

**Brewster Ponds Coalition  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 7, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
Video Conference**

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

**Absent: Mary Mauterstock**

**Meeting called to order: 6:01 PM**

**Standing Topics**

1. Review and approve the minutes of the November 2nd Board Meeting - Nancy - accepted unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings. Tim Chase election to BPC Board - no need to confirm - Tim was elected unanimously via Email.
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Rob/others - Nancy collecting mail in Rob's absence - PO Box annual fee has increased to \$166.
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
  - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - November 30th balance \$185K - decrease of \$3K from October. Ripples expenses \$11,313. Donations \$8,885. Per Marty, there are \$1,200 additional Ripples expenses to be paid to Bob Baker (the printer) for the mailing list. This expense will be included in December financials.
  - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
  - a. Replace X with Threads - Discussion ensued regarding dropping X (rebranded Twitter) and adding Threads. Amaya will look into Threads. Susan suggested asking Volunteer Coordinator Kristi Dondlinger to find a social media savvy volunteer to update BPC's social media accounts. Discussion will continue at the next board meeting.
  - b. Susan complimented the Board, especially Marty and Jane, for the great Ripples publication. Betty Wiley's drone cover photo was well received.

**New Business**

1. Sea Camps location of affordable housing. The Board position is all affordable housing should be sited on the Bay property, not the Long Pond property. More than half the Long Pond property is in a Zone II drinking water protection area. The property is also a location for additional wells if needed. Per John, a "package septic system" for the Long Pond property would protect the water from phosphorus and nitrogen, however, other pollutants such as PFAS and pharmaceuticals would eventually reach the water. The Board agreed to a blast stating BPC's affordable housing position emphasizing that BPC is in favor of affordable housing but not on the Long Pond site. Wastewater issues need

to be addressed prior to constructing more housing. The town set a December 10th deadline for comments on the November 30th Sea Camps Forum #3.

2. Pond Management Report and Pond Studies. Peter Lombardi was absent due to illness so there is no update. Susan will contact Peter before the next task force meeting. Discussion ensued regarding BPC's lack of inclusion in the PALS data analysis. The DNR is interpreting the data without involvement from BPC.

### **Current Priorities**

1. Strategic Planning Meeting takeaways
  - a. Review committee action plans - There were no questions or concerns regarding the action plans so the meeting discussion continued to the budget.
  - b. Review committee budgets - Susan alerted the Board that 2024 expenses are budgeted higher than the anticipated income of \$96K. Expenses such as Neon, Chamber of Commerce ad, home owner mailings, and mailchimp will be classified as membership or communications expenses as opposed to administrative expenses. The Board voted unanimously to budget \$1K to the Brewster Conservation Trust toward Brewster Conservation Day general expenses. BPC gets a lot of publicity and a prime location for the Conservation Day event. \$3K will be granted by BPC to APCC for cyanobacteria sample analysis. Discussion ensued regarding bus transportation costs for the Education Committee's pond events. Rob expressed concern of receiving a bus transportation invoice two years after the event. The cost of the buses needs to be determined prior to the pond education events.
2. Winter eNewsletter - The Newsletter will be distributed on January 2nd. BPC's position on the Long Pond property affordable housing and Marcia's scholarship applications will be included in the Newsletter.
3. Septic system/pond testing initiative for summer 2023 - status report - John updated the Board on the status of the well drilling study to determine the migration of phosphorus on pond front property. Three candidate houses are needed for the study. Mark Nelson and John will visit the candidate properties to determine what three of the four candidates are best suited for the project. \$30-\$40K will be spent in 2024. The total project costs should stay under \$70K.
4. Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan - The task force did not meet this past week. Tim and Susan will work on the next steps. Will a Citizen's Petition be needed for the Spring Warrant?
5. Board recruitment - A committee chair is needed for the Pond Protection Program. Volunteer Coordinator, Kristi Dondlinger will perhaps have some candidates.

**Committee Reports** - Written/verbal reports as needed - The Town will be working on the public portion of the Leland Road project on Upper Mill Pond next Spring. Hopefully that will motivate the residents to complete the private portion which continues down to the pond. The Myricks Pond project remains in the planning stage.

### **Wrap-up**

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments

A blast will be sent out this week stating BPC's position on affordable housing at the Long Pond property.

Susan will contact Peter Lombardi regarding the Pond Management Report and Pond Studies.

Susan will inform Amy of BCT of BPC's donation of \$1K toward Conservation Day.

John and Mark Nelson will visit the candidate properties for the phosphorus study.

- Next Board Meeting - January 4, 2024 - Google Meet - 6PM
- February Meeting - Feb. 1st - Google Meet - 6PM
- March Meeting - March 7th - Google Meet - 6 PM
- April Meeting - April 4th - Google Meet - 6 PM

Meeting adjourned: 8:03 PM

Submitted by: Nancy Ortiz, Secretary