

**Brewster Ponds Coalition  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 4, 2024, 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
Video Conference**

**Present: Susan Bridges, Jane Savio, Marcia Kielb, Nancy Ortiz, Kevin Kearns, Mary Mauterstock, Tim Chase, Ron Essig, John Keith**

**Absent: Marty Burke, Rob Condon**

**Guest: Wayne Lencer**

**Meeting called to order: 6:02 PM**

**Standing Topics**

1. Review and approve the minutes of the March 7th Board Meeting - Nancy - approved unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings (vote to support the inclusion of the proposed pesticide bylaw on spring warrant) - the Select Board voted to defer a decision on the pesticide bylaw until the fall town meeting. BPC supports the bylaw but believes more research is needed as certain items such as termite traps and spraying exceptions need to be included.
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Nancy - an additional scholarship application was received today - per Marcia, 6 total received, all from Nauset HS.
4. Treasurer's report - Nancy
  - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - Total balance including Blueberry and Elbow Ponds \$273K. BPC balance \$232K.- March donations \$10K - March expenses \$2 K including \$300 Compact of CC membership. Susan will ask Rob to report on earmarked funds set aside for various projects such as Seymour and Canoe Ponds projects and phosphorus study at the May Board meeting.
  - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
  - a. Tim to chair Membership Committee beginning in August - Membership duties include tracking donors, sending donation acknowledgements, and personal outreach. These tasks may be shared with board members and/or other members. Tiim will need training from Marty.
  - b. Upgraded Mailchimp to 5 "seats" - Per Susan, the cost to add additional seats was much less than anticipated. Total expense is under \$40. The following have access to Mailchimp: Jane, Ron, Mary, Marty, and Tim.
  - c. NEON Issues - There have been registration issues with NEON. Apparently the street address number has been populating the number of attendees on the registration form. Tim would appreciate a course in NEON basics..

**New Business**

1. Annual Meeting date - Discussion ensued regarding finding an annual meeting date where the maximum board members can attend. August 10th seemed to be the best fit. Susan reminded the board that this is the 10th anniversary of BPC and encouraged all board members to attend if possible.
2. Chris Flanagan, who is running for State Representative has been a great supporter of BPC. Chris has helped BPC receive a \$25K grant from the State to be applied toward the AI system pilot project.

### **Current Priorities**

1. Wastewater Management Plan update - The BPC Board agrees that the Spring Warrant should have a separate section dedicated to Pond wastewater Management within the town water resource article as opposed to BPC presenting a separate Citizen's Petition. BPC believes working with the town will have the most success. BPC also believes in a "holistic approach" which entails studying the entire town considering that all water boundaries are connected. Within that townwide study there are localized areas that will need to be studied. The ideal would have been a Comprehensive Plan instead of a "piecemeal" version, however, BPC is pleased to have a partial victory. Susan will work on finalizing the wording of this pond management section.

2. Upcoming events

The two Orleans Wastewater Treatment Plant tours were a success as was the Dave Bennett talk on Decentralized Package Treatment Plants. Select Board members Ned Chatelain and Kari Hoffman attended the Orleans tours and Peter Lombardi, Donna Kalanick, and three Select Board members attended the Dave Bennett talk. One key takeaway from the Dave Bennett presentation is there is currently no monitoring of individual septic systems in Brewster. Decentralized systems would be easier to monitor as a professional could be hired to maintain the systems..

