

## MINUTES, BREWSTER PONDS COALITION, FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Board Members Present: Tom Vautin, Sue Searles, Dawn Walnut, John Keith, Judy Pirani, Gwen Pelletier, Konrad Schultz by Skype.

**Minutes for January 5, 2017** were approved unanimously.

**Email Votes Confirmation:** The vote to approved expenditure by Tom Vautin up to \$150.00 for purchase of brochures for inclusion in Brewster Chamber of Commerce mailing to new property owners was approved unanimously.

**Incoming Mail:** Gwen shared letter from Brewster Conservation Trust thanking BPC for donation of \$250, given as thank you for use of space for June BPC Board retreat.

**Treasurer's Report.** Gwen Pelletier submitted the newly formatted Treasurer's Report, containing "Budget to Actual Expenses" and "Balance Sheet". The report was approved unanimously with the suggestion that as we move through the year and expenses increase that report include notes explaining significant expenses. Copy available upon request.

### **Expenditures approved unanimously:**

- ❖ Tom Vautin, reimbursement of \$148.84 brochures for CofC Mailing
- ❖ Judy Pirani, reimbursement of \$102.92 for Board Member business cards.
- ❖ Karen Malkus-Benjamin, up to budget amount of \$5,400 for supplies for the Pond Education Kits. Invoices to be submitted for purchases.

### **CURRENT PRIORITIES**

- **Annual Appeal:** Written report submitted by Konrad Schultz. Available on request.
  - ❖ In addition to items covered in the report, Konrad emphasized the importance of personal contact and the success of calls, urging each of us to make calls to members we identify. Susan pointed out that she had success by contacting people in her neighborhood and meeting with them.
  - ❖ Dawn reported that membership records she is keeping show that 285 households have contributed a total of \$21,350 as a result of the appeal. 190 are renewals and 95 new donor/members.
- **AmeriCorps 2017:** For participation in the AmeriCorps program each year, potential applicants for an AmeriCorps Member position are required to attend an orientation meeting for the application process. Tom attended the meeting on Tuesday on behalf of BPC so we would have the opportunity to apply if we desire. The deadline for applications is March 10. Therefore, we must make a decision whether to apply or not. The Board had a substantive discussion covering the following points:
  - ❖ We do not have a clearly defined project at this time that would be appropriate
  - ❖ Hosting an AmeriCorps member requires supervision
  - ❖ Our experience with our current member Corey Bray has been a positive experience for him and he has done good work in helping develop the Pond Education Kits.
  - ❖ The amount of time to supervise him has been quite demanding for Board members

- ❖ Most AmeriCorps Member sites have “built in supervision” with staff members to provide the supervision. For example, our partners both DNR and BCT have paid staff.
  - ❖ More typical AmeriCorps Member sites have the Member participating in clearly defined field work of the host agency.
  - ❖ In summary, our conclusion was that BPC is not in a position with a defined project or the ability to provide supervision without demanding much of Board members. Tom suggested that before deciding not to apply that we have a meeting with DNR and BCT to determine if there is a way to participate in a project with the two of them. Tom and Gwen agreed to meet with BCT and DNR board/staff as soon as possible for such discussion.
- **Potential Volunteer Opportunities:** Two summaries of ideas were submitted to the Board for review, one by Tom Vautin and the previous one submitted by Gwen with added notes by Judy Pirani. Both reports/summaries are available on request. The Board discussion include the following:
    - ❖ In order to grow and sustain BPC, we must engage volunteers
    - ❖ Must do more visible things
    - ❖ Need to spell out specific needs and tasks
    - ❖ Find ways to get people excited about becoming a part of team
    - ❖ Board members need to become leaders of “teams”, guiding members to take over leadership of activities or teams
    - ❖ Focus on protection of ponds
    - ❖ Need people with science backgrounds
    - ❖ This discussion blended with the next topic on the agenda so we moved on to the discussion of recruiting members to volunteer
  - **Winter Events**
    - ❖ March 4- Member Meeting and Volunteer Fair. The discussion above led into planning this meeting and deciding location, format, areas for recruiting volunteers, responsibilities of Board members. We made the following decisions:
      - March 4. Brewster Baptist Church. 9 to 11:00 AM. Reserved for 8-12
      - Report from Membership meeting last year.
        - You asked for Education
        - Summary of activities over last year
      - Asking for your help. Categories
        - Protection
        - Events Planning
        - Communication
        - Education

