

MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, APRIL 1, 2021

Virtual meeting by Google Meet: Board Members present: Susan Bridges, Mary Mauterstock, Konrad Schultz, Cameron Ferguson, Nancy Ortiz, Wayne Jenkins, Gwen Pelletier, Marcia Kielb, Marty Burke, Rob Condon, Bruce Swiren

Meeting started: 6 PM

Standing Topics

- 1. Minutes for the March 4th, 2021 board meeting approved.**
- 2. Confirmed Email votes for Scholarship Proposal and Eversource letter.**
- 3. There was no incoming mail to report.**
- 4. Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Financial statements:**

Rob reported the current cash balance of \$109,000 and \$813 of March expenses. The year to date income is \$27,821 and the project reserve is \$45,000 as of 3/31/21. Once again, the cash receipts outpace expenses. Glenn from Arborway installed the Lower Mill Erosion plants at a reduced price due to the assistance of Nancy and Tony Ortiz. The reserve regarding investing funds in money market or low risk accounts is amended in the documents.

Approval of expenses and reimbursements:

There were no expenses to be approved.
- 5. Miscellaneous Administrative Matters.**
 - a. IRS Form 990** regarding volunteer hours must be completed in April. Rob will set up a spreadsheet to record the data.. All hours should be stated as accurately as possible since grants and potential hiring could be dependent on the results. Cameron mentioned that NEON has a great program for tracking volunteer hours. Committee chairs could input the data directly in NEON or pass the hours onto Cameron for recording. Board member hours should be kept separate from volunteer activity hours. Rob suggested posting the hours on the BPC website. May 15th is the Federal tax filing deadline.
 - b. DNR Storage:**

Susan is still waiting for a response from Chris Miller regarding a storage closet at the DNR for BPC use. She will follow up.
 - c. Calendar**

There is now a live, interactive calendar on the BPC website announcing upcoming events. Board members are welcomed to submit any events with the dates, times and a brief description to Konrad for addition to the Events Calendar.

New Business

- 1. Scholarship proposal - Marcia**

Per Marcia, one application has been received to date for the scholarship. The applicant is a college nursing student which does not meet the criteria for the scholarship. Bennett, who assisted with Pond Education technology, has recently been accepted to Northeastern University and intends to apply for the scholarship. Next year the board will revisit the scholarship rules. Mary agrees with Cameron that a long term plan is needed. Marcia also agreed that revisiting the criteria, applications, etc. next year will be a good idea. Having one year completed will help to enhance our Scholarship process.

2. **Volunteer Database** - Cameron

180 surveys were submitted and over 20 were returned. There are currently 42 registered volunteers. NEON can record volunteer hours by individual and also track events within the projects. NEON can be used to recruit volunteers for Brewster in Bloom, for example, as opposed to sending Email blasts to the entire membership database. In other words only those members that expressed an interest in a particular activity would be contacted. Konrad mentioned that depending on the situation, a combination of MailChimp email blasts and the discrete Neon emails to select groups may be a good way to go.

3. **Cape Compact Membership Level**

BPC has been a member of Cape Compact in the past but has never used the grant writing assistance that is available with membership. Cape Compact Membership levels are \$300 or \$1,500. Susan believes 20 hours of free assistance is available as part of the higher level membership and after 20 hours the cost is \$40 per hour. Konrad is currently doing research on grants from the Cape Cod 5, Fields Pond Association, The Kelley grant, and The Bangs Foundation. Per Konrad, grant proposals should be written for very specific projects. Health and education tie into BPC's mission. More information is needed regarding exactly what grant writing services are available for each membership level. Konrad will speak to Mark at Cape Compact regarding the details of membership levels. Mary Mauterstock suggested that applications for grants should be an outgrowth of specific goals of the BPC.

Current Priorities

1. **Committee Reports** - Written/verbal reports as needed.

a. **Pond Education** - Marcia

The 2nd grade puppet show and pond video are finished. Bennett is finalizing the 2nd book recording of Heidi Clemmer.

b. **Citizen Scientist** - Marty

Water testing will increase from 8 to 18 ponds this season. Marty anticipates having 6 or 7 teams with 3 participants per team. There will be a virtual training on May 22nd with an overview of cyanobacteria. Testing will likely begin May 24th or 31st. All volunteers need to be fully vaccinated to participate and wear masks and gloves. The ponds tested will have public landings, high public use, and historical cyanobacteria challenges. Aerosol testing will be completed along with water testing. Aerosol testing will be done at LMP and Walkers Pond. Greenland, Cobbs, Blueberry, and Pine ponds will likely be included in rotation.

The town's PALS testing is independent of BPC testing . Ryan Burch is unsure if BPC volunteers will be requested due to COVID.

Marty presented science reports to be announced and added to the BPC website.

2. Events

a. Pond Summit 4/10 - Wayne

There are 82 registered participants. Another blast will be sent prior to the event. Saturday 4/3, the pond summit group will have a Zoom meeting regarding the question and answer session after the presentation.

b. Beautify Brewster 4/17 - Nancy

Konrad will send a blast recruiting volunteers within the next week.. Nancy will submit a draft announcement to Konrad.

c. Herring Run Eco-Paddle 4/24 (rain date 4/25)

Remaining spots:

1 on the 9-11:30 AM paddle

4 on the 12:30-3 PM paddle.

d. Brewster in Bloom - 4/30, 5/1, and 5/2. - Susan

\$30 fee to be included on the trail map. Was not discussed at the board meeting.

e. Hydrangea Festival 7/13 and 7/14 - Mary

Five to six Brewster gardens will take part in the festival. Two BPC volunteers per garden will work in shifts and collect \$5 per visit to each garden. Marty will give BPC membership forms to Mary for interested participants to complete.

f. Annual Meeting - August 14th

Details to be discussed later.

3. Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships - Bruce and Marty

- a. Bruce received 15-20 responses from the pond association list. Bruce will attend the April 21st board meeting of the Indian Waters (Leland Road) Association. Marty plans to attend the meeting if he is back from Vermont. There is also a July Indian Waters annual meeting that Bruce may attend. There are two remaining Mill Ponds erosion projects. Both are off Leland Road and affect Upper Mill Pond.
- b. Marty suggested a business partnership with Struna Galleries in Brewster. Timothy Struna could design BPC logo cards with various Brewster pond scenes that could be sold at different locations around town. Artwork, cards, and other products featuring BPC and the Brewster ponds would be sold at Struna galleries and possibly through the BPC website. This could be a very viable "business partnership". We also could explore with Karen North Wells and Liz Perry, other artists in Brewster.

Executive session - Board Recruitment

Per Marty, Liz Perry currently has no time for the board but could be interested in the future.

Ann Jacobson from Seymour Pond is interested, however is currently active in the NJ Nature Conservatory. She could be a possibility at a later date.

Marty will meet with Tim Haggart and Bruce Johnson in April to discuss board member positions.

Mary suggested contacting Marty Lucenti for possible suggestions of board members.

Wrap up

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

The April 10th Pond Summit group will meet Saturday 4/3 regarding the question and answer session of the Pond Summit.

Susan will follow up with Chris Miller regarding storage space at the DNR.

Marty will contact potential board members.

Nancy will send draft announcement of Beautify Brewster to Konrad

Next Board Meeting - May 6, 2021 - Google Meet

June Board Meeting - June 3, 2021 - Google Meet?

July Board Meeting - July 1, 2021 - Google Meet?

Meeting adjourned 8:06 PM

Submitted by Nancy W. Ortiz, Clerk