

MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, MAY 6, 2021

Virtual meeting by Google Meet: Board Members present: Susan Bridges, Mary Mauterstock, Konrad Schultz, Cameron Ferguson, Nancy Ortiz, Wayne Jenkins, Gwen Pelletier, Marty Burke, Rob Condon, Bruce Swiren, Amy Darbyshire (left before executive session)
(Marcia on vacation)
Nancy left the meeting at 7 PM for a town forum and Gwen resumed minutes.

Meeting started: 6 PM

Standing Topics

- 1. Minutes for the April 1, 2021 board meeting approved - Nancy**
- 2. Confirmed Email vote for Brewster in Bloom \$30 - Nancy**
Short discussion ensued on whether it is necessary to vote on such a small item. Will be added to the budget next year so no vote will be necessary.
- 3. Incoming mail - Nancy:** Chubb insurance invoice for \$1,338, Chamber of Commerce membership fee invoice for \$150, 3 scholarship applications (Mary to elaborate)
- 4. Treasurer's Report - Rob:**
 - a. Financial statements (report in folder):**
April expenses were \$2,068. April income \$2,910 (Neon and check donations)
Robinwood account closed and will be deleted. No Lower Mill Pond expenses.
Annual income to date \$30,933 (62% of budget) and expenses to date \$7,682 (20% of budget). Crisis reserve remains untouched.
 - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements:**
There were no expenses to be approved.
 - c. Volunteer Hours - IRS Form 990** will be submitted Monday. Glivinski and Associates will prepare and submit the form for \$350 and take care of any ensuing issues. Discussion ensued regarding what to include in the board hours. Should teamwork hours (for example: the LM erosion project, Pond Education, Business Partnerships, Beautify Brewster) be included? The consensus was yes. Discussion ensued regarding using NEON to track volunteer hours. Cameron will evaluate NEON regarding the ease or difficulty of entering hours and, should the board decide to use NEON, if training will be needed. Cameron believes BPC should be consistent regarding using NEON to track hours. In other words, all board members should use NEON should the board decide to go that route. Rob volunteered to provide oversight and Marty mentioned that committee chairs should be responsible to track volunteer hours of committee members.
- 5. Miscellaneous Administrative Matters.**
Susan recommended BPC apply for a credit card via Cape Cod 5. Rob suggested the board should get two credit cards - one for the President and one for the Treasurer.

Executive session - Board Recruitment

Nancy will continue as Clerk and Assistant Treasurer for another year.

Rob will continue as Treasurer next year.

Bruce will continue as Pond Group Outreach next year.

Marty will continue as Membership or Citizen Science chair for another year, however, would like to train a replacement for one of those positions as chairing both positions is very time consuming. The decision is that Marty will Chair Membership for the next cycle - 2021-2022 and then turn over to Mary. A new Chair for Citizen Science for 2022 will need to be named.

Mary is interested in chairing Membership in the future.

Susan will continue as president for one more year and is interested in chairing Citizen Scientist after she is no longer president.

Cameron would like to help Susan with Citizen Scientist in the future and intends to be more active on the Citizen Scientist committee this summer.

Gwen and Wayne's terms will end in August. Wayne may rejoin the board at some point in the future.

Konrad has one more year as vice president and would like to do grant writing once he has left the board. Susan mentioned that Konrad was valuable in training and assisting the president.

All board members agreed that recruitment is needed and there are a few candidates that will soon be pursued. Gwen mentioned that when the board was created, varying term limits were established so that all board members did not resign in the same year. Once BPC was established, three year terms became standard. Discussion ensued regarding changing the bylaws to accommodate situations such as previous board members returning to the board at some point and board members not being limited to strict three year term limits. (It is possible that Board members can return to the Board after their terms have expired. Need to read the bylaws.)

7 PM - Gwen resumed the minutes.

New Business

1. Student researcher:

Susan Bridges presented a proposal to the Board for engagement of a student for the summer to provide research on the possibility of "Floating Wetlands" for treatment of unhealthy ponds. She and Tom Vautin have been discussing this as a BPC project, first introduced to the Board several months ago.

They have met with a likely candidate and are proposing a summer position for 100 hours at \$20 an hour. The Board discussed the proposal and asked that Susan provide more information to the Board to be reviewed for consideration prior to the next Board meeting, information to include a description of the work. There was a board suggestion that there should be consideration of other possible candidates. Susan agreed to send an outline of the proposal that has been developed.