- Each of above categories should have **specific tasks** for members to choose. Examples.
  - Organize photos
  - Check stormwater drains
  - Organizing data
  - Pond Studies. Collecting data, i.e “citizen scientist”
  - Developing vegetative buffers
  - Making items for inclusion in pond kits
  - Activities should be simple, enticing, useful
- Dawn will develop an outline for the March 4 meeting based on these discussions and send to each of us to review and add bullets.
- Judy to send email blast “Save the Date”
- ❖ March 14--Septic System
  - George Heufelder, County Health Department
    - Intro to septic system issues on Cape Cod
    - State of the Art systems; What is new?
  - First Parish Community Room 6:30 PM
  - Preference for BPC members, free
  - Fee of \$10 for non members
  - Video recording. Konrad will check with Lower Cape TV
  - Judy to send “Save the Date” email blast
- ❖ Beautify Brewster Clean-up Day, April 29.
  - Gwen offered to be coordinator for the BPC Team
  - Konrad asked if we could ask for concentration on ponds instead of a road.
  - Gwen & Tom explained that our route has been Satucket and Slough roads which do encompass three ponds---Slough, Walker, and Elbow. They also pointed out that Town landings on ponds would be small areas and that those “off road” areas are generally assigned to groups with students in school or scout groups.
- ❖ Other upcoming activities.
  - Tom pointed out two workshop/conference opportunities for attendance if Board members are interested
  - RE “Science on the Street”, Board members agreed that BPC benefit to BPC in participating last year was minimal and voted unanimously not to participate this year.
  - Judy will promote invitation to BCP members to participate in BCT photo exhibit at library, with photos due March 1.
- **BEST OF BREWSTER BOOK:** Each year the Brewster Chamber of Commerce publishes this book.
  - ❖ As a Chamber member, BPC is eligible to place an ad. Board voted to place a ¼ page ad. Content should explain “who we are” and be “inspirational”.
  - ❖ In addition BPC has been invited to submit an article of 500 to 700 words.
  - ❖ Board requested that Konrad and Judy create ad and write article; deadline end of February. Drafts to be sent to Board for review.

## **Other Business**

- ❖ Judy gave Konrad a “high five” for inviting members to post pond pictures during the first snow storm of the season. Response was excellent and increased traffic on the website.
- ❖ Tom reported that he has had conversations with Chris Miller about the status of proposed weed/macrophyte harvesting at Walker’s Pond. The project has been approved by the Conservation Commission. Chris and DNR staff are working now on budget proposal for Town Meeting. At this point discussions include either purchasing the equipment or contracting for the job. Chris will keep Tom informed. Board agreed that we will support the project at both the Finance Committee and Town Meeting. Board also agreed that BPC will offer to support the project by documenting the work with videos.
- ❖ At a future board meeting, we will discuss the PALS program operated by DNR and BPC involvement with it. In discussions with DNR staff, Tom has been asked about BPC playing a more active role in recruiting volunteers pond testers.
- ❖ At several points during this meeting, there were discussions about data collection, available data over the years through a variety of efforts, data being collected by many Towns, efforts by Orleans Pond Coalition to consolidate data, and varying quality of data. There was consensus that, in addition to offering data collection and management as a volunteer opportunity, that we need further discussion as a Board.

## **REPORTS AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

Recognizing that the Board meeting was well beyond our goal of a two hour meeting, Tom pointed out that reports had been submitted. The following are available on request:

- ❖ Communications Action Team Report, February 2017
- ❖ Education/Events Report, February 2, 2017
- ❖ Grant Update, Lynn Gorey, February 1, 2017
- ❖ 2017 BPC Members Summary, Dawn Walnut

## **WRAP-UP/FOLLOW UP; ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING**

- All Board members to follow-up Annual Appeal by making calls to members who have not donated yet for new FY.
- Tom Vautin to contact BCT and DNR staff for discussion about AmeriCorps for 2017-2018.
- Dawn Walnut will take lead on developing agenda and categories for members to volunteer at March 4 membership meeting.
- ALL Board members to respond to Dawn's proposal and give her feed-back
- Tom will contact Al Fresco re Fritatas for breakfast for membership meeting
- Sue Searles to complete arrangements with Brewster Baptist Church for March 4
- Judy Pirani to send email blast "Save the Date" for March 4 membership meeting and March 14 George Heufelder presentation re septic systems
- Konrad Schultz and Judy Pirani to prepare ad and article for Chamber of Commerce, BEST OF BREWSTER publication.
- John Keith to submit summary of points for "Protection" category for March 4 meeting.

Submitted by,

Gwen Pelletier

Secretary