

Minutes, Brewster Ponds Coalition, July 11, 2019

Board members present: Susan Bridges, Marty Burke, Rob Condon, Wayne Jenkins, Nancy Ortiz, Gwen Pelletier, Judy Pirani, Sue Searles, Tom Vautin.

Board members welcomed new Board member Rob Condon. He was nominated by the full Board in the previous month's discussion during the executive session. He accepted the nomination when asked by Tom Vautin.

All documents referenced are available upon request.

STANDING TOPICS

- ❖ Minutes of June 6 Meeting were unanimously approved.
- ❖ Treasurer's Report
 - Financial Statements were unanimously approved
 - Following expenditures were approved:
 - To Nancy Ortiz \$178.97 for Pond and Neighborhoods Summit
 - To Gwen Pelletier \$29.88 for Pond sampling program
- ❖ Administrative Matters
 - Recognition that newer Board members needed to be issued business cards
 - Approval for Judy to order for Susan Bridges, Marty Burke, Rob Condon, Wayne Jenkins, Nancy Ortiz.
 - Conversation about Elbow Pond
 - There is still a balance of \$122.50 in the \$3,000 BPC committed to Elbow Pond project because the Board of Selectmen waived fees paid to the Town.
 - Friends of Elbow Pond is in discussion with Town to develop an agreement for using the Town's weed harvester with Town staff operating the equipment and Elbow Pond Association paying a fee.
 - Pond Education Program
 - Bill for bus for Eddy School arrived \$351 for 4 trips
 - Bill for Stony Brook School has not been received
 - Partnership School will not participate next year because of a decline in older students. Concluded that payment to Partnership School for transportation was excessive, but it is what they paid so BPC will no longer question it. If they were to participate again, would have conversation in advance.

CURRENT PRIORITIES

- ❖ Pond and Neighborhood Summit, Recap
 - Well attended. 65 people
 - Agreed went very well. Good variety of projects and backgrounds of speakers
 - Difficulty seeing slides. In future need to review use of curtains/blinds with Brewster Baptist Church
 - At end of meeting, folks continued conversation. Small groups standing around talking about projects
 - Minimal cost to BPC: Refreshments and rental of space from BBC
 - Video of event will be posted to BPC web site.
- ❖ Brewster Conservation Day
 - Susan Bridges submitted a written report summarizing plans, listing the equipment/supplies to be used
 - She reviewed times and schedules for Board members and volunteers to staff the booth/presentation
 - Exciting part is display of Town's weed harvester, use of THE BIG FLUSH with noise accompaniment!
- ❖ Citizen Scientist Update
 - Marty and Gwen presented a written report
 - Highlights of report
 - Team grown to 18 participants
 - Weekly reports from APCC to samplers of signs of cyanobacteria or not
 - APCC working with Town when there are high levels of toxins
 - Reports from Aerosol sampling will not be processed by Hailey Carter, UNH intern, until later in the summer.
 - MA DPH issued a warning of mercury in Mill Pond, on Rt 137, near Route 6, crossing the Town Line for Harwich and Brewster. This warning was not a part of the BPC/APCC/UNH sampling program.
 - Discussion about recent publicity about cyanobacteria being found and reported by APCC.
 - A difference between APCC protocol and State Protocol. State does not accept APCC protocol
 - If APCC sees high level of cyanobacteria, notifies Town Dept of Health and DNR.
 - Town, MA DPH, APCC meeting to clarify process.
 - BPC not involved in notifications.
 - Town asked BPC to share advisory decisions when Town and State issue warning.

