

## Minutes, Brewster Ponds Coalition, September 5, 2019

Board members present: Marty Burke, Rob Condon, Wayne Jenkins, Steve McKenna, Nancy Ortiz, Gwen Pelletier, Judy Pirani, Sue Searles, Konrad Schultz, Tom Vautin.

All documents referenced are available upon request.

### **Standing Topics**

- ❖ Minutes of August 1, 2019 and of August 10, 2019 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved. Sue Searles asked that in future minutes and all reports, we clarify which “Susan” by adding last names, now that we have two Susans on Board.
- ❖ Treasurer’s Report
  - Financial Reports for BPC, Friends of Elbow Pond, and Blueberry/Sols Pond were unanimously approved as submitted
  - The following expenses were approved
    - Judy Piranni, Business cards for new Board members \$62.50
    - Sue Searles, Splash award certificate frame \$5.99
    - Tom Vautin, printing of brochures \$42.00

### **Current Priorities**

- ❖ Election of Officers  
After a discussion of transitioning, as terms begin to expire from the founding board members to an expanded board with new members, the following officers were elected unanimously:

Co-Presidents: Susan Bridges and Steve McKenna

Vice President: Konrad Schultz

Treasurer: Tom Vautin

Assistant Treasurer: Rob Condon

Secretary: Gwen Pelletier

Assistant Secretary: Nancy Ortiz

Board members expressed their appreciation to Tom Vautin for his excellent leadership during the past four years, leading us in creating our Strategic Plan, developing annual plans based on the strategic plan and in establishing strong relationships within the community.

After the election. Co-President Steve McKenna began presiding over the meeting. (Note: Co-president Susan Bridges was not attending the meeting due to a previously scheduled trip; she had, however, agreed in advance to the co-president term)

- ❖ Annual Meeting: Board members debriefed the annual meeting with the following observations
  - Well attended; Highest number ever - 85 attendees
  - Positives and negatives with speakers
    - Topic one of high level of interest
    - Content was a mix of high level scientific and speaking to level of members without a scientific background
    - Future should ask science oriented speakers to remember many of our members do not have scientific backgrounds
    - Powerpoint presentations were difficult. Suggest making sure powerpoint presentations are prepared and screened by a Board member before day of event and that all technology is in proper working order.
  - Good to have elegant container for donations on the check in table
  - Use of “Fish tablecloth” added to the decor
  - Food service excellent
  - Check in with name tags ready eased arrivals
  - Folks hanging around after end of meeting for conversations among themselves and with speakers.
  
- ❖ Citizen Science/Cyanobacteria Monitoring Update: Marty and Gwen submitted a written report
  - Report included results of testing results for ponds, indicating levels of cyanobacteria as high, moderate, low, or advisory. Only one pond, Walker, had high results and advisory. As a result of that high level, the Town Board of Health posted an ADVISORY, indicating that citizens should be aware of the possibility that toxins could be harmful to small children and dogs.
  - Posting of advisory led to discussion of who is responsible for action in the case of high levels. Conclusion that it is local Board of Health and the MA Dept of Public Health.
  - BPC also posted the ADVISORY to subscribers and donors via MailChimp campaign.
  - Board of Health invited APCC to make presentation as the Board begins to educate itself about the issues around Cyanobacteria. BPC Board members Tom Vautin, Marty Burke, and Gwen Pelletier attended
  - Aerosol testing project with UNH ended on September 6.
  - Cyanobacteria testing project continues to October 7.
  - Aerosol project testing results should be available in October.

- BPC Citizen Scientist team will meet with Nancy Leland to debrief on season results and begin planning for the 2020 season.

❖ Annual Operating Plan

- Tom had included in the Board Package a copy of the Operating Plan February 2019 to review activities for 2019-2020.
- Board agreed to the importance of developing operating plan each year after Annual Meeting
- Agenda for the October meeting to include developing a plan for the current year.

❖ RIPPLES

Judy provided two documents outlining the process for developing RIPPLES for publication in November and the timeline for each of the steps to be taken. She reviewed the steps with us and emphasized the importance of our beginning early and meeting deadlines as we participate in each of the steps. The plan is to have the document to the printer in mid October and mailing the week prior to Thanksgiving.

❖ FALL NEWSLETTER

Judy provided a list of potential articles and reviewed with Board..  
Deadline for articles from writers is September 15.

❖ ROBINWOOD ASSOCIATION, OWL POND project

- The Association sent a copy of the NOI submitted to the Conservation Commission for permission to proceed with their proposal
- Following a Board discussion about the proposed project, Board members concluded that it would be helpful for a committee to make a site visit and meet with the Association members involved with the project. The purpose of such a meeting to be
  - See the erosion currently a problem
  - Review the proposed solution
  - Talk about the cost of the project and the Association's fundraising to date
  - Discuss the BPC requirements for providing a restricted account for donations to the Robinwood - Owl Pond project.
  - Tom will coordinate meeting with Board members who are available.

❖ OTHER WORKING GROUP REPORTS

- Membership: Marty submitted a written report
- Fundraising: Konrad indicated that he and Susan Bridges will be meeting with local businesses over the next few weeks.
- Projects and Partnerships:
  - Tom reported that volunteers from BPC once again participated in the logistics of managing equipment for the DNR PALS twice yearly water sampling program
- Tom also reported that he and Marty will be meeting with staff from NEON, our new database program, to fine tune our use of the software
- Konrad reported that BPC has had an inquiry about looking at an erosion problem on Slough Pond from Red Top Road. In response he suggested that they have a neighborhood meeting. Konrad and Wayne agreed to meet with neighbors, two of whom are already BPC members: Sue Spencer and Janice Ryley

Next Meeting: October 3, 2019.

Submitted by:  
Gwen Pelletier, Secretary