

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
July 9, 2024, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Present: Nancy Ortiz, John Keith, Rob Condon, Marty Burke, Karyn Frey, Ron Essig, Tim Chase, Kevin Kearns, Jane Savio, [Marcia Kielb](#)

Absent: Susan Bridges, Linda Darbyshire, [Mary Mauterstock](#)

Meeting called to order: 6:04 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the June 6th Board Meeting - Nancy - accepted unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings Incoming mail (if any) - Nancy - none
3. Incoming Mail - Rob/others - none
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - Total BPC balance \$240K (excludes pond associations) - June expenses \$11K includes \$5K for BPC portion of shed, \$2K for scholarships, and \$1.5K for insurance, June donations \$2,470. Chloe Vouvakis, one of the scholarship recipients sent a thank you note.
Kevin asked if BPC is insured for events. Per Rob, volunteers have separate insurance. Directors and Officers and general liability insurance which covers any injury at an event are covered. Rob expressed concern about the assistant treasurer replacement after Nancy leaves the Board. This needs to be resolved in the next few months as Rob leaves for NOLA in October.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
 - a. \$25K earmarked state funding - Susan has submitted forms. BPC is waiting to hear if funding can be applied to the phosphorus study.

New Business

1. Volunteer Party
 - a. Date - Sept. 21st, rain date Sept. 22nd.
 - b. Invitation list from team leaders - Volunteer names should be submitted by the board to Kristi and Jane by August 1st.
 - c. Marty ordered 100 T-shirts and will order more hats, bumper stickers, and bookmarks with the intent to stock up in anticipation of his leaving the board. The Events committee will discuss who will be in charge of ordering promotion items once Marty is no longer on the board.

- d. John suggested having a joint meeting with the newly formed Harwich Ponds Coalition in the Fall.

Current Priorities

1. Events Upcoming
 - a. Brewster Conservation Day - All arrangements appear to have been made. Kevin will be Dapper Dan. Americorps will set up The Big Flush and bring the components cards. Mary gave Nancy "I've been flushed" stickers, nametags, instructions, etc. for the event as she will not be present. Photographer Peter Schaible will replace Bill Pomeroy who has relocated to New Hampshire. Jeanie Yaroch from BCT referred Peter to photograph BPC events..
 - b. Annual meeting - August 10th Representative Chris Flanagan will be the keynote speaker. New board members Karyn Frey and [Linda Darbyshire](#) will be introduced. Susan and Jane will work on presentation slides. John will present the phosphorus study at Lower Mill Pond. The technology portion and other setup will take place on Friday.
2. Marty announced the recent blooms in Upper and Lower Mill Ponds. Samples have been delivered to APCC for testing and advisory notices have been posted at public landings and association beaches at both ponds. Marty will send out a MailChimp advisory notice to the entire BPC community on Wed, July 10. Amy von Hone will send out a notice to the town residents. APCC will color both ponds Yellow on their public cyano map. Per Marty, all ponds are testing at 81 degrees which is higher than past averages at this date. The thermocline is lower than normal due to the warming waters and extended periods of wind.
3. Pond Management Plan and Pond Studies - Ron - There has been no recent action on the plan by the Natural Resources Advisory Commission and it is not on their July 11 agenda. The Water Resource Task Force meeting for June was canceled where this topic may have been discussed.
4. Phosphorus Study - John - Six wells have been drilled at the Ortiz property at Lower Mill Pond. Samples will be taken in the next week and additional well drilling will take place in July. Five wells will be drilled at the Condon property as well. It appears the flow direction at the Ortiz property is according to the map, unlike the inaccurate map of the Elbow Pond property.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

1. Canoe Pond - The NOI (Notice of Intent) to move and replace the aeration system will be completed within the next few weeks. An outdoor box and new compressor will replace the current equipment that is housed in a private home. Tim requests that donations from residents to the project be filtered through BPC in order to take advantage of the tax exempt status. The estimated cost of the project is between \$20K and \$30K. BPC will match one third of the cost up to \$10K.
2. Pond Outreach - Kevin has made great progress on gathering pond association contacts. There are currently 15-18 confirmed contacts. The Beechwood storm basin project is pending residents' agreement on how to move forward. The Tracy Lane project on the Seymour Pond handicap access is being discussed. The Leland Road project will be addressed in 2025. There is no news on DPW Director Grif Ryder's replacement.
3. BCT's letter to Selectboard - Brewster Conservation Trust is donating \$1 million toward the purchase of the Sea Camps Pond Property provided that BCT's concerns are adequately addressed. BCT is concerned that any uses of the property should be

compatible with the conservation values of the Conservation Trust and that water quality in Long Pond, the Town's nearby well fields, and the Herring River Watershed be protected. John noted that the cost and environmental effectiveness of building a bigger water treatment system and including surrounding houses in addition to the proposed affordable units is questionable.

Executive Session - not done

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments:

Will there be a Strategy meeting at Rob's house in September? Rob is happy to host. Susan and John would like clarity on BCT's position on the \$1million donation to the Long Pond property.

The bloom on UM and LM pond will be announced via the BPC website and Mailchimp.

Board members should submit volunteer names to Kristi and Jane prior to August 1st.

Marty is going to increase the supply of promotional materials prior to leaving the Board.

At this time Marty has ordered 100 new tee shirts and will restock BPC Hats before his term ends. The supply of BPC bumper stickers and bookmarks are adequate at this time and will not likely need restocking now.

John suggested a Fall joint meeting with the newly formed Harwich Ponds Coalition.

Annual Meeting:

Jane and Susan will work on the President's presentation.including slides.

Marty and John will present the Splash Award.

Rob will create the financial summary.

- Next Board Meeting - August 1st, 2024 - Google Meet
- September Meeting - September 5, 2024 - Google Meet
- September Strategy Meeting - Date TBD
- October Meeting - October 3, 2024 - Google Meet

Meeting Adjourned: 7:29 PM

Submitted by: Nancy Ortiz, Secretarypff