

## MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, April 4, 2019

Board Members Present: Wayne Jenkins, Nancy Ortiz, Gwen Pelletier, Judy Pirani, Tom Vautin, Dawn Walnut. Konrad Schultz by Skype. Marty Burke by phone

All documents referenced are available on request.

### **STANDING TOPICS**

- ❖ Minutes of March meeting were approved unanimously
- ❖ Unanimous Confirmation of the following email vote:
  - Approval to be included as a sponsor for the Environmental Town Hall on April 13 featuring Representative Sarah Peake and Senator Julian Cyr.
- ❖ Treasurer's report
  - Board voted unanimously to approve February Financial Reports as presented for BPC, Friends of Elbow Pond, and Blueberry/Sols Pond accounts.
  - Board approved purchase of 75 Brewster Ponds Coalition Hats @ \$9.85 each

### **CURRENT PRIORITIES**

- ❖ **POND SUMMIT PLAN: Wayne and Tom reported**
  - June 29 at Brewster Baptist Church
  - 9:00 to 11:00 AM, light refreshments--coffee, pastries, fruit
  - Purpose: Educate, Motivate, Network
  - Topic: Neighborhood Association actions
    - John Keith, Elbow Pond
    - Jim Moynihan, Seymour Pond
    - Blueberry Pond, speaker to be determined
    - BPC Citizen Science Program, Gwen Karen M-B and/or Bryan Horsley
  - Displays: Barnstable County Septic; BPC Citizen Science
  - Pre-e-mailing: Save the Date to Pond and Neighborhood Associations
    - Open announcement closer to date to general membership

❖ **Cape & Islands Water Protection Fund: House Bill 4841**

Tom introduced the topic. This is the bill in State Legislature that created a tax on seasonal rental units and included an additional tax of 2.75% by Towns for creation of the Cape & Islands Water Protection District, funds to be used for water protection projects. Towns may opt out of implementing this tax.

Discussion by Board included following:

- There appears to be some resistance to Brewster participating
- Law allows use of funds for upgraded septic systems
- BoH has been considering attempts in that direction
- BPC supports that effort for properties abutting ponds
- Opportunity for BPC to make a statement in support
- Agreed all listen to comments around Town at this point
- Put item on agenda for continued discussion

❖ **Lower Mill Pond Erosion:**

➤ Nancy shared with Board that there is a serious erosion down a bank into Lower Mill Pond. She has had conversations with a couple of neighbors who are concerned and interested in resolving the problem. Discussion by Board included following suggestions:

- Neighbors need to be involved; convene meeting
- BPC could help with education
- Will need an engineer to develop design
- Call John O'Reilly for preliminary review of site
- Invite current interested neighbors to attend Pond Summit in June
- Possibility of John Keith to attend neighborhood meeting

❖ **CRM plan & progress:**

➤ Marty presented a written report which outlined steps being taken.

Board discussion included:

- Team continuing to review and narrow to 3
- Issues of importance include ability to merge with MailChimp
- Agenda for May Board meeting with recommendation from Team

### ❖ **Responding to Inquiries**

- Agreement that we need system; recently entire Board was getting all inquiries or offers to volunteer;
- Agreement on system:
  - Konrad receives initial inquiry
  - Konrad will send to membership team: Dawn, Marty, Nancy
  - Membership team will determine which of them forwards to appropriate Board member
  - Tom and Konrad will set up this arrangement
  - Judy inquired who would receive responses for Beautify Brewster. Agreed Sue Searles is appropriate person

### ❖ **Citizen Science**

- Marty and Gwen submitted two written reports; Summary of plans with samplers and communication of plans for collaboration with APCC. In addition following comments were shared.
  - Program will begin in May, both water sampling as previous and new Aerosol sampling.
  - APCC will create WEBMAP of project to be shared with BPC
  - Tom, Gwen, and new volunteer Sherri Townsend will attend APCC workshop on April 5 re Cyanobacteria.

### ❖ **Fundraising updates**

- Konrad shared activities of committee
  - Assembling packages for meeting with businesses
  - Meeting initially with some businesses for guidance in how to approach businesses
  - Particularly seeking sponsors for POND BOOKLET, to be renamed BREWSTER POND GUIDE
  - Judy is coordinating content
  - Goal to have ready before July 4
  - Booklet will be 24 to 28 pages. Estimated cost \$1,300 for 2,000.

- Catherine Diao has offered to host party in July
  - Her home is on Sheep Pond
  - Invite approximately 25 people, neighbors and high end donors
  - Thank you and more information
  - Have a speaker, perhaps George Heufelder
- Konrad also indicated he has information about webinars that would be of interest to Board members that address issues helpful to non profits. He will forward links to Board.

❖ **Board recruiting and succession**

- Board had a lengthy discussion of possible new board members
- Agreement to reach out to several peoples
- Reminder to look in Membership Folder and add to list

❖ **Other Working Group Progress Reports**

- Compact of Conservation Trusts Board Meeting
  - Gwen attended Board meeting representing BPC.
    - She reported that the significant discussion was about Utilities approaching Conservation Trusts about the possibility of Utilities purchasing land for solar panels and then turning it over to Conservations Trusts and/or making agreements to place solar panels on existing conservation trusts. The consensus was that in either case, they would be cutting down trees and a resounding NO!
- Membership
 

The committee (Dawn, Marty, Nancy) submitted a written report.

  - Marty added that the statistics on the report help set targets for next year's appeal.
  - Agreement to use hats to give volunteers as a thank you.
  - For Beautify Brewster, agreement to give the oval BREWSTER PONDS COALITION bumper stickers

➤ Communication

- Judy thanked contributors for articles in newsletter. Konrad thanked Judy for her “solo” coordination of it. Board concurred!
- She shared that open rate was 48%
- She is contacting the Tech School to seek help with revising the Web Page

➤ Projects and Partnerships

- Elbow Pond project has filed the NOI for the project. The hearing is scheduled for April 16.
- Brewster Volunteer team. 10 BPC members have volunteered to assist DNR with the PALs program, being part of a team to issue and receive equipment from teams doing the testing in ponds and also driving the samples to Bourne for testing of the samples at SMAST.
- Tom participated in the Town’s MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS workshop for preparing for climate change, attended by Town departments and organizations in Town..

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 2, 2019**

**Submitted by,  
Gwen Pelletier, Secretary**