

MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, MAY 3, 2018

Board members present: Gwen Pelletier, Judy Pirani, Sue Searles, Tom Vautin, Dawn Walnut, Konrad Schultz (by telephone). Guest: Penny Holeman

Tom welcomed member Penny Holeman and thanked her for her interest and participation in the Beautify Brewster Day.

Copies of all reports referenced are available upon request.

Minutes of April 5, 2018, meeting were approved unanimously.

Confirmed unanimously email vote to support the Article on warrant for Town Meeting proposing purchase of land for conservation purposes off Route 137.

In coming mail, Tom shared mail: Copy of Insurance Policy, Newsletters from Silent Spring and Orleans Pond Coalition.

Treasurer's Report: Tom presented monthly financial report provided by Glivinski Associates. It was noted that expenses for Strategic Planning Workshop were recorded as "Annual Meeting", which is not correct. Tom will ask Glivinski to correct to Board expense. The Report was accepted as corrected.

During the discussion, Sue reported that follow-up to discussion last month about purchasing AV equipment for recording voices for puppet show for Pond Education Project in schools will still be pursued in the future; however, for this year, the team has found an acceptable way to record the voices by telephone recording.

CURRENT PRIORITIES & ISSUES

- **BEAUTIFY BREWSTER UPDATE:** Sue shared the following statistics shared by Ryan Burch, DNR, following the event: 25 miles of roads, 1.5 miles of beach: 2,700 lbs. trash; 150 people participated; Nip bottles was the winner once again. Brewster Ponds Coalition had 25 people participate. Sue further shared that the event had gone well for BPC: good to have two people share in event planning; good to have several people participating in "sign in" at beginning point; need to begin thinking and recruiting now for leadership from membership for next year. Very positive feedback from BPC participants.

- POND EDUCATION and CITIZEN SCIENTISTS PROGRAMS: Karen submitted a written report providing information about kits being provided to both schools and dates for field trips for students. The report also include information about meetings with APCC and proposed schedules for testing ponds for cyanobacteria.
 - ❖ Sue reported that the science teachers at both Eddy and Stony Brook schools are excited about the program. Board discussion included the possibility of being able to have a video of the field trips to be used for demonstration of the program to funders. Konrad shared that the suggestion had come up in the “Fundraising” team for strategic planning. Board members expressed concern about getting parental permission for pictures of students to be used for press. Sue indicated that both Brewster schools have those releases from parents and there is only one student for whom there is no release. Konrad indicated he would follow-up with Teresa Martin, at Lower Cape Cable TV. (**NOTE TO MINUTES:** Karen has indicated by email since the Board meeting and Konrad’s getting a positive response from Teresa Martin, that due to a recent sexual assault event at Stony Brook School and new curriculum at Eddy School, there are new issues that need to be considered prior to proceeding with planning for creation of a video. Konrad, has subsequently put on hold any further discussion with Teresa Martin, at Lower Cape Cable TV.)

- BREWSTER VISIONING PLAN: Sue, who has been a participant in development of the Town’s Vision Plan, provided a copy of the Draft of the Plan. Dawn, Judy, and Tom had also attended one of the sessions held during the past week. Along with Sue, they all noted that water resources are a significant focus and discussion has indicated that citizens see Brewster Ponds Coalition as a player as the process moves forward from vision to action. Tom noted that the timing of the Vision Plan coincides well with BPC’s strategic planning process.

- BREWSTER TOWN MEETING: Our email vote to support the purchase of the land off Route 137 was in time for BCP to be included in the hand out that BCT is developing for Town Meeting. In addition, BCT has sent out an email blast to its members to attend Town Meeting and support the article. Our Board to send a similar email to our members. **Judy and Konrad will develop a FB post and an email to our membership to encourage support of the article for the purchase, noting in particular that the property abuts Long Pond.**

- STRATEGIC PLANNING: Tom thanked Board members for efforts to date with “Advisory Board” groups in focusing on developing Matrix. Tom will meet with Hal Minis, facilitator, Monday and create document to be sent to participants for the workshop on Saturday with Advisory Board members. Following that meeting, Board will follow-up with development of the plan. Agreed to give BPC hats to participants at May 12 workshop.
- MISSION STATEMENT: As agreed, Dawn had submitted four versions of a revision of BPC’s mission statement based on discussion at April’s Board meeting. Following more “playing with words and their meaning”, the Board agreed on the following as a tentative draft: **THE BREWSTER PONDS COALITION PROTECTS AND PRESERVES THE HEALTH AND BEAUTY OF OUR PONDS.** Tom asked that Board members consider after this meeting and give him feedback during the week and prior to the May 12 workshop so we present the new Mission Statement at that workshop.
Through an email discussion, the Board agreed on the following:
THE BREWSTER PONDS COALITION PROTECTS THE HEALTH AND BEAUTY OF OUR PONDS.
- RECRUITING FOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: During Board member meetings with other non profit Board members as part of the strategic planning process, one thing that we heard often was that recruiting for leadership is an ongoing process and should be discussed at every board meeting. Tom asked that we place this item on the agenda for every meeting going forward, beginning with tonight. Other organizations emphasized that Board building generally begins with committee participation. **The Board discussed several names, the list being kept by the Nominating Committee.** Some participants in the “Strategic Planning Advisory Board” may be possible committee chairs or board members. Also, it was agreed to invite people to attend board meetings, in particular leaders of Neighborhood or Pond Associations. **Also, agreed to meet with some folks individually to talk with them about their vision of BPC.** Agreed in discussions with members and potential members to emphasize the positive of what BPC has done and is doing.
- OTHER BUSINESS
 - ❖ Annual Meeting: Gwen reported no progress yet getting written agreement with Freeman’s Cafe, although she is confident that we have a verbal agreement for August 18. **Gwen to follow-up**
 - ❖ Thank you gift for Judy Valverde: Board voted unanimously to approve a \$500 Amazon gift card for Judy Valverde as a thank you for her volunteer efforts over the last year. **Gwen to send.**

- ❖ Thank you donation to APCC: Board voted unanimously to donate \$250 to APCC for providing the speakers for the three workshops “Freshwater Ponds: Jewels of Cape Cod”. **Gwen to send**
- ❖ Recording Volunteer Hours: Board members reminded to keep track of their hours, both administrative and for particular programs, in order for documentation at end of year to be simpler. **Dawn suggested she could provide some guidance.** Board members also to be sure to track volunteer hours for programs. Knowing these hours is useful also for funding applications.
- ❖ Historical Society Farmers’ Market: Judy Pirani had been in discussion with them about BPC having a display table at one of the Sunday markets at Drummer Boy’s Park. Two dates available: July 29 and Aug 5. Board agreed to July 29.

Report submitted by Education Committee.

Next Board Meeting: June 7, 2018

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier, Secretary