

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
April 6, 2023 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

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

Absent: Nancy Ortiz, Marty Burke

Guest: Konrad Schultz, Jane Savio - Administrative Consultant

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the March 8th Board Meeting - Ron in Nancy's absence - accepted unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings - none
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Rob/Susan/others - Six scholarship applications were received from Nauset Regional High students and none from Cape Cod Tech. Rob will look into BPC not receiving an insurance invoice from Chubb yet.
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - Balance at the end of February was \$215K. March expenses \$423. March donations \$8,223, YTD expenses 3% of budget and YTD income 25% of budget. Susan pointed out that business partner donations through NEON show as individual donations, so she added a business partner spreadsheet to the folder. Rob will add a separate spreadsheet to show previous year unspent project reserves plus current year budgeted amounts. Marcia reported that bus transportation costs might be higher than that budgeted and will check on an uncashed check from last year.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - Susan
 - a. Peter Lombardi was appointed to sit on the executive board of the Cape Cod Commission Cape and Islands Water Protection Fund committee. Three of the 5 spots are now filled with representatives from the lower cape (Orleans, Eastham, and now Brewster).
 - b. Five of six Y23 Open Space grants were approved with Brewster being the exception. The proposed project was for the purchase of 5 acres near Bakers pond for \$130K.
 - c. Susan and Jane toured many Brewster ponds yesterday.

New Business

1. Septic system/pond testing initiative for summer 2023 - John provided updated scope of work documents in the Board folder. Six different ponds are targeted. The critical next

step is identifying three houses upgradient of these ponds for well drilling and water testing. A committee of John, Susan and Mary will look at maps and the BPC membership list for potential homeowners to ask rather than an email solicitation. There may be exemptions to permitting for well drilling. Wells would have a 2-inch PVC pipe extending 12 inches above the ground. They would be sampled quarterly for one year and could be easily closed with fill sand afterwards. Sampling of the two ponds would best start by June and may not need to be done by BPC if they will be in the new APCC Freshwater Initiative sample frame. Otherwise BPC citizen scientists will need to be trained, likely by APCC.

2. Welcome letter for new homeowners - Marcia would like to get this out by mid-May. She has a list from the Town of new homeowners since 2020.
3. MailChimp account - The cost of five login users will be more than approved at the March Board meeting, so BPC might defer to three users - Jane, Marty and Amy Darbyshire. However, there are many more users sharing passwords, so Susan will talk more with Marty about this.
4. Pond Summit - format, date, speaker, etc.- Ideas initially presented included: the 2023 BPC septic system/pond testing program, a speaker on Orleans sewerage, and the CCC pond testing program. There was agreement that it was premature to spend much time on the first idea as a very technical subject with no results yet. Discussion landed on the second idea of bringing in folks from other towns that have completed wastewater planning and sewerage. John pointed out the limitation that all other town plans focus on saltwater not freshwater. Susan will contact Judith Bruce from the Orleans Ponds Coalition for speaker ideas. There was support for also presenting a report card on the many recent BPC actions to enhance water quality (e.g., working with the Town on committees, discussing warrant articles, pond education, cyanobacteria testing, Canoe Pond aeration project, commenting on proposed Title 5 regulations). Last year the pond summit was co-chaired with the Town and held Friday June 17. Mary will look into dates for a venue around that time frame for 2023.

Current Priorities

1. BPC position on spring warrant article re Walkers Pond alum application - Susan reported that \$50K was still in the warrant for unspecified water quality improvement measures. Although not in writing, this would be something other than alum application. The Board consensus was that although we support funds devoted to improved water quality we cannot support measures that are too vague. Ron and John will try to get more clarification at their respective Natural Resources Advisory Commission and Water Resources Task Force meetings on April 13.
2. Strategy for supporting fall town warrant articles - Discussion was deferred since the alternative septic pilot program (\$300K) and water study (\$80K) will depend on results of the 2023 BPC septic system/pond testing initiative.
3. Events -
 - a. Native Plants - Kristen Andres APCC 4/24 - already has 21 people signed up
 - b. Beautify Brewster - 4/29 - several prominent Town residents have signed up
 - c. BOH, Septic Systems, Title 5, etc. - Amy van Hone 5/4 - 5 people have signed up

- d. Eco Paddles #1 and #2 - 5/6 - No sign ups yet
 - e. Brewster in Bloom table in front of bookstore 5/6 - Susan suggested just 12-3pm. Jane, Mary, Cameron and Marcia (Shelly) volunteered
 - f. Brewster in Bloom Parade 5/7 - Susan has secured Frank's truck. Ron can provide a pair of smaller size waders for someone to wear.
4. Committee Reports - Several written reports are in the meeting folder. No verbal reports.

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments -
 - Committee of Susan, John and Mary formed to identify potential homeowners for well drilling as part of BPC septic system initiative
 - More fleshing out of Pond Summit is needed As a start, Susan will contact folks in Orleans
 - Ron and John will ask about Walkers Pond warrant article at their respective Town Natural Resources Advisory Commission and Water Resources Task Force April 13 meetings
 - Jane, Mary, Cameron and Marcia (Shelly) volunteered for the BPC table portion of Brewster in Bloom on 5/6
- May meeting - May 4, 2023 - Google Meet
- June meeting - June 1, 2023 - Google Meet
- July meeting - July 6, 2023 - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Submitted by,

Ron Essig, substituting for Nancy Ortiz, Clerk