

**Brewster Ponds Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
May 2, 2024, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Video Conference**

Present: Tim Chase, Nancy Ortiz, Susan Bridges, Marcia Kielb, Ron Essig, Rob Condon, Jane Savio, Mary Mauterstock, Kevin Kearns

Absent: Marty Burke, John Keith

Guests: Karyn Frey, Ann Frechette (from Harwich)

Meeting called to Order: 6:03 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the April 4th Board Meeting - Nancy - accepted unanimously
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings Incoming mail (if any) - Nancy - none
3. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - BPC balance is \$243,115. Total balance including Blueberry and Elbow Ponds is \$283,593. April expenses are \$3,669 including \$750 for Gilvinski tax prep and monthly fee. April donations are \$6,398.
 - b. Earmarked projects - Rob has created a file for Project Grants - see folder. The total budgeted for 2024 is \$49,000.
 - c. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
 - a. July Board meeting - 1st Thursday is July 4th, propose July 11th - decided to meet Tuesday, July 9th
 - b. \$25K earmarked state funding - Susan is awaiting approval from Patrick Guerard of the State for permission for the \$25K state grant to be applied to the phosphorus study.

New Business

1. APCC Pond Watchers Bio-Survey Program - Per Ron, APCC is requesting volunteers to collect data of plants and wildlife observed around ponds throughout the Cape. To this end, a form has been created entitled "What you see on and around ponds." A suggestion was made that Citizen Scientist volunteers could record and photograph interesting plants and wildlife they may observe while collecting data. A comment was made that the existing Citizen Scientist form already has a section dedicated to recording these observations.
2. Pond Networking - APCC - Storm Drain Project - APCC is requesting Cape Cod residents to alert the proper authority of drains that are not working correctly. In some cases, the drains may be cleaned by a neighborhood association. In other cases, the

town DPW can clean the drain. The town charge for drain cleaning on a private road is \$65 per drain. This is half the cost of contracting the work by a private contractor.

3. Pollinator Pathway endorsement - Susan attended the meeting of the Pollinator Pathway Group. The goals of this group of rethinking one's lawn, avoiding chemical fertilizers, adding native plants, and not using chemicals are aligned with BPC's goals. Susan will scan the paperwork of this organization and add it to BPC's files. BPC unanimously voted to endorse the goals of the Pollinator Pathway Group.
4. Freshwater Initiative from the Cape Cod Commission-rain gardens - Peter Lombardi asked Susan to attend the Freshwater Initiative meeting. Amy Von Hone, Chris Miller among other town officials were present. Susan noticed that none of BPC's numerous remediation projects were recognized. She will contact the Commission to request the projects be included.
5. Harwich pond coalition formation - Marcia has been guiding Ann Frechette from Harwich in her efforts to set up a ponds coalition. Ann was a guest at the board meeting. The coalition will be set up as a non-profit organization. Per Ann, there are approximately 260 residents living around Harwich ponds. Twenty-five ponds of Harwich's over sixty ponds have been officially named. There are four major ponds whose residents are interested in forming a coalition. Other ponds will be invited to join as well. Ann was very impressed with BPC and garnered a lot of information from the meeting..

Current Priorities

1. Events Recap
 - a. BPC community forums on April 16th and 20th discussed articles on the warrant related to water resources. The first forum was attended by sixteen participants and town manager Peter Lombardi. Susan did an outstanding job of presenting the second forum with twenty three participants at the library. There were numerous questions posed by attendees at both forums.
 - b. Beautify Brewster - April 27th - Per Nancy, the well-organized BPC team once again did a great cleanup job. Thirty volunteers collected 800 nips among lots of other garbage. The final townwide nip count should be available soon per Ryan Burch from the DNR. The free lunch held at the Brewster Baptist Church afterwards was well attended.
 - c. Recent town forums on warrant articles - The town ran two forums on the warrant this past week. The first forum was on all the articles with the exception of the Sea Camps. This forum had a low attendance. Susan asked when one can expect projects with allocated funds to begin. The process involves putting the project out to bid, time needed for engineering design work, etc. No clear timetable was offered. The second forum was devoted to the Sea Camps. Susan was unable to get a clear answer regarding the number of additional houses that need to be hooked up to a package sewer system on the Long Pond property in order for wastewater to have zero impact.
2. Events Upcoming
 - a. Eco Paddle - May 4th - Only six participants including Susan and some of her family members have signed up for the eco paddle; Discussion ensued regarding whether this should be continued next year and in what format. Nancy suggested perhaps the \$75 per person fee was too expensive. Marcia suggested having the event every other year. Ryan Burch from the DNR, who runs the event, is a great supporter of BPC. Nancy mentioned that Irene Penney placed an ad for this event on Martha's Vineyard radio mentioning BPC..