- a. Community forums - BPC is sponsoring two community forums on 4/16 and 4/20 to discuss the Spring Warrant articles related to water resources. Sign-up is now in progress. Susan will update the BPC article and a more detailed blast will soon be sent out to increase attendance. There are challenges downloading the 3/26 Dave Bennett forum on decentralized package treatment plants. Dave's slide presentation and his four handouts will be available online.
  - b. Beautify Brewster - Fourteen signups have been received for the Beautify Brewster cleanup to take place on Saturday 4/27. More are expected.
  - c. Eco Paddle - The cost of the Eco Paddle is \$76. Signup is now in progress.
  - d. Brewster in Bloom Parade 5/5 - BPC will have a float with a banner celebrating its 10th anniversary. BPC decided not to have a table in front of the bookstore this year as there has been little traffic in the past.
  - e. Pond Summit - Bryan Horsley, Environmental Project Assistant at Mass Alternative System Test Center was suggested as a possible speaker. Subjects considered were composting toilets, fertilizer and pesticide pollution, cranberry bogs, etc.
3. 2024 Pond Guide stories - Jane is looking for additional articles for the guide. Nancy will write articles on Round Pond (off Sean Circle) and Calf Field Pond in addition to the article on No Bottom Pond already submitted. John will edit the articles. A suggestion was made to add an article on what not to put into a septic system. The Guide must be updated annually as the Business Partners are advertised on the pamphlets.

4. Ponds Management Plan and Pond Studies - There appears to be some frustration with the slow pace of movement on the Ponds Management Plan. Planning has been proceeding in a linear fashion when multiple tasks could be tackled concurrently. It is not yet clear who will actually write the plan. Ron relayed the Natural Resource Advisory Commission (NRAC) Chair's hope of that group providing an overall structure for the plan - a detailed outline - that consultants can review and flesh out as needed. This has not been done yet. There will be some time before restoration recommendations for whichever ponds are made since this will be dictated by identifying existing conditions and designated uses and accomplishing pond studies. APCC cyanobacteria ranking criteria will be discussed at the next NRAC meeting, but hopefully more time will be allocated to the ponds management plan in subsequent meetings. John advised that private conversations with Town officials are needed to express BPC's concerns.
5. Phosphorus Study - The phosphorus study on the Lower Mill Ortiz property and the two abutting neighbors will start in May. John is waiting for a cost proposal from Mark Nelson. The drilling portion to collect samples will be followed by a soil analysis by Masstech. The purpose of the study is to see if the 300 foot leach field setback is adequate to prevent phosphorus from reaching the pond. Susan will write thank you letters to the Darbyshires and Nathansons for the use of their properties for the first study. Unfortunately the GIS water flow map incorrectly stated the direction of the flow for the Darbyshire property.
6. Seymour Pond Remediation Projects - Kevin continues to work on the two Seymour Pond projects to correct stormwater runoff and repair a catch basin. The BPC grant funds available for matching up to \$10K for a \$30K project was mentioned.
7. Board recruitment - Marty and Nancy's terms end in August. There has been no response to the newsletter request for candidates for the secretary and membership positions. Mary does not want to be in charge of Events next year. Suggestions were made to involve more young people, perhaps younger staff persons from sister agencies. Kevin agreed to suggest some names and develop a recruitment "pitch". . Having "board member" on a resume can be helpful.

**Committee Reports** - Written/verbal reports as needed

1. Fundraising & Development - Business Partners - Susan continues to contact past and possible future business partners.
2. Citizen Science - Ron reported that Marty arranged to add Flax Pond to the suite of ponds for cyanobacteria testing.
3. Pond Ed - The committee is in the process of planning Spring field trips for 2nd and 5th graders.

**Wrap-up**

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments  
Susan will ask Rob to breakdown the expenses earmarked for future projects.  
Susan will update and finalize the wastewater article for the town warrant.  
Jane and Susan will work on downloading the Dave Bennett talk and handouts to the website.  
Susan will write a thank you note to the Darbyshires and Nathansons for allowing BPC to use their properties for the phosphorus study.  
Nancy will write an article for the Pond Guide on additional ponds which John will review.
- Next Board Meeting - May 2, 2024 - Google Meet

- June Meeting - June 6th - Google Meet
- July Meeting - ??? TBD (July 4th is a holiday)

Meeting Adjourned: 8:09 PM

Submitted by: Nancy Ortiz, Secretary