

**Brewster Ponds Coalition  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
February 3, 2022 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
Video Conference**

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

**Absent: Konrad Schultz**

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

**Standing Topics**

1. **Review and approve the minutes** of the January 6th Board Meeting - Minutes unanimously approved - Nancy
2. **Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings** (if any) - none - Nancy
3. **Incoming mail** (if any) - none - Rob/others
4. **Treasurer's report** - Rob
  - a. Financial statements - see Board folder  
Current bank balance is \$147K. Expenses were \$5,500 of which \$5K was a donation to the Conservation Trust for the Long Pond acquisition of the CCSC property. January donations were \$9,500.
  - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none - Rob  
Last year it was decided that each committee will budget its own expenses which will be approved by the Board in advance so there is no need to approve expenses that fall within the budget.
5. **Misc. administrative matters** - All
  - a. **Search/nomination committee** - All agree Konrad leaving board is a great loss. Rob expressed concern re: who will lead Communications after Konrad leaves. Susan reminded Board that Konrad has built up a strong Communications team. Marty, Nancy, Susan, and Cameron volunteered to be part of the Search/Nomination Committee which will bring proposals to the Board regarding filling positions for next year. Recruitment needs to be done prior to the August Annual Meeting. Susan reminded Board members of the need to grow the Board, therefore all Board members should be searching for new members.
  - b. **Terra Firma** - Thursday, Feb. 10th @ 2:00 PM. Nancy, Susan, Mary and Marcia will attend Peter Jensen's Terra Firma tour at his property at 155 Monument Road in Orleans. His runoff water management approaches as well as yard/lawn waste and kitchen waste composting systems will be viewed on the tour. Peter is a possible future Adult Education speaker. (Note date change from 2/8 due to predicted rain.)
  - c. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** public comment period has been extended through 2/11/22. There have been 352 replies from Brewster residents and 4,600 total replies received by the County to date. Susan will ask Konrad to send a blast reminding BPC members to respond to the survey. Background: the ARPA

was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden. This legislation allocated \$41.3 million in federal grant funds to Barnstable County to expend between 2021 – 2026 on COVID-19 recovery efforts and regional investments in key areas. Barnstable County has received half of its allotment and will receive the other half in the spring of 2022. These funds have specific expenditure categories that are set by the federal government. Several of the categories will allow Barnstable County and towns to address some of the urgent priorities needing investment on Cape Cod.

### **New Business:**

1. **Vision Plan Survey** - Survey can be found on the Town of Brewster website. BPC also sent a blast to members asking to complete the survey especially section 2 on water quality issues. Brewster residents have until the end of February to complete the survey.
2. **Select Board/Board of Health (BOH) joint meeting** - John, Marty, and Susan attended the virtual 1/27 meeting. Mark Nelson's power point presentation on water quality issues was especially interesting. Pleasant Bay watershed was a key topic. Brewster occupies approximately 25% of the overall watershed shared by Orleans, Harwich, and Chatham, but only contributes to 13% of the total nitrogen load entering the Bay. In 2018 the four abutting towns to Pleasant Bay agreed to reduce nutrients. Nutrient reduction on Captain's Golf Course in Brewster can meet 75% of Brewster's Pleasant Bay nutrient reduction obligation at minimal cost.

Ponds and fresh water were also discussed. Mark explored alternative septic systems as a solution to nutrient reduction including neighborhood waste treatment systems, changes in fertilization practices at the Captain's Golf Course, and the use of innovative septic treatment systems among other potential solutions. Currently there is a proposal to reset the 100 foot setback for septic systems on properties upgradient from pond watersheds to 300 feet. The town estimates up to 600 homes would require an upgrade at a total Cost at \$20,000-\$25,000 per property.

