

MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Virtual meeting by Google Meet: Board Members Present: Susan Bridges, Mary Mauterstock, Konrad Schultz, Cameron Ferguson, Susan Searles, Nancy Ortiz, Wayne Jenkins, Gwen Pelletier Also present: Amy Darbyshire

Meeting started: 6 PM

Standing Topics

1. Minutes for the October 1, 2020 Board meeting approved.
2. Email votes for Net Zero Conference and Ripples copies sent to renters approved.
3. No incoming mail.
4. Treasurer's Report:

Rob not in attendance. Refer to reports in the shared drive Financial folder. Rob can answer questions on the financials at the December board meeting along with explaining the new reimbursement policy. Susan reviewed the October 2020 Financial Highlights

5. Miscellaneous Administrative Matters.

The State IRS cannot find Form 990 that BPC did file. Gwen will scan and repost the state filing since the PDF was not satisfactory. Gwen has note card printing material she will pass on to Nancy. Gwen also mentioned that Jack Clark must be removed from the website as a board member since he has resigned.

Current Priorities

1. 2021 Budget Plan

Susan B will work with Rob to complete the 2021 budget plan template.

2. 2021 Operating Plan

Susan asked the board to add information to the Operating Plan. Per Konrad, highlights should be entered in the Operating Plan and the detail in Google Calendar.

3. Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed.

Communications: Ripples has been completed. Konrad thanked Amy for her contributions, Sara for her style guide for future publications, and Jim Holland for his design work. The 2021 Ripples is 12 pages long, an increase from the 8 page 2020 publication. The increased length was due in part to the Aerosol article. Amy and Sara will work on the BPC website. There was a discussion over the frequency of Email

blasts. Are we sending too many? Separate blasts are sent to individual committees. Citizen Scientist, for example, is sent only to participants in the program. All agree that BPC does not need to send weekly blasts as does Brewster Conservation Trust and APCC. Konrad wants to limit the number of member emails. It was suggested that members that choose to unsubscribe have the option of giving feedback regarding their reason(s) for unsubscribing. Members should have the option of unsubscribing from all except the newsletter, for example. Konrad announced the January newsletter article deadline is December 17th. Gwen complimented Konrad on recruiting communication volunteers. Konrad has also recruited two photographers to assist: Bill Pomeroy and Barry Donohue. Gwen suggested asking Steve Koppel to help with photography. .

Membership: Marty absent. Report is in the folder. All board members appreciate Marty's detailed reports.

Fundraising and Development: Konrad will work with Dr. Haney on grants to study the impact on human health from airborne toxins. There is a belief that ALS and non-alcoholic liver disease could be caused by the toxins. Susan B. is inviting Agway to become a business partner. Kathy Childs from Stonewood Products in Dennis (delivered stones for Lower Mill erosion project) is also a possible business partner.

Citizen Scientist: Marty absent. Cameron has nothing to report at this time.

Pond Education: Susan S. mentioned the recruitment of a good group of pond education volunteers, some of whom could be potential board members (i.e. Cindy Doutrich and Marcia Kielb). There are three working groups: 1. Puppet show chairperson is Shirley Vautin. A script is being rewritten for 5th graders and more mature characters created. 2. Pond lessons chairperson is Nancy Gustafson-Smith. Tom Vautin is the videographer. Lessons are currently being recorded at a local pond. Some of the pond lesson clips could be inserted into the pond book readings for added interest. 3. Pond books is headed by Nancy O. Peter Trull was mentioned as a possible reader in addition to Judy Beams and Susan Bauer. Website readings should be completed by January and placed on the BPC website as an educational resource for families. All videos should be cataloged and "dumped" into one drive for eventual posting on the BPC website. Copyright issues will be discussed with Konrad "offline". Susan S. thanked Konrad for his video workshop. Konrad offered to do another workshop if requested. Gwen is hoping renters (many of whom have school age children) will eventually join BPC since they will receive Ripples and have access to the BPC website.

Pond Outreach: Bruce absent. He will update next month.

Volunteer Committee: Cameron stated using both Mailchimp and NEON is complicated and increases the possibility of important information being omitted from either. Mail Chimp does not provide the depth of information needed for the volunteers

database. Konrad stated that NEON has a way of adding volunteer information. January is a good time to consolidate the two systems. Cameron will send a request to board members to update a list of possible volunteer jobs and brainstorm new ideas for projects. He suggested sending an E-mail to members asking their volunteer interests. (i.e. finding a retired scientist to get involved in aerosol research).

Events: Per Wayne, the April Pond Summit and Volunteer Fair will be combined. One topic will be the food web study with input from Dr. Haney. Nancy Leland's presentations tend to be too scientific. Dr. Haney is a better choice for speaking to a non-scientific audience via a short video. Questions can be taken after the presentation. Since BPC has funded the research, Dr. Haney should agree to participate. The other topic will be the Lower Mill Erosion project presented by Rob and Nancy O. This will all be done virtually.

4. Outreach, Pond Projects & Partnerships

Virtual meeting with Town Officials and Dr. Haney on October 28th. Susan, Konrad, Marty and Dr. Haney met with Amy von Hone, Chris Miller, Ryan Burch, Eric Levy, and Noelle Aguiar. Peter Lombardi and Mary Chaffee were unable to attend. Aerosol study results were discussed along with possible concerns regarding toxins. BPC wants to make sure the town is aware of and informed of the airborne toxin results.

Walkers Pond “floating garden” research. UMass student Marina Brooks is interested in conducting research in November, December, and January on the possibility of creating a floating garden in Walkers Pond to draw phosphorus from the pond via plant growth. Bird poop polluting the garden is a concern. Tom Vautin has volunteered to advise.

Net Zero Conference on October 23rd. Mary Mauterstock reported that the conference was lengthy and it was difficult to see who attended but no pond groups appeared to be there. Gwen believed the conference was mainly focused on coastal issues.

Updates related to Elbow, Owl, and Lower Mill Ponds (if needed). Mary reported that Elbow Pond is healthy and the ducks have returned. Plants are growing back after the harvest as opposed to Walkers Pond plants that did not grow back after harvesting. The Friends of Elbow Pond group must report results from the three harvests to the Division of Wildlife and Fisheries to obtain permission to continue harvesting next year. More funds will be needed to finance future harvesting. Gwen suggested Elbow Pond for a feature article next year.

Wrap up

Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments.

Konrad will send out a request to the board for Newsletter articles.

Cameron, Marty, Konrad, and Tom will work together on the Mailchimp/NEON “consolidation” project.

Per Mary, the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition contacted John Keith about the status of Elbow Pond. Americorps volunteer Colleen Lucey is updating the Cape Cod Ponds Atlas which is available online. Collen also contacted the BPC and has been communicating with Marty.

Next Board Meeting - December 3, 2020 - Google Meet

January Board Meeting - January 7, 2021 - Google Meet

Meeting

Adjourned 7:30 PM

Submitted by Nancy W. Ortiz, Clerk