

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
June 2, 2022 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Present: Susan Bridges, Mary Mauterstock, Marty Burke, Cameron Ferguson, Konrad Shultz, Nancy Ortiz, Ron Essig, Marcia Kielb, Rob Condon

Guest: Kevin Kearns

Absent: John Keith

Meeting called to order: 6:01 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the May 5th Board Meeting - Nancy - approved unanimously.
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings (if any) - Nancy - none
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Rob/others - none
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - Current balance: \$161K. May expenses: \$2,052 (mainly cyanobacteria kits). May Donations: \$4,040. One correction: the Eco Paddle Supfari is a business partner donation, not an individual donation. This will be corrected at the next Eco Paddle in July. Rob mentioned the need to find pond projects as expenses are well below budget. There is \$20,763 in the project reserve fund. If one considers the \$54K balance in the crisis reserve account will unlikely ever be used, there is \$75K available for projects. Marty questioned if limits exist on non-profit reserves and if that should be a concern. In reading Federal and MA State non-profit regs, he has not found any reference to reserve account minimum or maximum requirements, only the suggestion that a non-profit should hold 3-6 months of operating expenses as a reserve. Susan mentioned upcoming projects such as Leland Road erosion and bioremediation projects. A committee of Rob, Marty, Cameron, and Konrad was formed to study how to spend reserves. Reminding members in the next newsletter of grant money available was suggested.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc administrative matters - All

Susan mentioned that Marty had conducted a NEON overview with Mary and Irene to bring them up to speed on NEON functionality. Marty then arranged for the Events Team (Mary, Susan, and Irene) to join him in an online class with a NEON Rep about how to use the Event function in NEON. The Events Team should be in a good position to begin using this function for all paid events. Marty suggested the team individually consider whether or not a non-paying event is the most efficient use of NEON. Konrad advised that the Events Team should create the event registration links in NEON at

least a month before the event so that the links can be included on our website and in the email blasts sent out by the Communications Team

New Business:

1. Brewster Natural Resources Advisory Commission (BNRAC) - Cameron's term representing BPC ends in June. Per Cameron, the BNRAC would like one BPC, one BCT, and one Select Board member to attend monthly meetings. Cameron mentioned the main focus of this committee has been coastal resiliency as opposed to freshwater ponds. Beach management topics such as parking, aquaculture grants for oysters and shellfish, access for commercial fishermen, etc. are discussed. The main reason BPC and other groups are included is to ensure citizen input and thus avoid conflict. Ron expressed an interest in taking this mainly advisory position starting the 2nd Thursday in July and will submit his resume.
2. Bylaw re: Board Members - Susan reported that Gwen Pelletier thought changing the bylaw to not limit board members to Brewster property owners was an excellent idea. Gwen suggested perhaps requiring a certain portion of board members own or rent property in Brewster. Amy Henderson of the BCT agrees to the bylaw change. She cited the Dennis Conservation Trust President lives in Brewster. Susan will draft a bylaw change to include Brewster property renters and non-residents to be board members. The change will be reviewed and voted on during the next board meeting. Ron questioned bylaw wording referring to BPC as a corporation, not a coalition. Kevin Kearns, who attended the meeting as a guest, specializes in non-profit organizations and assured the board that referring to BPC as a corporation is typical and correct.

Current Priorities

1. Alum enhanced Septic Systems - pilot program (MASSTC) - A few board members have expressed interest in participating in the pilot project which injects alum in the home septic waste water, reducing potassium and nitrogen output. Konrad encouraged getting outside volunteers as it may appear the board is garnering favors should the applicants be all board members. George Heufelder has not returned Susan's call regarding BPC's interest in the project. Marty suggested that prior to any public communication of the pilot project, BPC has a chance to review materials provided by Mr. Heufelder in order to prepare for public questions. The Board discussed offering to fund additional studies as opposed to the two proposed by MASSTC. Hopefully Susan will be able to connect with George in the near future.
2. Bioremediation - Emerald Tutu project - As mentioned at the last board meeting, the Emerald Tutu project will not take place. In addition to the difficulty meeting all the state requirements within a reasonable time, BPC believes the 8' pad will have a negligible impact on the proposed pond since it would not cover the suggested 3% surface of the pond and the non-native grasses proposed will not do well in freshwater. Tom and Cameron will do more research before meeting with Chris Miller from the DNR and Noelle Aguiar from Conservation regarding getting approved to install a floating wetland independent of Emerald Tutu. It appears Chris has concerns about attracting birds and other wildlife to the floating island.
3. Search/nomination committee - A few potential board members were identified including Lynn Van Norman from Terra Firma. Marty has had first conversations with 3-4 individuals to date about their interest in joining the board and expects to continue throughout the summer.