Sewers are costly and not necessarily a solution. Board of Health Vice Chair Penny Holeman is supportive of the BOH finding solutions on a larger scale as opposed to evaluating each situation individually. A possible solution is to install neighborhood wastewater treatment plants to service dense neighborhoods as opposed to having a very large number of houses connected to one main treatment plant. The possibility of Brewster negotiating an agreement to share a treatment plant with another town was mentioned. Perhaps the town could negotiate an agreement with surrounding towns to accommodate future nitrogen impacts from buildout. This would eliminate the long-term management of a facility in Brewster. John Keith pointed out the complications caused by so many ponds in Brewster. Numerous plants would be needed all over town to service these individual ponds and there would be major maintenance issues. There would be no between towns "trading" or "sharing" of wastewater facilities for freshwater ponds. \$50K has been allocated by the Town of Brewster to fund an update to the 2009 plan on water analysis. The Select Board is hoping the funding will be part of the May 2022 warrant. Board members are encouraged to watch the 1/27 presentation online. Visit:

<http://records.brewster-ma.gov/weblink/0/edoc/169043/Final%20E-Packet%201.27.2022.pdf>

Brewster is exploring the possibility of pulling out of the Cape and Islands Water Protection if Brewster's projects can not be covered under the program. To date, the fund has only been used to cover sewerage projects.

### **Current Priorities**

1. Septic system nutrient reductions study - Per Susan, \$300K needs to be allocated and approved by the town for a pilot program of alternative septic systems prior to moving forward.
2. Stormwater spreadsheet/map - John's stormwater spreadsheet was discussed. The spreadsheet was updated by Konrad regarding individual pond associations after discussion with Griffin Ryder from the DPW and Chris Miller from the DNR. A meeting with Pond Associations regarding stormwater runoff can now be held. Marty mentioned the possibility of discovering additional erosion sites and issues such as lawns running in ponds by kayaking around various ponds.
3. John and Nancy have not yet been contacted by the town regarding joining the Long Pond Committee created after the CCSC purchase.
4. Cameron is heading Tom Vautin's bioremediation floating wetland study. A smaller pond is preferable since 1-3% of the surface needs to be covered by the floating wetland. The target date to start the program is Spring 2023. Communication, funding, permitting, suppliers, etc. all need to be set up in advance. Spring planting is preferable. Equipment could be ordered by the end of this year. Schoolhouse and Myricks Ponds are being considered for this project. Myricks is the smaller of the two ponds at 4.6 acres. The town should be contacted soon regarding this project as its approval and cooperation will be needed.
5. PALs data - A team needs to get together to sort through and evaluate the data. Perhaps there are some volunteers from BPC membership who would like to get involved.

### **Events**

1. The Pond Summit. John, Susan, and Town Manager Peter Lombardi are planning the summit to be held in May. The planned topic is nutrient reduction. Susan is hoping to get the Town more involved in BPC events.
2. April Adult Education Program. Paul Anderson, Director of the Brewster Water Department is the planned speaker for this program. One hour will be allocated for the presentation and 15 minutes for questions and answers. The Baptist Church or CC Bible Alliance are possible venues.
3. Eversource. Attorney Bruce Taub is a potential speaker for a future BPC adult education event. Bruce has been involved in the anti-spraying campaign under power lines.
4. Misc Events. Marty will schedule some biking events and Nancy will schedule some walking events. Mary will get involved in Conservation Day and Marcia and Rob will represent BPC at the Farmer's Market. Mary is also working on the July Hydrangea Festival and is looking for residents to open their gardens to tours. Nancy will be in charge of BPC at the Beautify Brewster Day. Susan will set up the BPC table in front of the Bookstore for Brewster in Bloom.

5. October Adult Education Program - Possible speakers are Amy Von Hone from the BOH, Noelle Aguiar from Conservation.etc. Susan emphasized the importance of partnering with the town as much as possible.
6. Ryan Burch from the DNR is planning four Eco Paddles this year.
7. The Pond Guide team is adding additional useful information to the pamphlet such as type of boats allowed, public access, types of fish found in ponds, nearby restrooms, etc.

**Committee Reports** - See folders in Board Meeting file.

### **Wrap-up**

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

The nominating committee should meet in the near future to discuss next year's board positions.

Susan will ask Konrad to send out another blast to members regarding completing the American Rescue Plan survey.

The Bioremediation Committee should meet with the town soon regarding starting the floating wetlands project.

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

**Meeting adjourned: 7:51 PM**

**Submitted by:**

**Nancy Ortiz, Clerk**