

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
May 5, 2022 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Attending: Susan Bridges, Ron Essig, Cameron Ferguson, John Keith, Konrad Schultz, Marty Burke, Nancy Ortiz, Marica Kielb, Rob Condon

Absent: Mary Mauterstock

Meeting called to order: 6:03 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the April 7th Board Meeting - Nancy - unanimously approved
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings - Nancy - scholarship recipient approved unanimously
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Nancy - none
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder- 4/30/22 balance \$161,524. BPC is in a strong financial position at this point of the fiscal year. April expenses of \$5,800 included Pond Guide publishing at \$2,800 and Chubb Insurance at \$1,227. BPC insurance is paid in two installments. John Keith, as treasurer of a non-profit in NJ compared insurance costs. There were questions regarding exactly what each insurance covered. BPC must cover water related liability expenses in addition to regular liability. The board agreed to look at the insurance costs more closely next year.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements - none
5. Misc. administrative matters -The NEON three year rate ended 5/2/22. Marty negotiated a one year increase of 3%. The \$524 annual rate is now \$540 which is all-inclusive, and runs from 5/3/22 to 5/3/23.

New Business:

1. Bylaw re: Board Members - Discussion ensued regarding if bylaws should be changed from the Brewster property owner requirement for Board Members to allow out of town nominations. The Board appeared to be in favor of changing the bylaws. Rob mentioned the advantage of broadening BPC's sphere to other communities. Cameron suggested requiring a majority of Board Members to reside in Brewster. Susan will follow up with Gwen Pelletier to determine the origin of this requirement and also with the BCT to learn if they require that board members own property in Brewster, and if so, why. Perhaps the Brewster Conservation Trust was used as a bylaw guide when BPC was established. This bylaw change must be presented and voted at the annual meeting.
2. NEON for Events - Marty and Susan are exploring using NEON to track events. Event registration can take place via NEON thus facilitating record keeping. Cameron questioned how this will connect to the volunteer database. Marty and Susan to follow

up. Marty felt that keeping track of volunteer efforts would be done separately from event management.

Current Priorities

1. Bioremediation - It appears the Emerald Tutu floating islands project will not take place due to the time that would be required for State permitting/filing requirements. This is particularly disappointing to Tom Vautin and the others as Emerald Tutu was going to finance the entire project with a grant. Conservation was very positive about the project until DNR informed them of all the filings needed with the State. One caveat with the project, however, is that salt water grass would have been used as opposed to native pond species. Susan suggested going forward with the project without Emerald Tutu. Research appears to indicate that approximately 3% of a freshwater pond must be utilized in order for floating wetlands to uptake enough nutrients to have a positive effect.
2. Search/nomination committee - There is no interest from current board members in succeeding Susan as president and the communications position still needs to be filled. The Search/nomination committee will meet in the near future.
3. Pond Summit - Konrad is gathering information such as bios, outline of presentation, slides, etc. on the four speakers (Mark Nelson, Brian Dudley, Brian Baumgaertel, and Nate Keenan) for the June 17th Pond Summit to be held at the Brewster Baptist Church. The sanctuary will be used since the downstairs community room is not big enough to accommodate the attendees. Peter Lombardi will encourage town officials to attend. The event will be streamed live and conclude with a robust question and answer session from both live and online attendees. Konrad emphasized the importance of reducing nutrient loading from septic systems in the future of BPC. Wastewater is by far the biggest polluter of Brewster waters. BPC hopes the Pond Summit will be a solid first step in educating Brewster town officials and residents on the importance of resolving septic issues. Irene Penney will publicize this event in the Cape Cod Times and the Cape Codder.
4. PALs Dashboard - John will present the revised draft of the PALS data to Chris Miller and the board in the next few weeks. Marty will send John a summary of the cyanobacteria moderate to high readings to be included in the draft. John wants all the information compiled prior to the Pond Summit so attendees can be informed of what ponds are impaired and the nature of the impairment. The board agrees that the town should not spend \$50K on an analysis of the PALS data since BPC is completing the task. These funds would be better spent on a full and comprehensive study of ways to reduce septic system nutrient loading throughout Brewster into groundwater and ponds.

Events

1. Recap of events this month
 - a. April 7, 11:00 BBC - Adult Program - Paul Anderson was a great "kick-off" for the adult programs.
 - b. The April 23rd Beautify Brewster was a success with 21 volunteers gathering trash along the traditional route. This year DNR distributed a list detailing trash collected. It will be interesting to see the tally results. The biggest offender in terms of quantity was by far cigarette butts. 253 nip bottles were collected.
 - c. Brewster in Bloom - April 29 - May 1st - The BPC table in front of the Brewster Bookstore gathered 15 new signatures for the BPC database. Next year BPC hopes to have a float in the parade.
2. Upcoming

- a. EcoPaddle is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th. Fifteen participants have registered. There is concern about the wind.
- b. Terra Firma - Thursday 5/19 10:00-12:00, 2:00-4:00. Marty, Nancy, Mary and Susan have volunteered to attend. The Communication team will send another blast.
- c. Nickerson State Park Walk - Saturday 5/21 - Nancy will lead the walk. Nine participants have signed up. The Communication team will include the walk in the next blast.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

Marcia reported that the puppet show is going well. All board members are welcome to attend.

Marty reported that nineteen ponds will be tested this season. There was a good response to the volunteer callout. In fact over 50 have signed up. The May 28th Zoom training will be recorded and the sampling will begin on May 30th. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will be the sampling days throughout the season that will run from May 30 to October 31. There will be no aerosol study this season as there are no grad students available. There will be two new studies this season: The NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) will provide satellite imagery of Long, Seymour, Sheep, Upper and Lower Mill Ponds. Marty will work with Nancy Leland and Kim Pearson on a study of Picocyanobacteria and the toxin Anatoxin-a at Lower Mill Pond.

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

Wrap-up

- **Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments**, - Susan to research Bylaws regarding Board Member requirements.
- **Next Board Meeting - June 2, 2022** - Google Meet
- **July Board meeting - July 7, 2022** - Google Meet
- **August Board meeting - August 4, 2022** - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 7:49 PM

Submitted by,

Nancy Ortiz, Clerk