

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

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

Meeting called to order: 6:03 PM

Standing Topics

1. Review and approve the minutes of the May 2nd Board Meeting - Nancy - accepted unanimously.
2. Confirm and document email votes between Board meetings Incoming mail (if any) - none.
3. Incoming Mail - Rob/others - none.
4. Treasurer's report - Rob
 - a. Financial statements - see Board folder - Balance \$243,868
Expenses \$5,518 (largest item was Pond Guide printing)
Donations \$8,900 (some of which was business partners)
Jan-May income \$54K - expenses \$20K - \$34K surplus reserves
Volunteer indemnity and other insurance invoices arriving in June
3 donations from business partners still outstanding (Brewster Bookstore, Rail Trail Bike Shop (new recruit), Peacemaker Restaurant (new recruit) - \$7.5K business partner donations to date.
Susan reminded board members that Green Road Refill, a business partner, sells environmentally friendly cleaning supplies.
 - b. Earmarked projects - no new
 - c. Approval of expenses and reimbursements (if any) - none
5. Misc. administrative matters - All
 - a. \$25K earmarked state funding - Susan never received response from State re: applying \$25K grant to John's septic system pilot project
 - b. Amaya graduation gift/thank you - Board voted unanimously to give Amaya a \$100 gift card from Williams College Bookstore (or elsewhere) as a thank you for her assistance with Instagram and Threads. Amaya is graduating today (6/6) from Newton HS. In addition to assisting with social media, Amaya wrote an article for Ripples, has tested for cyanobacteria and done satellite projects with Marty. Kevin suggested staying in touch with Amaya in the future as BPC would benefit from contact with a younger population. Jane will talk with Amaya about continuing social media volunteer work. Marty mentioned that Amaya will continue volunteering in the citizen science cyanobacteria monitoring program along with the NOAA satellite study.

New Business - Tim is requesting access to MailChimp. There are currently five seats. Marty will transfer his spot to Tim once he retires from the board in August. (There is a cost to add additional MailChimp seats.)

Current Priorities

1. Events Upcoming
 - a. Pond Summit June 8th - 47 participants have registered. Tim will record the program and Jane will arrange the slides. Per Susan's suggestion, the town has supplied Board of Health information for distribution at the summit.
 - b. Board get together at Susan's house has been changed from Wednesday 6/26 to Tuesday 6/25 5 PM so all board members can attend.
 - c. Brewster Conservation Day 7/13 - Kevin will replace Konrad as Dapper Dan. Konrad will assist in assembling the archway entrance to the Big Flush. The theme is trees. A suggestion was made to create a tree banner listing all the benefits of trees (stabilize banks, erosion control, decrease the need for fertilizer, etc.). John will help with the tree "benefit list" for the banner which can be used in the future by Marcia and her education committee.
2. Annual meeting - August 10th
 - a. Speaker suggestions - Discussion ensued regarding possible speakers for the annual meeting. Bill Keating, Julien Cyr, a representative from Maura Healey's or Elizabeth Warren's offices, or Logan Bailey from the Department of Public Health were suggested. All board members were encouraged to come up with speaker ideas.
 - b. Splash Award nominations - A volunteer was unanimously voted to receive the Splash award. (The name will appear in the August minutes in order to keep the winner confidential.) John and Marty will present the award.
 - c. July Newsletter - Jane has created a list of articles to be submitted in the Summer 2024 E-Newsletter folder under Publications. Stories are due June 14th-17th.
3. Ponds Management Plan and Pond Studies - Ron. Progress on the Ponds Management plan has been slow. The purpose was discussed at the last meeting, but has not been written. The Chair of the Natural Resources Advisory Commission will put together options regarding who will actually be drafting the plan at the next meeting on June 13th. Ron will report on progress before the next Water Resources Task Force meeting on June 27.
4. Water Resources Task Force - Mark Nelson from Horsley Whitten announced that Brewster will not have to do any remediation work on the Herring River watershed permit due to Brewster's low level of nitrogen contribution. Concern was expressed regarding how many additional houses will be needed to be hooked up to a package water treatment plant to mitigate the effect of affordable housing on the Long Pond property. Additional growth of future housing must also be taken into consideration. Discussion ensued regarding active and inactive cranberry bogs especially those located in the Herring River watershed. What is the impact of these active bogs? The cranberry bog speaker at the 6/8 pond summit might be able to answer questions.
5. Phosphorus Study - John - Five wells were drilled at the Ortiz residence on 6/6. The engineers will return in two weeks to determine the precise waterflow direction. More well(s) will most likely need to be drilled once the direction is determined. The property at 364 Run Hill Road is too complex for the study, however the property at 366 Run Hill could possibly be used depending on the results of the Ortiz study. Discussion ensued regarding other possible locations for the phosphorus study. Rob's house will be investigated as another candidate.
6. The replacement of the aeration system at Canoe Pond was discussed by John Keith and Tim Chase. John had spoken about the project's NOI with several Conservation Board Members. Some had expressed concern about a connection to Upper Mill Pond

and the potential for herring to migrate to Canoe Pond. Apparently, there is no water connection between Canoe Pond and Upper Mill so this shouldn't be an issue. Conservation also expressed concern with the possible injury to the pond's biota that could be caused by the aeration system. This concern is questionable given that the existing aeration system has been proven effective at measurably improving water quality. BPC will contribute \$10K toward the \$30K cost of the project.

Committee Reports - Written/verbal reports as needed

1. Scholarships - Chloe Vouvakis and Sage Lach were the recipients of the BPC scholarship award. Both have graduated from NRHS. Marcia is resigning as chair of the Scholarship Committee for next year.
2. The NOAA satellite study will begin in early July. Grif Ryder is leaving the Department of Public Works. The Walkers project and Leland Road projects are scheduled for late summer or early fall. Grif was involved in these projects.
3. The BPC Cyanobacteria Monitoring program equipment will be moved out of Gwen Pelletier's garage to the new Long Pond storage shed once the town has given us the final approval and necessary paperwork. We expect that to happen in mid-June.
4. Pond Ed - Sixty-five 2nd graders participated in the Pond Ed water sampling program. The 5th grade program was canceled due to rain and will take place in the classroom on Monday instead. Per Marcia, the pond ed program must adjust to having classroom presentations in the future as an alternative to visiting a pond if a weather cancellation occurs. It is not possible to reschedule buses. Per Marica, the microscopes on the computer are fabulous. This partially compensates for moving the presentation from the pond to the classroom.
5. May events recap - BPC's Brewster in Bloom float was well received in the parade. The Punkhorn walk was rescheduled for Sunday 5/19 due to rain. Twenty-two of the thirty-three registered for the 6/4 invasive plant talk attended. All agreed the talk was well done.
6. Communications - The Pond Guides have been distributed.

Executive Session - Board recruitment discussed. Executive session adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Linda Darbyshire and Karyn Frey were unanimously approved as new board members. These new recruits will replace Marty, Nancy, and Mary. There are two other possible candidates being considered..

Wrap-up

- Recap decisions, action items, and follow-up assignments
Jane will contact Williams College regarding a gift for Amaya.
The Board get together at Susan's house has been changed to Tuesday, 6/25
Marcia, with the assistance of John, will create a tree banner for Conservation Day which will also be used by pond ed.
All board members are encouraged to brainstorm possible speakers for the annual meeting. Marty suggested Logan Bailey from the MA DPH.

- Next Board Meeting - **Tuesday**, July 9, 2024 - Google Meet - John will chair as Susan will not be available.
- August Meeting - August 1, 2024 - Google Meet

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 PM

Submitted by: Nancy Ortiz, Secretary