

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
August 4, 2022 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Present: Susan Bridges, Rob Condon, Marty Burke, Konrad Schultz, Cameron Ferguson, Nancy Ortiz, Kevin Kearns, Ron Essig

Meeting led by Konrad due to Susan losing her voice.

Absent: Marcia Kielb, John Keith, Mary Mauterstock

Meeting called to order: 6:03 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the July 7th 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 - Rob reported the current balance is \$161,812. July donations of \$3,200 and expenses of \$1,800 fell within the budget. Year to date income is \$39K. \$81K income has been budgeted to the year. Year to date expenses are \$22,005.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All - none

New Business:

1. Should we continue with virtual board meetings? Board agreed that virtual board meetings should continue due to the convenience of not traveling, however, all agree the camaraderie of meeting face-to-face is missed.
2. Strategic Planning Meeting - Board agreed on the importance of having a face-to-face strategic planning meeting in September. Cameron will host the 9 AM 9/22 meeting and Rob will provide backup in case of inclement weather.
3. BCT Annual Meeting 8/18, 5:00 at the Natural History Museum. Susan suggested BPC have some representation at the BCT Annual Meeting. Rob and Nancy Condon, Konrad, and Kevin will attend. (Kevin was assured by the board that he could be a fully participating board member prior to the formality of being elected at the BPC Annual Meeting.)

Current Priorities

1. Annual Meeting 8/13 Cape Cod Bible Alliance Church (CCBAC) on 6A in Brewster. Zenas "Zee" Crocker, Executive Director of the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition, will talk about the BCWC's recent launch and funding of a three-year alternative septic system pilot program, including 14 homes along the shore of Shubael Pond in Marston

Mills. Konrad, Susan, Mary and Nancy met with Jim Van Ness of the Elder Board at the church on Tuesday, 8/2 to review the facilities prior to the meeting. Konrad was pleased with the two oversized screens in the sanctuary and will send various slides from the Pond Summit, cyanobacteria blooms, map of impaired ponds, etc. to the church technical representative for uploading to the screens. There is a large kitchen with an oven for heating the quiches. The church will make the coffee. Nancy and Mary will share in food and cutlery/paper goods supply tasks. Marty and Mary will manage the sign-in sheets and distribution of name tags at the welcome/check-in table. The giveaway kitchen strainers along with pond guides, Ripples, book marks, and BPC car stickers will be displayed on the tables. BPC hats will be sold for \$20 each. Jim Van Ness asked if BPC could participate in collecting food and medical supply donations for the church charity program in Cuba. The Board decided that those registered could be sent a low key request to participate if desired. Konrad will present the Splash award to Amy Darbyshire and Marcia will present the second splash award to Shirley Vautin. The Board agreed that Nancy's rain barrel giveaway should be postponed to the 2023 Brewster Conservation Day. Marty announced there were 23 signups as of today and Konrad said he will send out another blast soon. The BPC Annual Meeting planning group will meet again at the church on Friday, 8/12 at 2 PM for a final walk-through.

2. Public Comment for Comprehensive Vision Plan - Public comments on the Vision Plan are due to the town by 8/12. The Vision Plan surveyed the town on such broad topics as housing, location of town center, historical and economic considerations, etc. BPC would like the report to include the need for specific action toward studies and funding to address the impact of septic systems on water quality. John, Konrad, and Susan will circulate a draft letter addressed to the Vision Planning Committee for board approval. The end goal is to have an article requesting a nutrient reduction study on the Spring warrant. Konrad will resend the link to the Comprehensive Vision Plan to the Board since many of the members have not yet read the report. Separately, the Board agrees that partnering with BCT will make both organizations stronger.
3. Alternative Septic System pilot program - next steps. Konrad had a conversation with Brian Horsley of Horsley and Whitten regarding installing an alternative septic system at the residence of Bruce Stemple near Seymour Pond. It appears Bruce's site is not a good fit for the installation. Susan and John will meet with Brian Horsley and MASSTC regarding finding other possible sites.
4. Update from ad hoc committee to explore/propose use of grant money? - The committee has not yet met. Marty proposed offering grant money to Nancy Leland for the ground breaking pico anatoxin - a study at Lower Mill Pond. Marty projects that the cost for this project will be between \$2,500 and \$3,000.

