

Minutes, Brewster Ponds Coalition, November 7, 2019

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

Copies of referenced reports or documents are available upon request.

Standing Topics

- Minutes of October 3, 2019 were approved unanimously.
- Treasurer's reports were accepted unanimously.
 - Board approved placement of Brewster Ponds Coalition ad in BEST OF BREWSTER, annual publication by Brewster Chamber of Commerce, estimated price \$375.00
 - Board approved reimbursement of \$96.69 for expenses of printing materials to be used at presentation of BPC to Robinwood (Owl Pond) Neighborhood Association.
- State Filings:
 - Gwen reported that she had filed the Annual Report, due November 1 to The Secretary of the Commonwealth.
 - She also reported that, although she had indicated we need to file a change of the by-laws made at Annual Meeting in 2018, from 9 Board members to "up to 15 Board members", there is no requirement to do so. The change that would be required would be "Articles of Organization" which we have not changed.

Current Priorities

- Communications: Judy Pirani submitted a written report. In her absence, Marty summarized the report and activities
 - Distributed copies of 2020 RIPPLES to Board members
 - 6,411 copies being mailed
 - Curley purchased updated and new Brewster mailing list
 - Gwen inquired if mailing list also includes year-round renters. Information from Konrad and Marty indicated not. Gwen pointed out that we are missing a group of Brewster residents every year and asked that a request for mailing lists include renters in the future.
 - Mailing of RIPPLES scheduled for Tuesday, November 12.
 - Bill from Curley mailing of \$3,823 to be reviewed by Konrad
- Membership: Marty Burke submitted a written report and timeline for appeal activities.
 - Report included statistics for previous years donations
 - Based on those numbers, goals for 2020;
 - Donors renewing 66%
 - New Donors: 80
 - Renewal of donors who did not donate previous year: 50%
 - Report also included outreach activities
 - Robinwood/Owl Pond Neighborhood Association, Cobbs Pond Association members, and a meeting with Falmouth Water Stewards and Cedar Lake Associations organizations re Elbow Pond project
- Citizen Science: Gwen and Marty submitted a written report. Gwen pointed out items covered in the report.
 - Summary of statistics for end of season.
 - Scheduling meetings to begin planning for 2020 season
 - Meeting with Nancy Leland, UNH & Lim-Tex, December 6.
 - Meeting being planned for the near future with Bryan Horsley, APCC. Still confirming date

- Pond Education Project with Brewster Elementary Schools. Sue Searles reported.
 - BPC had been contacted by Karen Malkus with request by 3rd grade teacher in Barnstable re possibility of co-ordinating and providing Pond Field trip for them.
 - Position recommended by Sue S and volunteers in the program.
 - Support development in other communities
 - Uncomfortable with request. Asks additional work for volunteers.
 - BPC's focus is on Brewster and volunteers are committed to Brewster. They already commit much time to the project, planning with teachers and providing up to four field trips based on the number of students.
 - Recommend: Provide list of curriculum materials to teachers in other schools, when requested.
 - Recommend: Inviting teachers to come and observe Field trip so they can see activities with students and create their own field trips at ponds in their communities
 - Board voted unanimously to support this position and for Sue to communicate this position to Karen and teacher.
 - Sue S reported that Team has begun planning for Season 2020.
 - Meeting scheduled in November for planning
 - Email blast recruiting new volunteers. 5 responses so far
 - Field trip schedule already set with teachers. Last week of May and 1st week of June. Limited time period for field trips due to weather (need for warmer weather so pond activity has begun) and coordinating with end of school activities.

- Pond Projects:

During the review of the pond involvements listed below, the Board discussed the increasing interest by pond organizations to do something about their ponds, a good thing. However, we shared a concern that, based on the publicity of the ELBOW POND weed harvesting that groups are seeing that as a solution. They and the public in general to keep in mind that it is still considered an “experimental project”. The Conservation Commission approval requires three years of harvesting and analysis of the results.

