

Brewster Ponds Coalition Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
September 1, 2022
Video Conference

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

Meeting called to order: 6:03 PM

Standing Topics

- 1. Review and approve the minutes of the September 1 Board Meeting** - Nancy - approved unanimously
- 2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings (if any)** - Nancy - AAPA - unanimous vote approving filing of Letter of Intent on \$30K three year pilot septic system project. John reminded board that payment would vary over the three years (i.e. year one could be \$15K, however the total over the three years would be \$30k)
- 3. Incoming mail (if any)** - Solicitation letter received from the Friends of Pleasant Bay. Board agreed donating between non-profit organizations makes no sense.
- 4. Treasurer's report** -
The year-to-date balance is \$159,091 and \$190,802 including Elbow and Blueberry Ponds. Total Expenses were approximately \$5K consisting of \$1K for the scholarship, \$2,665 for the BPC grant to Limtex for the antitoxin study, and approximately \$1,200 for annual meeting expenses.
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder for more detail.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
- 5. Misc. administrative matters** - All
 - a. **Update board contact info** - Susan requests all board members to update his/her contact information in the board resources file.
 - b. **Update Inventory spreadsheet** - Susan requests all board members to update inventory information in the board resources file.
 - c. **Discuss which events and meetings should be included on the BPC website calendar** - Konrad will continue updating the BPC website until a communications replacement is trained. Discussion ensued regarding posting education committee and board meetings on the website calendar so members and others could join the meetings. Marcia believes opening the meetings to the public could be valuable in recruiting pond education volunteers. John mentioned that the board meetings are already open to the public and financial information is available as well so there is no harm in posting the dates. The board voted unanimously to post the meeting dates on the BPC website calendar so anyone interested can attend.

New Business

- 1. Meetings**
 - a. **Susan and John to attend the BCT (Brewster Conservation Trust) board meeting on 9/7.** BPC would like to elicit BCT support for adding an article on the

Spring town warrant requesting the town to fund a comprehensive water study. The goal is to have BCT support the article prior to meeting with town manager Peter Lombardi. BPC will also ask what it can do to support BCT as BCT seems ready to partner with BPC on water quality issues.

- b. **Susan and John are meeting with Annette Graczewski, Board of Health (BOH) chair, at 10 AM 9/9** regarding getting the same above-mentioned article on the Spring warrant. BOH's jurisdiction is to write septic regulations such as setbacks from ponds and maintain detailed information on the town's individual septic systems.
 - c. Susan and John to set **meeting with the Massachusetts Alternative Test Center (MASSTC)** to discuss development of a pilot program in Brewster, date TBD
- 2. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** - ARPA grants are federal funds available to address climate change, water quality, infrastructure, among other projects. Zee Crocker from The **Barnstable Clean Water Coalition (BCWC)** is interested in collaborating with BPC to obtain these funds. Susan mentioned the need to move quickly to meet the **9/30 application deadline**. The small grants are \$100-\$250K and the medium grants are \$250-\$500K. Could BPC "piggyback" with Zee Crocker's BCWC and the MASSTC on this grant? Konrad has expressed interest in participating in the grant application. Numerous board members believe it will be easy to find the volunteers needed for this study. How many studies will a \$100K grant fund? These homes should be in locations near ponds. John noted that operational costs such as pumping, electricity, and ongoing testing after the initial installation should be considered. John also questioned what happens should the system fail. Nancy noted that in the past few months she has identified three possible cesspools on pond front property. How could anything be worse than the systems currently in use on these properties? Susan and John will meet with MASSTC and get back to board with more information.

Current Priorities

- 1. Election of new officers** - the President, (Susan) VP (John), Treasurer (Rob), and Clerk (Nancy) were unanimously re-elected.
- 2. Strategic planning and goal setting for the new term**
 - a. **Review game plan** - Susan requests all board members review and edit next year's strategic plan (goals, priorities and committee structure) prior to the 9/22 8:30 AM meeting at Rob's house.
 - b. **Review draft of the agenda for the strategic planning meeting** - Susan requests all board members review the draft agenda as well.
John mentioned reaching out to Chris Miller of the DNR, Town Manager Peter Lombardi, and BCT to discern what actions are expected of the BPC. Susan suggests establishing BPC's priorities prior to reaching out to other organizations. Marty expressed the point that the BPC is an independent organization and that our first step in establishing a strategy plan should be based on our organization goals and mission. Susan also mentioned the Select Board as an interested partner in water resource issues.
- 3. Events**

- a. **Annual Meeting Recap** - Susan complimented the Board for the excellent job in organizing and implementing the Annual Meeting. Zee Crocker was a good choice for a speaker, the venue was excellent, and the quiches were a hit.
 - b. **Bike ride 8/25** - Marty had six participants for this successful ride lasting 1.5 hours. The ride started at Ferretti's on Rt 137 and continued to the Harwich park area where we rested and then returned back. The round trip was 12-13 miles.
 - c. **Eco Paddle - Quivett Creek 9/10** - 12 participants have signed up for this event.
 - d. **Bruce Taub Talk re: Eversource 9/13** at the library - Nancy will notify Laura Kelly about attending this event. Laura has been very active in the campaign against Eversource spraying. Peter Lombardi will attend the talk as well.
- 4. Committee Reports** - Written/verbal reports as needed
- a. **Communications** - Ripples had a kickoff meeting at 9 AM today. (9/1) The October newsletter has a 9/19 deadline.
 - b. **Citizen Scientist** - The Cyanobacteria water program has completed 7 cycles of testing and another 6 cycles of "Off schedule" sampling/testing. To date 190 samples have been collected and tested. Advisory Postings at: LMP on 8/5, Schoolhouse Pond on 8/10. Bothe postings were lifted based on test results on 8/26.
NOAA research program - Five ponds in rotation - Long, Seymour, Sheep, Upper and Lower Mill. The season began and to date 20 tests have been conducted.
Pico Anatoxin-a program - Conducted at LMP. To date 20 tests have been conducted.
- 5. Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships** - Updates as needed - none mentioned

Wrap-up

- **Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments**
Board to update contact and inventory lists.
Board to review and edit Strategic Plan prior to 9/22 meeting.
Sign up requested for 9/13 Eversource talk.
Susan and John to set up meeting with MASSTC
Susan and John to meet with BCT and BOH.
ARPA application due 9/30
- **Strategic Planning Meeting - September 22, 2022** - 8:30 AM Rob's house
- **Next Board Meeting - October 6, 2022** - Google Meet
- **November Board meeting - November 3, 2022** - Google Meet
- **December Board meeting - December 1, 2022** - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 7:36 PM

Submitted by:

Nancy Ortiz, Clerk