Brewster Ponds Coalition **7NOV2024; 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
Board of Directors Meeting **Video Conference**

Present: Tim Chase; Rob Condon; Linda Darbyshire; Ron Essig; Karyn Frey; Marcia Kielb; Kevin Kearns; John Keith; Jane Savio

Absent: Susan Bridges

Meeting called to order: 6:00 PM

Standing Topics:

1. **Reviewed and approved minutes of the 3 October 2024 Board Meeting**: Rob 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**: none
3. **Incoming mail**: none
4. **Treasurer's Report**:
   a. Financial statements: Rob presented the financial files, noting that the BPC has $215,397.26 in assets. For the month of October, there were $3,648.20 in expenses, and $428.00 in donations.
   b. Approval of expenses: Marcia made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; unanimous vote in favor of its acceptance.
5. **Miscellaneous administrative matters:**
   a. Annual Report: Karyn noted that the Annual Report was mailed 4NOV2024; copy posted to the shared drive. Karyn will require reimbursement of $15.00 paid from her personal account.

New Business:

1. **Scholarship Committee:**
   Marcia detailed that the Scholarship Committee would like to increase the 2 scholarship awards to $1500 each, and noted that she had discussed this with Susan, who was concerned that this would adversely affect Administrative Costs. Rob said this is not an administrative cost, and John suggested both scholarships to $2000 each. Rob made a motion to accept the increase as noted; unanimous vote in favor of accepting the increases.

Current Priorities:

1. **Strategic Planning Meeting:** The meeting was held 12OCT2024; the Board thanked Rob for hosting the meeting. The Board asked Jane to set up a new folder on the shared drive for Action Plans resulting from the meeting.Rob will distribute a spreadsheet with 2023 and 2024 budgets with a blank column for 2025 estimates.
2. **Long Pond property:**
   At the Select Board meeting, the town approved a motion to respond to our joint resolution with the BCT (Brewster Conservation Trust); as of this meeting, a response has not been received. The town essentially said that they are going ahead with the project and none of our concerns about building in Zone 2 were addressed, which included:
   - Cost of connecting additional houses to the proposed system;
   - Treatment costs for removal of compounds other than nitrogen (eg, PFAs and pharmaceuticals);
   - Proposal that the Town consider alternative locations; and
   - Oversight of the construction.

   The Board wishes to maintain an amiable relationship with the Town, but their response was condescending and although they sent a blizzard of paperwork, it did not address the issues detailed in the resolution.
   John and Susan will meet with the BCT on 14NOV2024 to plan our strategy moving forward.

At the Town Meeting on 18NOV2024, Warrant Article 6 will propose for the appropriation of $11.4 million to implement their plans.
The Town has created an ad hoc Housing Committee; neither the BCT or the BPC have representation on this new committee; only internal members of the Select board are represented.
The Board agreed that we need a concerted effort to let the public know what is going on, because the information is "bundled" with the Sea Camps property.
The Board discussed whether Article 6 will render the story in Ripples will need to be updated. This may need to happen after the Town meeting on 18NOV2024,.

Committee Reports:

1. **Volunteer Party:** Over 40 people attended the Volunteer Party held on 19OCT2024 at the Sea Camps.
2. **Meadowscaping**: Around 10 people attended.
3. **Pond Outreach**:
   a. **Upper Mill Pond**: samples were taken; results should be available later today. One of the wells seems close to the plume.
   Mark Nelson provided detailed mapping of the direction of the water flow; the Board is relative confident that we now know the actual direction (which is different than previously thought, ie, toward Lower Mill Pond at both locations).
   Next steps include drilling more wells and additional sampling.
   More data will be available this summer.
   b. **Long Pond**: the Board was contacted by Chris Pantos concerning runoff into Long Pond. Upon examination, the runoff appears to be coming from one specific home; it was suggested that they build a rain garden to address the issue.
   c. **Sheep Pond:** the runoff coming into Sheep Pond is a bigger issue. The Brewster Heights Properties Association will meet and will get back to us concerning support funding.
   d. **Seymour Pond:** John and Kevin had connected with the homeowners concerning placement of new catch basins; this is on hold within their organization.
4. **Citizen Science**: Brewster ended the season with all ponds at acceptable cyanobacteria levels.
5. **Update on the A-pod project**: the Board requested that Jon Higgins send us a ballpark figure on the cost. His company is overwhelmed and we can expect to hear back from him after the first of the year.
6. **Other**:
   a. Marcia identified a woman (Gisele Gauthier) who is willing to work with us regarding the writing of grants; she does not have experience researching grants, just writing. Should we add a Grants Committee to our Board? The Board suggested this be added to December's agenda.
   b. Wellfleet (Loretta Gamson) is trying to establish a Ponds Organization and has looked to us for guidance.
   c. Our bylaws say that we have a Board Recruitment Committee (which we currently do not have). We should consider this at our December meeting.
   d. Budget and Strategic Plans are due by the end of this month.

Communications:

1. Ripples will be finalized the week of 18NOV2024
2. Winter Newsletter will contain more on the warrant outcome.
3. Two articles from the Cape Cod Chronicle will be posted on our website.
4. Add: increase of the Scholarship funds

Executive Session: Not done

Wrap-up:

- Recapped decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments
- December Board Meeting: Thursday, December 5, 2024 - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 8”05 PM

Submitted by: Karyn Frey, Secretary