- ❖ Request by Robinwood Association for Owl Pond project
 - The Association provided a copy of a May 10 letter to the Conservation Commission , with a picture of the proposed project. They indicated in a conversation with Tom Vautin that they are working with Noelle Aguiar, Conservation Officer.
 - The Association made a verbal request to President Tom Vautin for a “restricted account” through BPC.
 - Discussion by BPC Board members included the following:
 - Some Board members believe that the proposal does not appear to address stormwater runoff, but simply provides access to the pond and is designed to be an aesthetic way to get to the pond . \$35,000 for the project seems excessive if it is only for correcting storm water run off.
 - Other members believe that it does address runoff, by having the steps and platforms covering the dirt path and removing runoff into the pond from the current steep path. The proposal includes vegetation to address current runoff areas.
 - At Blueberry Pond, a similar aesthetically pleasing platform and steps were approved and constructed by Ocean Edge.
 - Does the project fit within our mission statement? Reaction from Board members to this consideration was mixed.
 - What % of the neighborhood members are participating?
 - If BPC agrees to request, possibility of segment part of proposal to support.
 - Perhaps get John Keith or another engineer to review
 - Approval would be a way to get other neighborhoods to undertake projects.
 - Conclusion: Invite members of Association to attend Sept Board meeting to learn more.
- ❖ Farmers Market Table---July 28
 - Judy submitted written report, schedule, and plans for material.
 - She indicated the need for people to volunteer and was posting a spreadsheet for people to sign up.
 - Timing from 9:00 to 1:00 PM,with set up at 8:30 am
- ❖ Party For the Ponds. Konrad summarized

- Invitations sent to 114 homeowners, 94 abutting Sheep Pond
 - July 19 deadline for RSVPs
 - Slow response so far. Goal 50
 - Diao's providing Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres
 - Town allowing parking at Fisherman's Landing
 - Konrad will share invitation list and ask Board members to follow-up by making calls to invitees they know.
 - George Heufelder, Director of MA Alternative Septic System program, to speak about innovative septic systems
- ❖ Annual Meeting---August 10
- Gwen reported that location at Freeman's Cafe, Captain's Course is confirmed. She is scheduled to meet with Sean Sullivan this week for final review of space and menu.
 - Gwen confirmed that Nancy Leland will speak. It is still uncertain whether Jim Haney will join her.
 - Decision made re Jan McGann for "SPLASH AWARD"
 - Recognition for her volunteer work with both the School Education Program and the Pond Sampling Program
 - To be presented by Susan Searles and Gwen Pelletier
 - Certificate and \$50 gift card
 - Gwen to find out surreptitiously that Jan actually will be at Annual Meeting
 - Judy plans to release Invitation July 20. Needs bio for Nancy Leland and Jim Haney (if he is speaking) Also head shots if possible. Gwen will get room capacity from Freeman's Cafe so if response is large, we will know when we have reached capacity
- ❖ Other Working Group progress reports
- Membership. Marty submitted written report with statistics
 - Marty introduced proposal for addition to newsletter
 - MEMBER'S CORNER
 - Provided samples of information to be included
 - Board member consensus to include in newsletters beginning 10/1/19
 - Marty also presented a draft of WHO WE ARE
 - A "who,what,why,where, when, how" summarizing BPC to be used by Board members and members when introducing or talking to potential or current members to BPC. Could be a helpful tool when talking to potential new board members; and even as orientation for new board members

- Fundraising. Konrad
 - Susan Bridges and Konrad have set up a list of potential sponsors for BPC.
 - Plans are for the two of them to schedule two meetings per week through the summer offering ways for businesses to sponsor BPC events
 - Scheduled with John O'Reilly, Engineering
 - In touch with Agway of Cape Cod
 - Suggestion from Board that include **Eversource** and **Cape Cod Five**
- Communications: Judy Pirani
 - Written report submitted
 - Plans to announce Annual Meeting
 - Rob Condon shared that “what convinced him to volunteer to become a Board member was attending a Board meeting”
 - Board discussion
 - Time to begin thinking about the content of RIPPLES publication
 - Last year developed our ANNUAL PLAN. Now time to begin planning for next year.
- Projects and Partnerships: Tom Vautin
 - Tom continues meeting with Chris and Ryan, DNR, to consider ways we can work together
 - New Town Administrator Peter Lombardi has agreed to a meeting with BPC
- CRM implementation Plan: Marty
 - Marty submitted a written timeline summarizing activities to move to NEON, selected as BPC's CRM
 - Transition began in May.
 - Tom and Marty have been working with NEON staff to implement the transition.
 - Anticipate “User Training Session” late August.

Submitted by, Gwen Pelletier, Secretary

Next Meeting, August 1.