Events

1. Recap of events this month
 - a. Conservation Day 7/9 - Over 100 kids participated in the Big Flush. BPC received the Best in Show award of a gift certificate to Coby's Restaurant.
 - b. Conservation Week Pond Field Trip 7/13 - The field trip was canceled.
 - c. Hydrangea Festival 7/12 & 7/13 - BPC was represented by Peter Jensen of Terra Firma at 69 Howes Road.
 - d. Bike ride 7/28 - canceled due to Marty Burke's COVID illness.
 - e. Long Pond Eco Paddle 7/30 - The weather was perfect for a Paddle. There were five attendees. Ryan Burch from the DNR and naturalist Luke Foley let the paddle. Nancy welcomed the participants and took pictures.

- f. Punkhorn Walk 8/3 - Nancy led the walk of eleven participants through the Punkhorn to Seymour Pond. She was appreciative of Konrad's assistance.
2. Upcoming Events
 - a. Annual Meeting 8/13
 - b. Bike ride 8/25 - Marty will lead the 8/25 ride and a final ride in September
 - c. Paines Creek Eco Paddle - 9/10 - Per Susan, the location has been approved by the Select Board.
 - d. Bruce Taub - Eversource Talk 9/13 - Attorney Bruce Taub represents Brewster in the Eversource lawsuit against the use of herbicides to clear brush under the power lines. Nancy asked if Laura Kelly would attend. Laura has been very active in the prevention of glyphosate spraying under the power lines. Susan will meet with Peter Lombardi prior to the talk to discuss if there is anything about the ongoing litigation that should not be made public during Bruce's presentation.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

Water testing - Marty reported that those ponds in the "potential for concern" category will be retested in the off cycle. Ponds whose growth rate is .05 (point 05) or greater will also be tested in the off cycle. APCC had placed Sheep Pond in an "unacceptable category" and that has been reviewed by the Brewster Natural Resources Advisory Commission (BNRAC). The BNRAC recently sent a letter to Peter Lombardi at Town Hall disputing the APCC identification of Sheep Pond as "unacceptable and needs remediation". At this time it is unknown as to where the Town stands on the issue.

Communications - The deadline for submission of photos and texts for the September Update is 8/22. Discussion ensued regarding having Communications as a paid position. Rob believes the \$25K annual salary mentioned at the July board meeting seems high for the anticipated time allotment of 10 hours per week. This translates to an hourly rate of \$50. The Board agreed the paid position should not be posted until current possibilities have been researched. Konrad, who is leaving the Board in September has agreed to assist in the Communications transition as needed.

Membership - Per Marty, the final 2021-2022 membership renewal rate ended at 72%. This is a strong renewal number as compared to a nonprofit national average between 40-45%. The BPC numbers are strong. The new renewal fiscal year began 8/1/22. BPC has received \$3K to date in 2022-2023 donations. Kevin asked if donor demographics were available. Per Marty, NEON does have demographic information. Statistics on membership are available in MailChimp and NEON and will continue to be expanded going forward.

Per Konrad, a virtual meeting on the 2023 Ripples publication will take place in late August.

Floating Wetlands - **Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships** - Updates as needed

1. Slough Pond - Konrad and Kevin visited the Slough Pond erosion site in the area of Old Red Top Road and Seaman's Lane with owner Abby Rhodes and Brewster DPW Director Griff Ryder. Griff will write up an engineering plan and the town will cover the costs of correcting the water runoff into the pond.
2. Floating Wetlands - Cameron and Tom Vautin had an encouraging meeting with Chris Miller from the DNR and Noelle Aguiar from Conservation regarding the floating wetlands project. Chris suggested that Walkers be used for the study as permission had previously been granted by the State to the town for the weed harvesting project, possibly facilitating future permitting processes. A notice of intent will be filed with the town.

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments.
Annual Meeting planning board members will meet at the CCBAC at 2 PM on 8/12.
Board members should arrive at the CCBAC at 8:30 AM on 8/13.
An agenda needs to be written for the 9/22 strategic meeting.
A few BPC board members will attend the 8/18 BCT annual meeting.
Konrad will resend the link to the Brewster Comprehensive Vision Plan to The Board.
A draft letter from BPC to the Vision Planning Committee re: nutrient reduction will be written by Konrad, Susan, and John.
A kickoff meeting for the 2023 Ripples will be held late August.
- Annual Meeting - Saturday August 13th
- Next Board Meeting - September 1, 2022 - Google Meet
- Strategic Meeting - September 22, 2022 - 9 AM - Cameron's house
- October Board Meeting - October 6, 2022 - Google Meet
- November Board Meeting - November 3, 2022 - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 7:56 PM

Submitted by:

Nancy Ortiz, Clerk