient
   Tom Vautin as a special recognition
   Motion made and seconded to accept nominees; unanimous vote in favor of their acceptance.

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Committee Reports

1. **Membership - 2025 Appeal**

	YTD Donations	Number of Donors	Average
2025	$64,817.40	303	$213.92
2024	$93,000.78	503	$184.89
Behind	$28,183.19		

2. **Citizen Science** (see Addendum 1)
3. **Septic System Plume Mapping Study**
   Drilled 2 further wells downgradient on Condon property
   Drilled 3 wells further downgradient on Ortiz property
   Survey concerning water usage in the homes has gone out
4. **Annual Meeting**
   Saturday, 9 August

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments
- Next Board Meeting – 7 August 2025 - Google Meet
- Annual Meeting - Saturday, 9 August
- September Meeting - September 4, 2025

Adjourn 7:51

Executive Session session begin 7:52
The Board met in Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel.
Executive Session Adjourn 8:02

Respectfully Submitted by: *Karyn Frey, Secretary*

Addendum 1 - Citizen Science Report - July 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 in 2025 by 60 volunteer citizen scientists.
- Kudos to Karyn Frey, Kristi Dondlinger, Tom Vautin and Anne Jacobson for stepping up in a big way to staff the shed, deliver samples to APCC and collect extra samples while covering for Ron who had to miss the first three sampling rounds.
- Ron had many calls and emails during June with the interim Brewster Health Director Sherrie McCullough as town decisions on health advisories were made.
- Public health advisories were issued for Schoolhouse Pond on May 30, Upper Mill Pond on June 25, and Lower Mill Pond on July 9.
- Ron responded to many citizen inquiries about the health status of Elbow, Lower Mill and Upper Mill ponds that were all in the APCC Potential for Concern category..
- June 17 - Ron was on a Zoom with an APCC staff member to learn more about their cyanobacteria analysis process

Pond Satellite Imagery Study (BPC/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 EPA without involving NOAA or the Cape Cod Commission.
- Anticipated 2025 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 started with four ponds completed by July 6.
- A total of 60 measurements are planned across the five Brewster ponds by the end of September.

Other:

- Ron reached out to Dr. Julie Hambrook of APCC to see if she would be the speaker at the BPC annual meeting and she accepted.
- June 27 - Ron virtually attended an APCC/Mass Wildlife educational session on freshwater mussels, dragonflies and damselflies.
- June 30 - The Town of Brewster launched the Pond User Survey that will collect information pertinent to the Ponds Management Plan.

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
June 2025 Expenses $0