

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2022 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Board Members Present: Susan Bridges, Marty Burke, Mary Mauterstock, Cameron Ferguson, Ron Essig, Konrad Schultz, John Keith, Nancy Ortiz, Marcia Kielb, Rob Condon

Visitors: Tom Vautin and Scott Kerns

Meeting called to order: 6:06 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the December 2nd Board Meeting - Minutes approved unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings (if any) - none
3. Incoming mail (if any) - invitation from Kristin Andres to submit pond stories to APCC to share on their website. (Email to be forwarded to the Board)
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - Rob reported the creation of a new chart of accounts. Account balance is \$143K. The largest expense was \$9K for the publishing and distribution of Ripples..
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any - none)
5. Misc. administrative matters - none

Bioremediation Presentation - Tom Vautin - see board folder for detailed presentation. Tom presented construction of floating wetlands as a possible pond remediation solution. Floating wetlands installed in a few US states and in other countries have had various levels of success. The following Brewster Ponds were suggested as possible candidates for the floating wetlands project: Walkers, Cliff, Schoolhouse, and Myricks. After some discussion, the Board believed Schoolhouse Pond was the best option due to advantages such as no inlet and outlet, a manageable size, a high level of nutrients, easy access for testing, etc. This is not a final decision, however. More evaluation is needed re: the choice of pond. Marcia suggested the horticultural program at the Tech School could get involved as a possible school project. The Board believes there are many BPC members that would be interested in participating in a floating wetlands project. Tom believes the cost could be in the "five figures" so some fundraising may be needed. The Board agreed to move forward with further consideration of the project, including the solicitation of a team lead and interested participants. A committee is needed to take this project to the next level. The time commitment for this project is estimated at 5 years. Once the team is established, a design, plant selection, permitting, educational component, fundraising, etc. will be needed. John Keith will talk to the town about a partnership in this project. Susan mentioned that the Orleans Pond Coalition is interested in being kept up to date on our progress.

New Business:

1. Sea Camps - Long Pond committee - Nancy and Ron have volunteered to represent BPC.
2. Invitation to tour Terra Firma. Peter Jensen, has invited BPC Board members to visit the stormwater management site at Terra Firma in Orleans. Mary asked the names of Board members interested in visiting the site and will set up a date most likely in February. Peter has agreed to participate in the BPC's adult education program this spring by providing tours of his garden to guests of the BPC..
3. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) public comment period thru 2/4/22. Federal grants are available for various water quality/septic improvement/nutrient reduction projects. The Barnstable Commission is requesting public input on possible water improvement projects. Public input is the third tier of planning and Konrad believes BPC should have a voice. Susan suggested that a letter could be written based on John Keith's extensive writing on the need for a nutrient reduction study.

Current Priorities

1. Septic system nutrient reductions study. Susan contacted Select Board member Mary Chaffee regarding introducing sewers as a possible future for Brewster. Mary deferred Susan to Select Board member Cindy Bingham. BPC gets the impression from meetings with Town Manager Peter Lombardi and other town administrators that the town is not anxious to start discussions especially while in the midst of the Sea Camps project. BPC also gets the impression that the town believes BPC could be infringing on the town's "turf". BPC believes gradually educating residents and slowly introducing the concept of town sewers should begin.
2. Stormwater spreadsheet/map. John Keith's study and the resulting GIS map of stormwater areas throughout town that need to be addressed were discussed. Pond Associations, neighborhoods, etc. should be notified of BPC funds available for storm remediation projects. Marcia's son whose specialty is GIS mapping could perhaps get involved.
3. PALS data. Marty mentioned that much of the PALS data is "flawed" and, therefore, difficult to analyze. BPC should still make an attempt to analyze the data and find trends. Seymour Pond, for example, has data that goes all the way back to 2001. John Keith believes Schoolhouse Pond is a good candidate for analysis especially considering the possibility of using Schoolhouse for the floating island study. Marty is working with a couple of CS volunteers on looking to develop trend analysis for Seymour Pond from the cumulative PALS data including season 2020.
4. Marty provided John K. with PALS data along with cyanobacteria data compiled from the Citizen Science work for 2018-2021 (4 years) to review for trend analysis.
5. Marty mentioned that the Cape Cod Commission is also doing work with PALS data and could be a good source for BPC to consider.
6. Marty mentioned that the Town of Brewster has also, in the past, made overtures to have the PALS data analyzed.

Events

1. Pond Summit - Possible speakers are Brian Dudley from the EPA, Scott Horsley who is an independent consultant for the Wellfleet septic/sewer project, and Frank Leslie Schellenger, Jr - Conservation Agent, Hanson MA. Frank did his Northeastern U. dissertation on nutrient transport from septic systems to groundwater and ponds. An

April/May date for the summit was suggested. Susan, Mary, and Konrad will plan the summit.

2. April Adult Program - Paul Anderson of the Brewster Water Department.
3. Terra Firma - see New Business #2.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed - see Board Meeting folder

Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships - Updates as needed - none discussed

Wrap-up

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

Ron will apply as a BPC rep on the Long Pond Committee.

Susan will contact Cindy Bingham to further discuss BPC priorities, especially the need for a town funded nutrient reduction study. John and Marty will continue work on nutrient reduction.

Konrad, Mary, and Susan will work on planning the Pond Summit

The Board was asked to review John's updated spreadsheet listing stormwater problem areas and provide comments by the end of next week (Jan. 14th)..

As part of the Pond Outreach, Susan will identify the neighborhood groups that should be encouraged to assist with remediating the stormwater problem areas listed on John's spreadsheet.

- **Next Board Meeting - February 3, 2022** - Google Meet
- **March Board meeting - March 3, 2022** - Google Meet
- **April Board meeting - April 7, 2022** - Google Meet
- **May Board meeting - May 5, 2022** - Google Meet
- **June Board meeting - June 2, 2022** - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned 8:27 PM

Submitted by:

Nancy Ortiz, Clerk