- b. Brewster in Bloom Parade - May 5th - Any board members interested in participating in this event should meet at Eddy School at noon on Sunday. BPC board members and Shelley the Turtle can walk along the sides of the truck carrying the 10 year banner and various pond ornaments on tall sticks. Frank Bridges' truck will be used in the parade.
 - c. Pond Summit June 8th - speakers - Bryan Horsely from MASSTC will speak on eco toilets followed by a representative from UMass Cranberry Station in Wareham who will do a presentation on the impact of cranberry bogs on pond health and Marty Burke who will promote the Pond Pledge Program. The event held at the Brewster Baptist Church will start at 9:30 AM with a light breakfast and should end around 11:30 AM. Jane recommends recording the individual segments with slides to facilitate the audio visual task that has presented challenges in the past. Peter Lombardi reminded BPC that the 50th anniversary of the Council on Aging will be held from 11 - 2 PM. That should not present an issue as the overlap is minimal.
 - d. Board get together - June - Susan is hosting a board get together at her house in June. The board decided that Susan should come up with a date since she is the hostess as opposed to requesting the board to agree on a date.
 - e. Annual meeting - August 10th - speaker - Susan is requesting board members to think of possible speakers for the annual meeting.
3. 2024 Pond Guide - The Pond Guides will be released to the printer tomorrow.
 4. Pond Management Plan and Pond Studies - Ron drafted an outline of the plan, which was sent to Kim Crocker Pearson, the Chair of the Committee.
 5. Phosphorus Study - Susan (in John's absence) - Nancy announced that John and Mark Nelson will meet at her property on Lower Mill Pond on May 8th to determine the location of the wells. No contracts have been signed yet by the three homeowners that will participate in the study. Mark Nelson submitted a revised scope of work which is in line with the original plan. Brian Horsley of MASSTC will submit a scope of work to do the lab work associated with the study. A cost estimate of this lab work will be provided.
 6. Recruiting younger members - Discussion ensued regarding recruiting younger board members. Many of these adult candidates are already heavily involved in community volunteer activities, working, and/or busy raising families. Kevin has a list of Brewster young professionals that could perhaps get involved in BPC. Susan suggested connecting with the Green Team at Nauset HS. This group of environmentally aware students could be possible recruits for BPC activities.

Board recruitment - to be discussed during executive session

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

1. Scholarships - Marcia will not be in charge of scholarships next year and, therefore, a replacement volunteer will be needed. Two students from Nauset High School will receive scholarships at graduation. There were no applicants from Cape Cod Technical High School.
2. Tim Chase will meet with Marty to understand the membership workflow. Tim prefers studying the online NEON courses as opposed to attending a class.
3. Ron reported that fifty-one Citizen Scientist volunteers were recently given training via ZOOM. There will be an in person follow up training at Long Pond on May 9th.

4. Susan reported that there is no update to the Long Pond water station situation. There has been concern by the town of rinsing Citizen Scientist equipment in the vicinity of Long Pond.

Executive Session - Three potential board candidates were discussed. Susan will request bios from these candidates for board consideration per the board's request.

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments.
Susan to scan Pollinator Pathway paperwork for BPC website.
Susan to request Cape Cod Commission to add BPC remediation projects to their list of pond projects completed.
Susan to request bios from three board candidates.
Mary to inquire about audiovisual equipment for the Pond Summit.
All board members are invited to participate in the Brewster in Bloom parade Sunday.
- Next Board Meeting - June 6, 2024 - Google Meet
- July Meeting - July 9th - Google Meet
- August Meeting - August 1st - Google Meet? Or in person?

Meeting adjourned: 8:06 PM

Submitted by: Nancy Ortiz, Secretary