2. PALS report

Konrad shared with the Board a brief history of data collection through the PALS program (PONDS AND LAKES STEWARDS) in coordination with the Brewster DNR and SMAST, UMASS, Dartmouth that has been conducted since 2001. There has been no report on the data collected since 2009. A request was made in 2018 to Ed Eichner, the primary researcher through SMAST to update the data. Konrad pointed out that the proposal is broken into three levels of work and cost. Copy included in the Board package.

Board discussed options and concluded that BPC should request a meeting with Chris Miller, Director of the Department of Natural Resources to discuss approaching Ed Eichner to obtain a report using the raw data available since 2009. Susan and Konrad will schedule a meeting with Chris.

3. Water Department

Susan reported to the Board that she has scheduled a meeting with Paul Anderson, Water Department Director.

Current Priorities

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

a. Pond Group Outreach - Bruce

Bruce shared that he has had no response/follow-up from the Pond Summit. He has followed up with Andy Bartow relative to a neighborhood association proposal for remediation on Upper Mill Pond. They are attempting to get a proposal from John O'Reilly but have not connected yet. Bruce is also working with Conservation Agent Noelle Aquiar to obtain a list of contractors who have worked with the Conservation Department on waterfront projects.

Board also discussed how to reach pond and neighborhood organizations with the assistance, in particular the grant program, available to them from BPC. Agreed to hold a "Strategy Session" to discuss/plan. Following Board members agreed to participate: Wayne, Konrad, Bruce, Mary, Susan.

b. Pond Education - recognition of Tom and Shirley Vautin

Mary shared that the Committee is in the final stages of the virtual program through videos with teachers. More details at the next Board Meeting. She made particular reference to the participation and amount of work done by Shirley and Tom Vautin. The Committee would like a special recognition of the two of them.

c. Scholarships - Mary announced that there were 4 applications, all from Nauset..

The Committee has selected (Name shared with Board, but not included in minutes in order to avoid situation that name could become public.)

Announcements are not made until awards day for Nauset, June 3.

There was significant Board discussion about the student getting the award/announcement at the ceremony but required to complete the semester

and submit grades to BPC before getting funds. Mary reported that the committee had followed the procedure of other awards. Board agreed for Mary to obtain specific information from HS counselors and report info back to the Board. Board also agreed to discuss the process prior to the award process next year.

d. **Citizen Scientist** - Marty

Marty referred the Board to a detailed report submitted in a package for the meeting.

He noted that there will be testing this year for cyanobacteria at 18 ponds. He added further that APCC has agreed to the Memo of Understanding between the two organizations. He has a planned meeting in early June with Amy Von Hone, Department of Health, and Chris Miller, DNR about coordinating the process for posting warning, if/when there are indications of cyanobacteria at high levels of concern.

1. **Events:** Reviewed/reminded of following events

- a. **Pond Summit 4/10** - Wayne: Well attended; good virtual presentation
- b. **.Beautify Brewster 4/17** - Nancy, Smaller group than previous years, but good given COVID.
- c. **Herring Run Eco-Paddle 4/24 (rain date 4/25):** multiple reschedules! Because of weather conditions. Looks like "a go" for this coming weekend.
- d. **Brewster in Bloom** - Susan At Brewster Book Store
- e. **Hydrangea Festival 7/9 and 7/10** - Mary: wrong dates: July 13 & 14
Need 2 helpers am and pm, both days. Mary to coordinate.
- f. **Annual Meeting - August 14th**
Restaurant at Captain's Course not available; No events being scheduled this summer. Discussion re: a possible other location. Possibly Brewster Baptist Church. Large enough locations not in Brewster. Mary to check with the BBC. Consideration of virtual again, as done this past year.
Susan has a few ideas for speakers from workshops she has attended over the past few months. Will share with the Board next meeting.

Wrap up

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

Susan Bridges: Speaker for ANNUAL MEETING: Student "Floating Wetland" proposal
Mary: Check with Brewster Baptist Church re: Annual Meeting; Scholarship info
Bruce, Wayne, Konrad, Mary, Susan: Strategy/brainstorming re: reaching out to Pond groups.
Konrad: promoting grants for pond groups. Create a "grant site"

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

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

August Board Meeting - August 5, 2021 - Google Meet?

Meeting adjourned 8:00PM

Submitted by Nancy W. Ortiz, Clerk and Gwen Pelletier, Board Member