

**Brewster Ponds Coalition  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 1, 2024, 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Present: Nancy Ortiz, Susan Bridges, Mary Mautestock, Karyn Frey, Jane Savio, Ron Essig, Marty Burke, John Keith, Tim Chase, Kevin Kearns, Rob Condon**

**Absent: Linda Darbyshire, Marcia Kielb**

**Meeting called to order 6:05 PM**

**Standing Topics**

1. Review and approve the minutes of the July 9th Board Meeting - Nancy - approved unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings Incoming mail (if any) - Nancy - none
3. Incoming Mail - Rob/others - thank you note received from BPC scholar recipient Chloe Vouvakis. Marty mentioned that Amaya Giannini thanked the Board for her \$100 gift certificate to Williams Bookstore in appreciation for her BPC volunteer work.
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
  - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - July bank balance \$224K. Total July expenses were \$13.6K which included \$7.6K to Horsley Whitten for phosphorous study. July donations were \$2K.
  - b. BPC Earmarked projects - Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
  - a. \$25K earmarked state funding - per Rep Chris Flanagan, the \$25K state funding for the phosphorus project will not be approved this year.
  - b. The Fall Strategic Planning Meeting will be held at Rob Condon's house on October 12th.

**New Business**

1. Meeting updates
  - a. July Task Force meeting - There has been minimal progress on the Pond Management Plan. Mark Nelson has completed permit work for the Herring River Watershed NOI (Notice of Intent). Minimal work is needed at this location. Brewster has little impact on the Bass River and Swan Pond watersheds so no major remediation work is needed at these locations. Seven years are needed to finalize permits.
  - b. Conservation Commission 7/23 - approved exemption for drilling test wells within 100 feet of the pond for the phosphorus study.
  - c. Meeting with Peter Lombardi, John and Susan 7/30/24 - discussed lack of progress on the Pond Management Plan and lack of cooperation from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation on the remediation projects. Peter confirmed that the Walkers Pond and Leland Road erosion remediation

projects will be started within the next six months. Grif Ryder, previous Director of Public Works, has been replaced by a temporary hire who will be BPC's contact regarding these two projects. Discussion ensued regarding the location of a drainage issue at the intersection of Old Red Top and Seaman's Road. This is near the site of the donkey farm and abutting Sough Pond. Per Peter, no work will be done on the Bay unless mandated by the State. John believes it will only be a matter of time before the Bay water quality issues will need to be addressed. This is shortsighted as global warming will only increase.

2. Letter re: topics for the Select Board Strategic planning Meeting The SB meeting was yesterday. As requested by the Select Board, the letter from the BPC with suggested topics was sent to Peter Lombardi on July 22nd.
3. Letter regarding future planning for the Long Pond property. BPC, BCT, and no other non-profits entities were represented at the planning meetings for the Long Pond Property yet there was representation from the Affordable Housing Committee. According to the Town, there was a 50/50 split between the Sea Camps Bay and Long Pond properties regarding the location of affordable housing. The Bay property location on 6A is more favorably located for housing due to being closer to town centers and future water treatment facilities. The Bay property land is also more valuable. The Long Pond Property is in a Zone II, upgradient to Long Pond, and is in the Herring River watershed. Should a package water treatment plant be put on the property, hook up of additional houses to the plant will be needed to offset the environmental impact of the affordable housing. Susan asked the Board if the letter to the SB regarding the Long Pond property should be approved as is and made public via a newspaper, newsletter, and/or website. (Susan is concerned the letter will not be made public but "buried" in executive session.) Susan will forward the letter to the Board for edits as the Board would like more time to review.
4. BCT notification of whether or not to use the BPC's \$5K donation (chk# 1283 dated 1/11/22 for \$5K) to fund the purchase of the Long Pond property - Susan asked the Board how the \$5K donation to BCT toward the purchase of the Long Pond property be used since the Board has concerns about the placement of affordable housing on the property. Should the donation be returned to BPC, should the donation be left with BCT with the understanding it be used for other purposes beside the Long Pond purchase, should the donation be held by BCT until the housing decision is resolved to BPC's satisfaction, or should the donation be left as is for BCT to use as needed? The Board voted by majority that BCT should hold the check in reserve until the affordable housing issue is or is not resolved to BPC's satisfaction.

### **Current Priorities**

1. Annual meeting - August 10th - MA Rep Chris Flanagan will be the keynote speaker. Invitations have been sent to past Board members as this meeting will represent the 10th year anniversary of BPC. There will be a special cake in honor of this event. The Board will bring environmentally friendly products (i.e. laundry sheets, kitchen strainers, dishwasher tablets, etc.) for display. John suggested that Jane's salary be pro-rated between communications and administration in the financial report.
2. Volunteer Fair 9/6 - to be held at the library.
3. Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage 9/14 - kayaks for trash deposit will be needed for this event. Ron will lend some kayaks.
4. Volunteer Picnic 9/21 - Jane is working on the invitation list.
5. Phosphorus Study - John - six wells have been drilled at the Ortiz property (376 Run Hill Rd). The water flow is in the correct direction according to the GIS maps. (The water flow

direction map was inaccurate at the previous property on Elbow Pond.) Results from the first samples on the Ortiz property will be available next week then a decision will be made regarding the need for and location of additional wells. Rob Condon's property on Mill Pond Drive will be next for the study. The Brewster Department of Conservation allowed an exemption for drilling within 100 feet of the ponds. The Elbow Pond water flow issue resulted in the need for additional study, thereby increasing the cost of the project from \$70K to \$75.5K. The board unanimously agreed to increase the budget to \$80K allowing a "cushion" should additional costs be incurred. Rob suggested publicizing the results of the study via various national venues to reach a wide audience.

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

1. Pond Outreach - Kevin has compiled a detailed list of Brewster Pond Associations with principal contact information. Numerous Associations were interested in the Pond Pledge Program.  
Bill Grafton, Director of Brewster Conservation is requesting additional steps to complete the NOI (Notice of Intent) for moving and improving the Canoe Pond aeration system. (The RDA (Request for Determination of Applicability) is a much shorter process.) It appears there are many administrative obstacles to projects improving water quality. John will set up a meeting with Bill regarding the additional steps required to complete the NOI.
2. Events
  - a. Evening Glow Paddle - Has been advertised on the BPC website and will take place at Arey's Pond in Orleans on August 11th.
  - b. Peter Jensen - "Learning to love your lawn" event will take place in October.

### **Executive Session** - N/A

### **Wrap-up**

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments  
Susan to send the letter to the Select Board regarding Long Pond property affordable housing to the Board for editing.  
Slides for the Annual Meeting must be created. Chris Flanagan is the speaker.  
Annual Meeting set up 1 PM Friday 8/9 at church.  
Annual Meeting set up at 7:30 AM 8/10 at church.
- Next Board Meeting - September 5th - Google Meet
- October Board Meeting - October 3, 2024
- Strategic Planning Meeting - October 12th - Rob Condon's house
- November Board Meeting - November 7th - Google Meet

Meeting Adjourned 8:13 PM

Submitted by: Nancy Ortiz, Secretary