

## Minutes, Brewster Ponds Coalition, September 2, 2021

**Virtual meeting by Google Meet: Board members present: Susan Bridges, Nancy Ortiz, Marty Burke, Rob Condon, Marcia Kielb, Cameron Ferguson, Konrad Schultz, Mary Mauterstock, John Keith**

### Standing Topics

1. **Minutes of the August 5th Board Meeting approved** - Nancy
2. **Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings (if any)** - Nancy
  - a. John Keith unanimously elected to BPC Board!
3. **Incoming mail (if any)** - Rob/others
  - a. Update from Cape Cod Commission regarding open space - BPC supported the recommendation that the Cape Cod Commission include Recreational Open Spaces in their planning. Changes to the town bylaws will take into consideration the potential purchase of the Cape Cod Sea Camp properties. BPC has been invited to ask questions and make suggestions regarding Recreational Open Space.
  - b. Invitation to attend a webinar on Sept. 15th re: the new generation of enhanced I/A septic systems - Susan has encouraged board members to sign up. (see August 25th Email from Susan)
  - c. Cape Cod Compact grants for land purchases - Per Susan, two grants for a total of \$450K were awarded to two Cape Cod towns for land purchases.
4. **Treasurer's report** - Rob
  - a. Financial statements - August donations totaled \$2,200 and expenses were \$576. The balance as of 8/31 is \$113K. Elbow Pond balance was decreased by \$775 for the Damsel fly study. The year-to-date income increase of \$40,829 represents 81% of the budget and expenses of \$15K represents 39% of the budget. There is an upcoming expense of \$6K for the UNH aerosol study. \$25K remains in the crisis fund and \$49K in the project reserve.
  - b. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. **Misc. administrative matters** - All
  - a. Election of new officers - the following officers were unanimously elected:  
Susan Bridges - President  
John Keith - Vice President  
Rob Condon - Treasurer  
Nancy Ortiz - Clerk
  - b. Update board contact info - Susan requested all board members to update their contact information found in the Board Resources folder. She also suggested adding board phone numbers into personal cell phones.
  - c. Update Inventory spreadsheet - Susan requested all board members review and update the inventory spreadsheet found in the Board Resources folder.
  - d. Library display - Susan and Nancy set up a BPC display at the library on August 1st. Susan removed the display on August 31st. Per Susan there were requests for additional Pond Guides.

### New Business:

1. **Brewster stormwater management bylaw and regulations** - An Email was received from Ryan Bennett, Town Planner, suggesting BPC review the stormwater management bylaws. Susan picked up a copy of this very long report from town hall. Susan, per Konrad's suggestion, will ask the town to send the document electronically for the board to review.
2. **Cape Cod Trout Unlimited speaker request** - A short discussion ensued regarding BPC's lack of support for stocking freshwater ponds with trout and other non-native species and therefore questioning the wisdom of sending a speaker to a future meeting. Numerous stocked ponds have experienced cyanobacteria blooms. Brewster has no jurisdiction over Nickerson State Park which has been stocking Cliff Pond with non-native fish for the past several years (and also has had numerous cyanobacteria blooms). Sheep Pond has been stocked in the past, however, no remediation is currently needed. CC Trout Unlimited has funds available for pond cleanup projects. Rob was hesitant to "dismiss this" request for a speaker. Susan has volunteered to speak to this group should the board approve. Marty mentioned Ron Essig, who has been active in BPC's Citizen Scientist program and previously worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and has been a past member of the American Fishery Society, as a possible resource for this issue.

## **Current Priorities**

### **1. Strategic planning and goal setting for the new term**

Review next steps (outline in board folder) - The board agreed the Strategic Meeting should be held on Thursday, 9/23 from 9 AM to 12 PM at Rob Condon's house. Susan is requesting all board members work on setting long and short term goals before the meeting and, in addition, to create individual committee action plans. This information will be discussed at the meeting. The plans will be reviewed, revised and budgeted at the October board meeting and the budget will be adopted at the November board meeting.

Review current committee organization - The following are committee leaders:

**Citizen Scientist** - Marty

**Pond Education** - Marcia

**Communications** - Konrad - will eventually need to transition to another leader. (Konrad is interested in working on grants in the future.)

**Development and Fundraising** - Konrad and Susan. Susan will continue working on business partners with a preference of concentrating on those that donate large amounts.

**Membership** - Marty with assistance from Mary, Susan, Cameron, and Bob Bullard. The goal is to have an eventual transition of leadership.

**Volunteer Coordinator** - will be part of Membership

**Events** - Mary

**Pond Outreach and Remediation** - John Keith

### **2. Events**

a. **Annual Meeting Recap** - All agreed the Annual Meeting was a success. Susan mentioned the importance of doing a write-up after an event to facilitate planning future events (i.e. food purchases, facility rentals, etc.)

- b. **Bike ride 9/2** has been postponed to Friday 9/3 by Marty due to bad weather on 9/2
- c. **Pond walk 9/18** - Gwen is unable to lead so Susan and Nancy volunteered. The walk takes place at Sheep Pond.
- d. **Eco Paddle - Quivett Creek 10/17** - Marty will greet the group.

**Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships** - Updates as needed

- a. **Elbow Pond** - The damsel study has been completed and harvesting has been scheduled for September 8th, 9th, and 10th.
- b. **Other** - none

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

- a. **Communications** - The quarterly newsletter is due 9/20. Rob will do a write-up on storm water remediation. He videoed the Lower Mill runoff erosion basin runoff during the Wednesday and Thursday hurricane and was pleased with the results. Ripples articles are due prior to the 10/20 press deadline.
- b. **Citizen Science** - see report in folder - Per Marty, ponds are tested Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday every other week and results are published Thursday and Friday.. Hailey Carter's aerosol testing has been completed. UNH will now analyze the data. Marty attended the two-day "One Cape Summit" hosted by the Cape Cod Commission from 8/23 to 8/24. Three key areas of the Commission interests are climate change, housing, and water quality. 400-500 mostly coastal locations are tested. Janet McCabe from the EPA spoke. BPC was mentioned as a non-profit leader in the eco-environment.
- c. **Membership** - Marty ~~—see report in folder - see report in folder~~  
Christie Boskus' Yoga on the Beach program has raised \$835.  
The Pond Protection campaign led by Meghan Taylor to generate individual responsibility/awareness and revenue for BPC has raised \$34040+ to date. The participants ~~pledge-edpledge:~~ to not use fertilizer, pump septic tanks as needed, decrease phosphate usage, etc. and receive ~~eede~~ a sticker ~~and lawn sign and lawn sign~~ to post for their ~~pledge. The participants who make the pledge also have their monies donated to BPC~~ participation and they become BPC members. ~~ledge. The participants who make the pledge also have their monies donated to BPC and they become BPC members.~~  
Marty has developed 2022 financial and new member goals. The 2021 campaign goal has been increased from \$64K to \$72K.

**Executive Session**

**Wrap-up**

- **Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments:**  
**Strategic meeting to be held 9/23 - John, Cameron, and Susan will do outline**  
**Officers were elected**  
**Committees chairs and assistants were decided**

**Trout Unlimited speaker to be decided**

- **Next Board Meeting - October 7, 2021 - Google Meet**
- **November Board meeting - November 4, 2021 - Google Meet**
- **December Board Meeting - December 2, 2021 - Google Meet**

Meeting adjourned 8:14 PM

Submitted by Nancy Ortiz, Clerk