

# MINUTES BREWSTER PONDS COALITION

Annual Meeting, August 10, 2019

**DRAFT**

Board President Tom Vautin opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked the approximate 90 members for attending and their ongoing support.

Tom introduced other current Board members: Rob Condon, Susan Bridges, Marty Burke, Wayne Jenkins, Nancy Ortiz, Gwen Pelletier, Judy Pirani, Sue Searles, Konrad Schultz, and Dawn Walnut and thanked them for their leadership and efforts. He recognized and thanked retiring Board member Dawn Walnut, who was also a founding Board member, for her contributions.

Using a powerpoint presentation, Tom summarized the Coalition's mission, "Protecting the health, beauty and enjoyment of Brewster's Ponds," pointed out our activities for the past year and goals for the coming year. The full powerpoint is available at the BPC website.

Highlights of his presentation included:

- Progress on Strategic Plan
  - Expanding Board and Volunteer Leaders
  - Increasing partnerships
  - Building on core programs
  - Growing connections with donors and sponsors
  - Sharing information with members
- Events, Programs and Volunteer Opportunities
  - Participation in Beautify Brewster Day, Brewster Conservation Day, Farmer's Market
  - Support Department of Natural Resources PALS program
  - Supporting neighborhood associations with POND SUMMIT
  - Support for neighborhood projects
- Science-based Pond Education in the classroom and the field
  - Classroom program in Brewster elementary schools
  - Field trips to ponds with students
  - More than 150 students served
  - Strong volunteer team to manage program

- Citizen Scientists and Pond Cyanobacteria Monitoring
  - Third year of joint project with APCC, EPA, Lim-tex, UNH
  - Bi-weekly sampling of 10 Brewster ponds by trained BPC volunteers
  - Purpose to monitor ponds for development of and prediction of potentially toxic cyanobacteria blooms.
  - Expanded program in 2019 to include research testing for possible airborne cyanobacteria

#### BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: January - December 2018: Unanimously accepted as presented

#### FY 17 Unrestricted Income and Expenses

Total Income: \$42,356

Total Expenses: \$32,576

Program Services	\$18,281
Fundraising	\$ 4,795
Insurance	\$ 2,063
All other expenses	\$ 7,437

#### ACCOUNT BALANCES (as of December 31, 2018)

Unrestricted cash	\$40,947
Restricted Funds	\$14,280

#### Election of Board Members and Nominating Committee

Membership elected the following unanimously:

- Konrad Schultz: Re-election for 3 year term.
- Susan Bridges, 3 year term
- Rob Condon, 3 year term
- Steve McKenna, 3 year term

Nominating committee for 2019-2020

Konrad Schultz, Martin Burke, Fred Budreski

## SPLASH AWARD FOR 2019

Presented to Jan McGann for her contributions as a participant in both the Science-based Pond Education in the classroom and the field and the Citizen Scientists and Pond Cyanobacteria Monitoring Board members Sue Searles and Gwen Pelletier introduced Jan, expanded on the value of her participation and presented a certificate of appreciation and gift card.

**SPEAKERS:** From the University of New Hampshire, Center for FreshWater Biology  
Nancy Leland, MS and cyanobacteria research scientist  
Hailey Carter, Summer Intern Research Fellow

The two scientists shared the work of UNH in researching the ability to forecast cyanobacteria blooms and the levels of toxicity of concern to the health of humans and animals. Their focus was on the participation and importance of the inclusion of “Citizen Scientists” in assisting in the research.

In particular, Nancy Leland focused on the science involved in processing the samples taken by BPC “Citizen Scientists” and presented a PowerPoint showing the analysis and their level of toxicity. She also introduced the, new this year, study by UNH to determine the effect of cyanobacteria , if any, on fish.

Hailey Carte, also using a Power Point, presented the preliminary results of the aerosol samples being taken this summer by BPC “Citizen Scientists”. Those samples showed the presence of cyanobacteria. Further research will determine the level and begin to assess how widespread in the air cyanobacteria is present and the level that becomes toxic to humans.

Following the presentation, the speakers engaged in robust question and answer period, addressing growing concerns about the presence of cyanobacteria in ponds, the need for more rigorous monitoring, and the science of the research. The speakers pointed out that state and local health officials are becoming more aware of that need and moving in that direction. They pointed out the involvement of the Town of Brewster, Brewster Ponds Coalition, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod and other Cape Cod Communities in beginning to address the issue.

They closed with a thank you to Brewster Ponds Coalition for participating in taken samples and assisting the UNH research.

Board President Tom Vautin closed the meeting with a thank you to the speakers and a thank you to the members of BPC for attending and their continued support.

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier, Secretary