

## MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, August 6, 2020

Board members present. Virtual meeting by Google Meet: Susan Bridges, Marty Burke, Jack Clark, Rob Condon, Cameron Ferguson, Wayne Jenkins, Mary Materstock, Nancy Ortiz, Gwen Pelletier, Sue Searles, Konrad Schultz, Tom Vautin. Also present: Amy Darbyshire, Communications Committee

All documents referenced are available on request.

### **Standing Topics**

- ❖ Minutes for July 2 unanimously approved.
- ❖ Treasurer's Report
  - Report approved unanimously as presented.
  - Rob reported that he and George Thurber, assistant Treasurer, are still finalizing details of their coordination during the winter months when Rob is living in New Orleans.
  - Board approved a \$100 gift card to Dan Goldstein for his assistance with setting up the Annual Meeting electronically. Wayne Jenkins to purchase a gift card and be reimbursed.
- ❖ Administrative Matters
  - Brewster Conservation Trust: Susan reported that she had met with Hal Minis relative to his disappointment that the BPC did not suggest to our members to contribute to BCT's purchase of the Slough Road property because of its proximity to Slough Pond. Board members agreed to further discuss this issue at an "off site meeting" being scheduled for September. Board noted that we do have a good cooperative relationship with BCT and want to maintain it.
  - Pond Associations: Board discussed how BPC supports neighborhood pond associations and agreed the process needs to be clarified. Items include accepting donations on behalf of associations in restricted accounts, publicity, support for events. Agreement this is an item for further discussion and decisions at "off site meeting" in September.

## **Current Priorities**

- ❖ **Board Recruitment:**“Off site meeting” in September to discuss committees and roles for 2020-2021.
  - At Susan’s house on 9/12. Rain date 9/13
  - Tent
  - 8:30 to 12:30 Coffee,etc 8:30; Lunch 12:00
- ❖ **Upcoming Events**
  - Annual Meeting: Saturday, August 8. Wayne reported that Virtual Zoom is ready. Copy is in Board Package and can be reviewed
    - Time 1 hour 6 minutes
    - Amy Darbyshire doing publicity
    - 83 responses to date
    - Thanks to Wayne, Konrad, Marty for assistance
  - Eco Paddles: Set for 8/22 daytime; evening 9/19. Time to be scheduled and publicized.
  - Native Plant and Alternative Lawn workshop.
    - Crocker Nursery, 9/9.10-12. Susan B and M Materstock to help coordinate.
- ❖ **Committee Reports**
  - Communications: Konrad and Amy.
    - Judy Pirani thanked Amy and Konrad for accepting responsibility and doing an excellent job of the newsletter when she was dealing with medical issues.
    - Business cards for new Board members have arrived and Konrad will distribute to them.
    - Newsletter released. Thank you Amy.
    - Link to the annual meeting for attendance will be sent to all respondents on Friday am 8/7.
    - Planning for RIPPLES 2021 has begun. Written outline available. Goal to have completed mailing prior to Thanksgiving.

➤ Citizen Science: Marty and Gwen. Written report available.

Marty summarized key issues

- Continue to get calls from members who notice issues about “their pond”, recently for Myricks, Cobbs, Griffiths. Marty and/or APCC responded with site visits  
No issues at these ponds.
- Regular testing at Seymour Pond by APCC indicated a high level of cyanobacteria. The agreed upon process for possible notice followed: APCC and BPC reported to Health Agent Amy Hone, BPC, and neighborhood association leader Bob Melia at Highland Association. There is no Brewster Public Town Landing on Seymour Pond. Therefore, Brewster is not responsible for posting and advisory. Marty assisted the Neighborhood Association Leaders in developing the advisory that was posted by Associations. Because Seymour Pond is shared by Brewster and Harwich, Amy Hone informed Harwich Health Agent.
- Aerosol Program 2019-2020 program. Complete report is in files. Marty has had conversations with Dr. Haney who has agreed to prepare a video for posting on our website about the project and what was learned.
- Elbow Pond. Neighborhood Association harvested weeds from July 7 to 14. BPC Citizen Scientist assisted with transferring pond plants from harvester to trailer for delivery to the recycling center. 36,000 pound of macrophytes resulted in 3 ½ pounds of phosphorus being removed. Another harvest is scheduled for September. BPC will request volunteers to assist again.
- Food Web Study: Being conducted by Nancy Leland, Lim-Tex and UNH. BPC supports funds for analysis of samples. Gwen and Mary assisting with taking samples

every 2 weeks. Project will analyse samples taken for phytoplankton and cyanobacteria.

- ❖ Membership: Marty. Written report submitted.
  - Mary Materstock to join Marty on Committee
  - New membership/donation year begins August 1.
  - Marty sent packages to 16 high donors: hat, sticker, RIPPLES, and POND GUIDE.
  
- ❖ Fundraising/Development
  - Susan B reported that we have a new Business Partner, Glen Ralston, Arbor Way Gardens
  
- ❖ Pond Education; Sue Searles
  - School program on hold until we know what is happening with the school system this year.
  - Karen Malkus-Benjamin recorded a video for BCT to use as a BPC presentation for Conservation Day, which was canceled due to COVID 19. BCT will use recording when it presents a Virtual Conservation Day. Sue S is arranging for BPC to obtain a copy for posting on our website.
  
- ❖ **Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships**
  - Lower Mill Pond; Nancy Ortiz and Rob Condon
    - Board congratulated the team on making this job happen!
    - Funds: \$900 donations; \$1,400 from yard sale.
    - Peter Johnson was a great help with getting rid of leftovers from Yard Sale. Town did not charge for disposal of leftovers
    - Neighborhood member, Matt Sturgis was a big help. Glenn Ralston, ArborWay Gardens, used his Bobcat to dig the trench and basin. Still to do: Plantings and Fences

- Plantings: Suggestions from Noel Aquiar, Conservation Administrator and Crocker Nursery.

- ❖ Elbow Pond

- See info in Citizen Science Report above
- Mary Matterstock shared observations of pond abutters. Seeing more turtles, fish, dragonflies, and damsel flies.
- National Heritage required pre harvesting report of flora and fauna and will require one after the project is completed.
- BPC is interested in being able to report documented positive changes.

- ❖ Robinwood Pond: Marty in contact with Neighborhood leaders

- Project slowed down due to COVID by both the town and the project construction team. Slowly getting back on track.
- Photo in Board Package shows decking and stairs
- Erosion and runoff still to be addressed. \$3,500 allocated from project funds especially to address those issues

## **WRAP-UP**

Review of plans for “off site board meeting”

Date: September 12 or rain date September 13

8:30 to 12:00 with pre-meeting coffee and lunch

At Susan Bridges’ House

Focus on planning for next year

Review previously developed Strategic Plan

Plan on leadership of projects, committees

Consider scalability of projects

Susan to organize and send out memo with documents to be reviewed prior to meeting.

Next Board meeting: September 3, 2020, Google Meet.

Submitted by,  
Gwen Pelletier, Secretary