

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
February 1, 2024, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Present: Tim Chase, Susan Bridges, Mary Mauterstock, Ron Essig, Jane Savio, Rob Condon, John Keith, Nancy Ortiz, Marty Burke, Marcia Kielb, Kevin Kearns

Meeting called to order: 6:01 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the January 4th Board Meeting - Nancy - minutes accepted unanimously,
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings - Letter to Peter Lombardi discussing scope of work re: Comprehensive Wastewater article for Spring warrant was accepted by those that voted prior to sending to Peter.
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Letters opposing constructing affordable housing on the Long Pond property were received from Pat Robinson and Patrick Otton. Beth Emanuelson sent an Email to Marty expressing concern over the water quality test failure on 8/28/23 at Slough Pond. Marty sent the County Lab reports to Beth and explained that the test was for E.Coli and not cyanobacteria. The water quality advisory posting was removed in 48 hours. John Keith explained that one sample is not conclusive of a trend. Beth Emanuelson's concern was perhaps related to her opposition to the donkey farm near the pond.
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - \$15,201 donations received in January. The total bank balance is \$225K including Blueberry and Elbow. January expenses were \$4,250 which includes \$1,435 for bloom research. The year to date income is \$17,620 and year to date expenses are \$4,551.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
 - a. Phone number reclaimed - The BPC google voice phone number had "disappeared" and is now reclaimed. It is believed that if a call is not placed, the number will become inactive. Susan placed a call to Jane and the number is back in commission.
 - b. Google Workspace newsletter options - Tim is investigating replacing Mail Chimp with Google Workspace which allows 1,500 free Emails per day. It is important that this method of communication interfaces with NEON. Further research is needed.
 - c. Printing costs, various vendors - Susan mentioned that Staples printing is the most expensive and BPC's tax free number is not easily accepted. The library is the least expensive. Sir Speedy in Orleans is a good option and will easily give tax exempt status, however, per Marcia, the daughter of the owner is more efficient than her father. Susan is not sure she would have confidence in Sir Speedy for publishing Ripples.

New Business

1. Brewster Conservation Trust (BCT) request for information regarding Sea Camps Long Pond property position - Tino Kamarck and Amy Henderson contacted BPC concerning BCT's opposition to building affordable housing on the Long Pond property. BCT is polling its largest donors to know their positions. BPC has pledged \$5K. The options are to rescind the \$5K pledge contingent upon not building the affordable housing or keep the \$5K pledge even though BPC does not support the housing. A possible Board meeting with Tino was discussed. John believes the town plan has not been well thought out especially regarding the neighborhood wastewater treatment plant. How many houses in addition to the affordable ones will be hooked up to this plant? Why is the construction of a neighborhood wastewater treatment plant tied to affordable housing? Who is going to pay for the hookups? etc. Susan reminded the Board that the Long Pond property is in a Zone 2 watershed area and will need a variance for any construction. BPC's role is pond protector. Susan does not know Audubon's position on this topic. Audubon is a very large donor. The Board voted to request BCT to not release the BPC \$5K donation to the town at this time as long as housing is part of the plan.
2. Title 5 Handouts - see folder - Susan will ask Peter Lombardi if the town would like the new Title 5 regulations posted on the BPC website. Susan encourages the Board to read the new regulations.

Current Priorities

1. CWMP update
 - a. Task Force - The Task Force is suggesting expanding the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan to include a town-wide Wastewater Management plan component, rather than developing a separate Comprehensive Wastewater Plan (CWMP.) At the last Task Force meeting on Feb. 1st, it was agreed that Mark Nelson will 1.) find out if state funding is available for wastewater plans that are part of IWRMP (not just CWMPs) and 2.) develop an outline of what a town-wide wastewater management plan component would include (scope, cost, and time) to present at a joint meeting of the BPC Board and Water Resources Task Force. If the BPC and Task Force both approve of the outline, the plan will be presented to the Select Board for their approval. BPC, once again, would like to work with the town, however, it will present the article without town support if necessary. John prefers restricting funds to do the entire CWMP over the needed years all at once as opposed to coming back to the town for more funds in the future. The estimated cost is \$300K-\$500K. Events - BPC will recruit Dave Bennett, Chair of the Brewster Board of Health, for a package septic system talk. Dave is an expert on these systems. This event will most likely be at the library on March 26th.
The BPC Events team is arranging tours of the Orleans Wastewater Treatment Plant in addition to a talk on Invasive Plants.
Mary will attend the Nauset Newcomers monthly meeting on February 14th and distribute BPC information.
2. Septic system/Phosphorus Flow - status report - John and Mark Nelson are going to do testing at the Ortiz residence at 376 Run Hill Road, the McNair residence at 364 Run Hill Road, and hopefully the 16 Cahoon Drive resident who appears to be reluctant to

participate. Marty is continuing to talk to Gary LaFave and will revisit in May. Testing is slated to begin at the Ortiz residence this Spring. The other candidates were eliminated for various reasons.

3. Pond Management Plan and Pond Studies - As mentioned in the January 2024 minutes, the Natural Resources Advisory Commission will likely conduct a survey of what Brewster residents envision in a pond management plan. What are the various usages of Brewster ponds? What do residents value in managing Brewster ponds? The survey has not been released and the effectiveness of this survey has been raised. Kim Crocker-Pearson agreed that a "parallel" approach can be used. In other words pond studies can be conducted and other planning done while a survey is conducted. Kim mentioned that Ron Essig is a great addition to the team. Ron will keep the Board updated. The next meeting is February 8th. A short discussion as to the value of surveys ensued. Marty is in favor of various surveys to help assess citizen interest and understanding but is concerned that there has been a lack of transparency by the town as to survey results.
4. Eco Expo - The Eco Exp will be held at the Brewster Museum of Natural History on February 20th. Marcia will appear in the Shelly the turtle costume and has some books to handout. BPC will be stationed in the main room as opposed to the location last year in the hallway.
5. Board recruitment - Nancy and Marty will be leaving the Board in August after completing two - three year terms. Nancy has been secretary, assistant treasurer, and a member of the Events Committee. Marty has done a fabulous job on membership, fundraising and citizen science. Susan reminded the Board that recruitment will be a standard item on the monthly agenda as BPC is always looking for new Board members.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed - Marcia announced that no applications have been received for the scholarship fund. Marcia will order more microscopes for the education committee pond field trips. She currently has twenty one volunteers to assist on these popular trips. Previous Board member Dawn Walnut would like to be involved in the field trips.

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments
Tino from the BCT needs to be informed of the BPC Board decision not to support housing at the Long Pond property.
Susan will meet with Peter Lombardi and Mark Nelson in the beginning of March regarding the CWMP. Mark will find out if the state would fund an expanded version of the Integrated Water Resource Plan.
- Next Board Meeting - March 7, 2024 - Google Meet
- April Meeting - April 4th- Google Meet
- May Meeting - May 2nd - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 8 PM

Submitted by:
Nancy Ortiz, Secretary