

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
October 5, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Present: Susan Bridges, Kevin Kearns, Ron Essig, Mary Mauterstock, Marty Burke, Jane Savio, Nancy Ortiz, Marcia Kielb, John Keith (John left the meeting at 7:18 PM to attend another meeting.)

Absent: Rob Condon

Guest: Linda Darbyshire

Meeting called to order 6:03 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the September 7th Board Meeting - Nancy - accepted unanimously.
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings, if any - Email vote for unlimited 3 year term renewals passed unanimously. Must be voted at the 2024 annual meeting. The Board decided not to have Honorary Board members or Directors Emeritus which is more common in large organizations.
3. Incoming mail (if any) - Rob/others - Per Marty, much positive feedback was received on the T-shirts that were distributed at the Volunteers Picnic. Marty sent a sympathy card to Neal Shifman's wife. Neal recently passed away.
4. Treasurer's report - Rob (absent) - Nancy and Susan
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - Susan suggested Rob add "funds available" to future treasury reports. BPC bank balance is \$191K as of 9/30/23, Sept expenses of \$6K includes \$3K to Horsley Whitten for septic plume study and \$1.4K for T-shirts. September donations were \$2.4K
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
 - a. Share Drive folder Brewster Information and Issues - Susan created new sub folders for pertinent information related to the Natural Resources Advisory Commission, Board of Health, Water Resources Task Force, Long Pond Property Planning Committee meetings, etc. These folders can be found under Brewster Info and Issues.

New Business

1. Bylaw if needed to eliminate term limits. See Standing Topics #2 above.
2. **The Brewster Pond Management Report** is slated for the **Fall Town warrant**. Town Manager Peter Lombardi has postponed the call to Susan regarding the Pond Management Report until tomorrow. John expects that \$100K for this Fall warrant article is not enough for a two pond study, therefore, BPC has offered technical assistance to the town to enable a second pond to be studied. Per John, this study is not highly technical, therefore, BPC volunteers can assist the research. The Board voted

unanimously to allocate \$30K to supplement the town funding of the Pond Management Plan. One of the ponds will be a great pond. The second pond would be either a great pond or a smaller pond. The Citizen's Petition for this article appears to be off the table.

Phosphorus reducing alternative septic systems to be installed at three houses in Brewster will most likely be delayed until **Spring town meeting**. There is a question if the town can fund installing septic systems on private property in addition to issues such as putting the project out to bid, fair wages, etc. Peter Lombardi will consult with the town's lawyer about the project. Susan is waiting for a response from Brian Baumgaertel regarding his thoughts about how the BPC can partner with the town on this project. DEP grants may be available.

The Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan article, either sponsored jointly with the town or as a citizens petition, is slated for the **Spring town meeting**. The Article needs to be written within the next few months as time will be needed to educate the public. Brewster and Truro are the only two Cape towns without a wastewater treatment plan. This plan must be completed in order for the town to receive government funding. Numerous methods of wastewater treatment including reactive permeable barriers, town sewers, etc. will be studied.

The septic system phosphorus study which measures the plume flow from leach fields to the ponds is **BPC funded so there is no need for town involvement**. Two wells were drilled last month on what was believed to be upgradient property on Elbow Pond, however, it was discovered that in fact the property is downgradient. Apparently the Federal Government GIS map is incorrect. The south side of Elbow Pond is on a water flow divide (the Cape divide where water flows toward CC bay or towards Nantucket Sound) so is not feasible for a study. The second testing candidate, Griffith Pond, water flow is difficult to track due to complications from an abandoned cranberry bog. BPC is exploring other Brewster ponds as possible candidates for this study including houses on Greenland, Smalls, Seymour, Lower and Upper Mill Ponds. No permit is required for this study. Marty researched the properties that meet the initial criteria for the study given that the initial group failed. He will reach out to the families to determine their interest. John will send Marty an informational overview for his conversations.

3. Pleasant Bay Climate Adaptation Forum and Online Survey. The Forum will take place on October 21st from 9-2 PM. Marcia and Jane will attend.

A Pond Oxygenation Workshop will be held in Falmouth on November 8th from 9 AM - 4 PM. Susan forwarded the information to Tim Chase. Tim has been in charge of moving the Canoe Pond aeration system from a private home to another Canoe Pond location.

The Falmouth Ponds Coalition will have a meeting on October 17th at 5:30 PM. Marty may attend this meeting.

Current Priorities

1. Recap September events
 - a. Volunteer Fair at the library Sept. 8th - Mary reported there were 20 volunteer sign ups that have been entered in the BPC database. Kristi will follow up with

- phone calls. Jane will create a form for next year with more specific volunteer information such as interests, dates and times available, etc.
- b. Volunteer Picnic - September 17th - There were 35 attendees. The picnic was a success and the prizes from business partners were well received. BPC plans to continue the Volunteer Picnic next year. Suggestions included a mike for Susan to improve voice projection and adding raw vegetables to the menu. Marty commented that this should be an annual event for the volunteers of the BPC.
 - c. Bike ride and hike - Marty and Nancy reported both events were successful.
2. Strategic Planning Meeting recap - next steps and deliverables - see October 2023 Board meeting folder.
 3. Septic system phosphorus study for summer 2023 - see #2 under new business.
 4. Ripples stories & focus - Ripples is scheduled to be released around Thanksgiving. The draft can be found in the Board folder with assignments regarding authors of various articles. The word limit per article is very helpful. Jane is requesting the stories by October 15th.
 5. Board recruitment - Marty and Nancy's terms are up for renewal next year. Both have completed two three year terms.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

Cameron Ferguson will participate in the Beechwood stormwater remediation project.

Business partners Peter Jensen of Terra Firma and Glen Ralston of Arborway Gardens have offered services for the Leland Road stormwater remediation project. These services will hopefully be used before they are no longer available.

Discussion ensued regarding the location of the adult education program for the Fall town meeting article regarding the Pond Management Plan. The Board decided the program should be held on Wednesday, November 1st at the Brewster Police Department or the Brewster Baptist Church. Mary will reserve the room.

The Board requests committees to submit their 2024 action plans and budgets for review at the November 2nd Board meeting so that we can vote on the budget at the December 7th board meeting.

Marty reported for the Citizen Science Committee that all ponds are in the acceptable category after the 10th sampling cycle.

Marcia reported that the Children's Pond Education Presentation at the Council on Aging on October 2nd had eight participants. Channel 8 filmed the presentation which included a mini puppet show. Jane requested a link to the video to post on the BPC website.

The board went into Executive Session. Jane Savio attended the session.

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments.
Susan will speak with Peter Lombardi tomorrow regarding the warrant.
John will consider additional property for the phosphorus study.
Committees must submit their action plans and budgets for review during the November meeting, to be voted on at the December 7th board meeting.
Ripples stories are due to Jane by October 15th.
- Next Board meeting - November 2, 2023 - Google Meet
- December meeting - December 7, 2023 - Google Meet
- January meeting - to be decided - may not take place
- February meeting - February 1, 2024 - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 8:04 PM

Submitted by:

Nancy Ortiz, Secretary