

Minutes, Brewster Ponds Coalition, December 12, 2019

Board members present: Susan Bridges, Marty Burke, Nancy Ortiz, Gwen Pelletier, Sue Searles, Tom Vautin, Konrad Schultz by telephone.

Copies of referenced documents are available on request.

STANDING TOPICS

- Minutes of November 7, 2019 Board meeting were approved unanimously
- Confirmation by Board of letter to Chris Miller, DNR re BPC concerns re use of alum in freshwater ponds. BPC response to alum use in Upper Mill Pond and possible use elsewhere.
- Incoming mail. Contributions in response to Fundraising letter mailed in November.
- Treasurer's reports were accepted unanimously
 - Following expenses and request for reimbursement were approved:
 - Marty Burke \$111.57 Materials for meeting with "Falmouth Watershed Association"
 - Nancy Ortiz \$165.00 Stamps for mailing Thank You Letters to donors
 - Susan Searles \$11.87 for name tags

CURRENT PRIORITIES

- **Operating Plan.** Reviewed the plan and updated for 2019-2020. Recognized that this is a "living document" which may be adjusted from time to time during the year. Of particular note during the discussion:
 - Determining leaders and time tables for projects
 - Publication of the POND BOOKLET by Memorial Day. Need for distribution through Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Center and for inclusion in "Take home bags" for School Pond Education Program.
- **2020 Budget.** Tom presented a draft for review
 - Board members had reviewed prior to the meeting. Discussed adjustments. Tom will provide revision for approval at January Board meeting based on comments.
 - Based on positive response to date with recent mailing, anticipate \$36,000. Discussion to project \$38,000 income for 2020 budget
 - Budget amount for other pond projects. Possible small amount to help jump start projects as we did with Elbow.

- **Fundraising.** Susan and Konrad shared the package developed for recruiting Business Partnerships GOOD FOR BREWSTER, GOOD FOR YOUR BUSINESS. Susan has begun establishing a schedule for meeting with local businesses to ask for sponsorships at 4 different levels. POND HERO, \$1,000; POND SAVER, \$500; POND SPONSOR, \$250; POND BOOSTER, \$100. Board congratulated committee on plan and beginning to approach businesses..
- **Website Redesign.** Judy and Konrad thanked Board members who have responded to committee request for review of options for redesign of website and emphasized that feedback is important. Goal is to create a new “Home Page” within the next 60 days.. Posted in the package was a draft of some options. With feedback, Judy, Konrad, and the committee will continue to fine tune the new website.
- **Communications.** Judy reviewed the list of topics for the Winter Newsletter and thanked those who have volunteered to write the articles. Board agreed on inclusion going forward of “Pond Health Tips”
- **Membership.** Marty submitted an update, as of 12/11/2019 for the “Call out strategy” to donors. In early January, he will begin calling and emailing thank you and reminders. He and Tom noted that the amount of the average donation has increased and response to date is quite positive.
- **Events.** Discussion of planned events and other possibilities
 - March Volunteer Fair. Agreed
 - Pond Summit . Reconsidered decision not to hold this year. Voted to proceed with “Pond Association Pond Summit”. End of June. Tom and Marty offered to organize. Nancy will coordinate food. Request use of Brewster Baptist Church.
 - Annual Meeting. August 8. Consider speaker on topic of “Effect of Climate Change on Ponds”. Possibility Tim Smith, from Cape Cod National Seashore. Konrad volunteered to contact him.
 - Weed Identification workshop? In the fall?
 - Possible ECO Paddle, similar to previous one on Upper Mill Pond.
- **Other Working Group Progress Reports**

- Education. Sue Searles submitted a written report, summarizing a recent committee meeting and plans for the 2022 year. She noted that there are four new committee members. She also informed the Board that we need to purchase new “Take home bags” and also noted that they are used for other events so the order needs to be large enough to accommodate other “give aways”. Perhaps 1,000.
- Citizen Science. Marty and Gwen submitted written reports.
 - Summary of history of pond testing program
 - Review with APCC of 2019 season and planning for 2020
 - Review of “Aerosol Program” with UNH/Lim-Tex and discussions receiving results of lab analyses of the aerosol samples and beginning to plan for season 2020.
 - Summaries for each of the results of each of the ponds sampled
 - Board discussion of projects and commitment to continued participation for the 2020 season.
- **Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships**
 - Mill Ponds letter to Chris Miller. BPC concern re alum in general but in particular that Walker Pond has a high levels of phosphorus and feeds directly into Upper Mill, which feeds into Lower Mill. What is the benefit of treating Upper Mill when it will continue to have the flow from Walker.
 - Tom shared response from Chris. DNR is also focusing on Walker with data gathering proposal for Annual Town Meeting for \$6,100 for a consultant to conduct a special assessment of Walker Pond.
 - A thought from Tom that BPC assist DNR. Perhaps recruit a volunteer to research alternative approaches, being used elsewhere. Phosphorus and Cyanobacteria are problems being treated/researched across the US and other nations. One local example is the “fine bubbles aeration” program being tested in Orleans. And of course the results of the “weed harvesting” project at Elbow Pond.
 - DNR Trail Monitoring. Tom shared that he is working with DNR to develop a program for BPC volunteers to monitor walking trails abutting ponds. Monitoring would include a simple report on issues on the trail for DNR to address. Would also include possible removal of simple debris in trails.
 - Canoe Pond Meeting. Susan Bridges is scheduling a meeting with members of that Association.
 - Falmouth Water Stewards/Cedar Lake. Marty recently attended a meeting to share information about our monitoring programs.
 - Cobbs Pond. Marty and Tom are in conversation with that Association.

- Slough Pond. Wayne is working with a property owner who is gathering her neighbors to discuss runoff problem
 - “Presentation Folder” for use with speaking to groups. Board agreed good idea for uniformity in presentations. Tom will create a draft and show board.
 - The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc.
 - Susan and Steve McKenna volunteered to represent BPC at the Compact Board meetings
 - We have not yet tapped into that resource in assisting BPC identify grant possibilities. Steve volunteered to talk with Mark Robinson. Tom and Judy offered to assist with opportunities that may exist.
-
- Recruitment of additional Board Members.
 - Agreement to invite people to attend Board meetings.

Meeting adjourned due to the late hour!

Next Meeting would be on January 2. Suggestion to change to Monday or Tuesday of the following week. Most Board members agreed to either Monday 6th or Tuesday 7th. Susan to “poll” Board members to determine availability and reaching a quorum on those two dates.

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier, Secretary