

**Brewster Ponds Coalition  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 3, 2022 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

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

**Present: Susan Bridges, Nancy Ortiz, Cameron Ferguson, John Keith, Kevin Kearns, Marcia Kielb, Marty Burke, Ron Essig, Mary Mauterstock**

**Absent: Rob Condon**

**Guest Speaker** - Hal Minis, a member of the Vision Planning Committee, presented Brewster's Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP). The LCP, developed by gathering input from Brewster residents, creates policy direction to help guide land use decisions and policies in the Town for the next decade. The Action Plan addresses a range of issues important to Brewster residents, including expanding housing opportunities for our aging population and young families, protecting our water supply and the water quality of our ponds, fostering our local small businesses, and dealing with climate change. Hal presented the plan via PowerPoint (see LCP file in Board Meeting folder.) Slide #11, focusing on water quality issues, was particularly interesting for BPC. Hal is hoping to garner support from BPC when the LCP is presented to Town Meeting on November 14th. The Board agreed to show support for the Vision Planning Committee's proposal at Town Meeting and Susan agreed to speak on behalf of the board.

Hal left the meeting at 6:52 PM

**Standing Topics**

- 1. Review and approve the minutes of the October 6th Board Meeting** - Nancy - approved unanimously.
- 2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings** - Nancy- none.
- 3. Incoming mail (if any)** - Susan accepted an invitation to be interviewed by Cape Cod Water Guardian (One Drop at a Time) via podcast.
- 4. Treasurer's report** - Nancy (in Rob's absence)
  - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - The current BPC bank balance is \$159,553. The total balance including Blueberry and Elbow Ponds is \$197,275. BPC deposited a tag sale proceeds check for \$6K to the Blueberry Pond account. Kevin asked if a decision has been made by The Blueberry Pond Association regarding how to spend the \$36K balance. A weed harvester event has been proposed. October expenses were \$644 and donations were \$133.
  - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
- 5. Misc. administrative matters** - All
  - a. 2023 budget - will be presented by Rob at the December board meeting.
  - b. 2023 operating plan - Susan will call committee chairs individually to get operating plan details.
  - c. Marcia reminded the Board to pick up labels for their business cards.

- d. The Annual Report to the Secretary of the Commonwealth has been filed by Nancy.

### **New Business**

1. Coverage at meetings - Planning Board Meetings - Susan informed the board that there is no need to attend any town meeting if there is nothing related to BPC on the agenda. Susan will monitor the Planning Board meetings to see if there is anything related to BPC on the agenda and Marcia will monitor the Chamber of Commerce meetings. Mary and Marty gave a well received presentation at the Brewster Men's Club. Mary gave an overview of BPC and Marty spoke about the Citizen Scientist program. Nancy attended the 11/3 Eversource meeting and expressed BPC's opposition to spraying under the power lines. John will send Nancy a list of ponds located under power lines and therefore impacted by spraying for a possible second letter to the Mass Dept of Agricultural Resources. Nancy, Marty, Marcia, and Susan attended the 11/3 APCC Boat Ramp Stormwater Project meeting. The Brewster site in question was Upper Mill landing which all agree does not have a huge runoff problem and is an easy fix. The question of why this site was selected was raised. Marty replied that it was selected by the town.
2. Drain strainers - Nancy will order more drain strainers for random distribution at various events.
3. Storm drains - Susan will follow up with Konrad regarding a blast for catch basin cleanout. The town will clear storm drains, including those on private roads, for \$60 per catch basin. This is particularly important in the fall with leaf debris. John will recruit volunteers to look for drains that aren't draining properly throughout the winter.

### **Current Priorities**

1. **ARPA Grant** - BPC did not receive the highly competitive grant. Apparently there were approximately 300 applicants. The winner of the grant will be announced at a later date. BPC will explore town funding opportunities of pilot septic programs with Town Manager Peter Lombardi. John will attend a 12/1 water planning task force meeting and keep the board informed of other opportunities.
2. **Ripples** - letter signing party? - Marty suggested not individually signing fundraising letters this year. The amount of benefit for the effort is questionable. Marty told the board that he was still waiting for the final edited letter from the printer and would give his opinion to the board. Susan left it up to Marty and the board agreed that perhaps an additional note on the letter was unnecessary.
3. **Strategic Planning Meeting Followup items**
  - a. The job description for a part time administrator is a work in progress per Susan. BPC needs help in Communications, Membership, and Events.
  - b. Strategic Plan update - Marcia, Susan, and Kevin will meet in the next few weeks to create a Strategic Plan. There is no urgency to this task.
  - c. Committee action plans, budgets, and timetables - Susan will call each chair individually re: plans for the next year..
4. **Events - None**
5. **Committee Reports** - Written/verbal reports as needed

- a. **Pond Outreach** - Canoe Pond. Kevin recommends allocating grant money to the Canoe Pond Association for moving and updating their aeration pump. The detailed report can be found in the November Board file. The board unanimously agreed to use grant funds to assist in funding this program. Total cost to BPC could be the maximum grant amount per project of \$10K. Canoe Pond Association feels confident they can raise the additional funds needed. Marcia and Kevin have agreed that the Pond Pledge Program belongs with the Pond Education Committee as opposed to Pond Outreach. Marcia will meet with Marty about details of this program.
- b. **Nominating** - Susan mentioned Ed Woollen as a potential board member. Ed with his science background could be a good addition to the board. He will get back to Marty.

### **Wrap-up**

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

Susan will speak on behalf of BPC in support of the LCP at the 11/14 town meeting.

Susan will contact committee members individually to update the operating plan.

Nancy will order more drain strainers.

Susan will request Konrad send a blast to members regarding town stormwater catch basin cleanout. Marty sent the blast out on Friday 11/4 at noon to BPC subscribers.

John will attend the 12/1 water planning task force meeting.

Marcia, Kevin, and Susan will meet in the next few weeks regarding the Strategic Plan update.

- **Next Board Meeting - December 1, 2022 - Google Meet**
- **January Board meeting - January 5, 2023 - Google Meet**
- **February Board meeting - February 2, 2023 - Google Meet**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:04 PM**

Submitted by:

Nancy Ortiz, Secretary