



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

January 24, 2022

Virtual Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Anne Savage, Nancy Costello, Grace Bennett, Marsha Penrose, Mark Schlessman, Laura Shaddak, Jeanette Carioto, Kate Carleo, Ted Kolankowski, and Jenny O'Neil, candidate for BPC Treasurer position

Absentees: Felton and Ceiligh McLaughlin

The meeting opened with the introduction of Jenny O'Neill to the Board. A neighborhood resident and an accountant for many years, with a background in work for non-profits, her expertise was viewed as a welcome addition to the Board as Treasurer.

1. Meeting Minutes

VOTE: The minutes of the November 22, 2021 Board meeting were accepted.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report, which had been submitted to the Board by email, was reviewed. Jeanette highlighted the \$4,300 which is earmarked, leaving \$47,969 in available funds. The operating costs for the two months since the last Board meeting involved payments to BlueHost and to Dropbox. Gross profit for the year was \$10,455.70 and expenses were \$5,090.33.

VOTE: The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Jenny O'Neill spoke about the advisability of a two-signer system whereby the Treasurer is not in charge of reconciling. Gabi will arrange a meeting with Jeanette, Grace, and Jenny to discuss the transition.

3. Park Updates

- 3.1 *Japanese Knotweed:* Felton was not in attendance to provide an update on Japanese Knotweed.
- 3.2 *Wild Ones:* Laura is doing a Wild Ones presentation at the end of February. This type of program may be considered for inclusion at the BPC annual meeting.

- 3.3 *Shoreline Improvements*: Gabi presented information on a meeting with Laura to determine the next steps for the shoreline stabilization project. She highlighted the following tentative schedule:
- a. Laura's draft of planting plan by mid-February
 - Removals and new work plans and planting list by mid-March
 - Plans submitted to Jessica/DGS by end of March
 - b. Meeting with Ted re landscapers & bidding process
 - Identify potential bidders by end of January
 - Put together bid documents by mid-March
 - c. Following meetings with Mark, Laura, and Ted, information will be shared with the Board before getting a contractor. Ted mentioned that Nadine would be the perfect person for permits, either directly or through B & L. The three technical memos sent before are guides on how to approach projects around the pond. Gabi asked for Board thoughts on a consultant for permits and maybe design. Anne said that this would be preferable if the fee is reasonable. Gabi thought Joe Coffey might be able to be of help with the permits, and that Felton's input is needed.
 - d. Planting could be done in the fall. The project arranged by Gwen was done in the spring, but Gabi stated that we won't be ready by the Spring Cleanup.
 - e. **TO DO:** 1) consult Felton (Gabi)
2) reach out to Joe Coffey (Gabi)
3) reach out to Nadine (Ted)
- 3.4 *Playground Champion*: Gabi reported that Al Lawrence of Greenway South is a possible volunteer for the position of playground advocate. Grace said that he has been a member for a long time.

4. Membership

Grace stated that there are a couple of new members, but there was nothing else to report in Membership.

5. Social Media

Kate and Ceiligh will work on some enhanced ideas for Social Media posts on Facebook/Instagram and with additional platforms including TicTock, Twitter, and YouTube. Emphasis will be placed on concise, informative posts with pictures submitted by the community, and free visual tools could be used for posts without pictures. Regular posting could have a tie-in to the tree tagging, perhaps with one tree featured at a time. Mark thought this would be a good idea and is willing to help with strategizing. In line with his tree tagging educational goals, he could design a table with the trees we have, determining which month to feature each variety.

Gabi asked Kate to get Ceiligh working on tree posts.

6. Website Updates

Gabi is working on her last contact for Website updating, GoatCloud Communications. She will arrange to meet with Nancy regarding finalizing content.

7.) New Business

7.1 Annual Meeting

Details of the upcoming Annual Meeting were discussed. Last year's announcements covered the whole neighborhood, and people on the mailing list received two which added to the cost of the mailing. Grace mentioned that it seemed to go to a bigger area than usual as well. A large mailing such as this will not be done every year.

Marsha asked what the bylaws say about notification. Anne said there must be 30 days' notice, and March 27 was agreed upon as the most desirable date for the virtual meeting. Responses are always good when paper announcements are sent, so Gabi will work on a draft that will be sent to the membership and the mailing list. Anne will reach out to the printer used previously, and Gabi will coordinate the mailing process.

Before the February Board meeting, Gabi will determine what is necessary to amend the bylaws regarding the process of recruiting and nominating Board members as well as increasing/decreasing the number who can serve. Expiring Board members must be reelected and Jenny will be made official at the meeting.

7.2 Skating Party:

The annual ice-skating party was discussed as a desirable outdoor event where people can safely connect. If held this year it would be done without serving hot chocolate, but a fire pit might be possible. This event requires insurance and ice testing, and the ice-condition signs seem inconsistent. Concern was expressed about public confidence if the signs are not kept up.

Gabi will contact Justin Atlas with February 13, 20, and 27 as optional dates to be submitted for permits. She will also work on notices for this event, as well as for the Annual meeting.

7.3 NYSFOLA:

Grace brought up the need for a check and forms to NYSFOLA.

Meeting Adjourned at 8PM.

The fourth Monday next month will be February 28.