4. Pond Summit - Konrad is finalizing details for the 6/17 Pond Summit at the Baptist Church. There will be three cameras present including one for the live presentation on Lower Cape TV and links to questions. Town Manager Peter Lombardi has sent out Emails requesting town employees to attend. Numerous Email blasts and newspaper articles have taken place. Susan will introduce Peter who will then introduce moderator Tom Vautin. Tom will introduce each of the five speakers. Susan suggested having a welcoming slide on the screen previous to the start of the presentation. The room holds 150 people. Registration has not been set up so attendance is difficult to estimate. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not a break would be needed as the presentation is slated to last three hours. Currently no break is planned. Nancy will provide light refreshments.
5. PALS Dashboard - John and Marty sent to Chris Miller of the DNR recommendations for the PALS Dashboard. Susan will forward to the board John's well written Email to Chris. Marty has continued to have conversations regarding the PALS project with Kim Pearson, Chair of the BNRAC.

Events

1. Recap of events this month
 - a. Eco Paddles - Sunday 5/15 - both the morning and afternoon sessions took place and were successful. \$1,478. was collected.
 - b. Terra Firma - Thursday 5/19 - Peter Jensen did two great presentations to 24 attendees. Bill Pomeroy took some great photos. The weather was cold and wet prompting the afternoon session to be shortened.
 - c. Nickerson State Park Walk - Saturday 5/21 - Nancy led a successful walk and was appreciative of Chuck Madansky's explanations of water testing and other scientific data.
 - d. Pond Ed field trips beginning 5/31 - Marcia said the second grade pond field trips this week were a huge success and a lot of fun. All are invited to attend the fifth grade field trips next week at Cahoon Beach in Harwich.
2. Upcoming in June
 - a. Weed Watchers - 6/15 - All are invited to attend this workshop at the First Parish Church in Brewster. Konrad mentioned possible invasive weeds at Canoe and Griffiths Ponds that should be evaluated at this event.
 - b. Pond Summit - 6/17 - Susan encouraged all board members to attend this event.
 - c. Biking Event #1 - 6/30 - Marty will lead this event. He anticipates twelve attendees.
3. Upcoming in July
 - a. Conservation Day/Week - Dee Marsh is organizing this town wide event. Presenters will include Marty Burke who will talk about the BPC Citizen Science Program and John Keith who will talk about weed harvesting at Elbow Pond. BPC will have water testing displays and septic information. The Big Flush which has been a big hit in the past will be on display. Konrad will locate the large "flushing button". Marcia mentioned that the Pond Ed Team will host a mini field trip for 9 children at Seymour Pond as part of Conservation Week, similar to what they did last year.

Committee Reports - Marty reported 19 teams of 52 volunteers will test 19 ponds this summer and fall. The first round of tests occurred the week of May 30, with all ponds testing low for cyanobacteria. The pond temperatures are between 67- 72 degrees. No aerosol testing is planned due to UNH budget constraints. Nancy Leland and Marty will be testing Lower Mill Pond for Antitoxin-a and Pico Bacteria on Tuesdays. The 5/28 Zoom training session is now available for viewing on the BPC website. Approximately 35 of the CS Volunteers attended the zoom training.

Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships - Susan reported that Griffin Ryder engaged John O'Reilly to do site work at the Leland Road erosion location. Andy Barto of Leland Road confirmed that the site work did take place. It is hoped that Andy and Mark Kangus (president of the Indian Waters Assoc.) will meet next week with Susan, Marty, Peter Jensen and Glen Ralston to come up with a plan to resolve the erosion challenge.

Wrap-up

- **Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments.**
 - a. **Susan to draft a bylaw change to include Brewster renters and non-residents as board members. Change will be reviewed and voted on during the next board meeting.**
 - b. **Susan will contact George Heufelder regarding the board's interest in the alum treatment project and possible interest in funding additional studies.**
 - c. **Committee of Rob, Marty, Cameron, and Konrad to study how to spend reserves on projects.**
- **Next Board Meeting - July 7, 2022 - John Keith to preside in Susan's absence - Google Meet**
- **August Board Meeting - August 4, 2022 - Google Meet**
- **September Board Meeting - September 1, 2022 - Google Meet**

Meeting Adjourned: 8:03 PM

Submitted by:

Nancy Ortiz, Clerk