Board also acknowledged that “Fine bubble aeration” project has begun with Orleans Pond Coalition. It is also experimental on the Cape and will be analyzed as it proceeds.

- Upper Mill Pond: Tom reported that Town is proceeding with plans for use of Alum in Upper Mill Pond.
 - It is part of “The Mill Pond Plan” that the Town has been developing with Horsley Witten.
 - Conservation Commission had approved Weed Harvesting in Walker and Alum in Upper Mill Pond a couple of years ago.
 - Weed Harvesting at Walker was not successful
 - Money is available.
 - Board discussion indicated concern:
 - ❖ Walker Pond is still highly impaired, high levels of phosphorus. Had a cyanobacteria advisory this past (2019) summer.
 - ❖ Concern re flow from Walker into Upper Mill and how it will have an effect on Upper Mill in spite of alum. Alum only covers phosphorous, does not prevent or treat increase.
 - ❖ Board position, by consensus, something must be done about Walker. That is the position we will

communicate. If there is no intervention in Walker, then BPC recommends adoption of proposal by Ed Eichner, TECHNICAL SUPPORT FO THE TOWN OF BREWSTER WALKERS POND: CHANGE OF CONDITIONS, OCTOBER 31, 2019

- Robinwood Association/Owl Pond: Marty reported that he had met with the Association.
 - 35 people present
 - He addressed “WHO WE ARE”. Handouts explaining BPC and programs
 - Interested in participating in Cyanobacteria testing program
 - Agreement completed for having restricted account with BPC for collection of \$5,000 for proposed work on access to Owl Pond, with emphasis on those funds to address erosion issues.
- Canoe Pond: Susan Bridges and Steve McKenna will meet with representatives from Canoe Pond Association on Nov. 17th to discuss how they might coordinate with BPC, what they want from BPC. Canoe Pond already has an aerator, supported by the Association. A meeting is scheduled for November 17 with the Association board.
- Sheep Pond: Susan Bridges suggested that we make a gift to Catherine and James Diao as a thank you for hosting the summer event at her home on Sheep Pond. Board approved purchase by Susan Bridges of a fish platter at Sydenstricker Gallery.
- Cobbs Pond: Marty is in discussion with Dan Ginsberg and Tom Sprague. They are in the process of organizing an association and will stay in touch with Marty.
- Slough Pond: Wayne and Konrad made a site visit and have discussed issue with homeowners. The issue is run off at one homeowner’s property.

- Partnerships
 - APCC: APCC made a request of support letters for Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan, which creates a 20 mile buffer zone off Cape Cod for midwater trawl boats and establishes important catch limits. Konrad helped draft the support letter from BPC. Co-presidents Susan Bridges and Steve McKenna signed and submitted the letter on line to meet the 10/21/2019 deadline. The letter is in our shared drive.
 - DNR . Tom introduced a request from DNR for BPC to assist with Trail monitoring. This would involve walking trails, moving small debris, reporting the condition and removal of tree fall that would need to be addressed by DNR, and completing a report to DNR. Board agreed by consensus. Participation by BPC will focus on trails that would also include pond areas, to recruiting volunteers for specific trails. Tom will coordinate these plans with Ryan Burch at DNR.
 - Drink Tap Water Campaign, by Select Board.
Board agreed to participate in this campaign being managed by Select Board member Mary Chaffee, encouraging the use of personal water bottles using Brewster Town Water, instead of plastic bottles. She is taking pictures of groups with their personal water bottles and posting them on the Town website, Brewster's Facebook page, Brewster community Facebook pages. Tentative dates for BPC photo re November 16 or 17 at Fisherman's Landing. Susan Bridges will coordinate with Mary Chaffee and inform BPC Board members.

Board meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM with agreement to focus on remaining items early in the next Board Meeting.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, December 12, 2019.

Note change from 1st Thursday to 2nd Thursday

**Submitted by, Gwen Pelletier
Secretary**