



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

February 27, 2022

Virtual Meeting 7:00

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

Absentees:

The meeting opened with the introduction of Al Lawrence to the Board. Al will be keeping a watchful eye on the playground during his regular Pond Walks.

1. Meeting Minutes

VOTE: The minutes of the January 24, 2022 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 51,800.79 subtracting funds earmarked, leaving \$47,455.77 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 will be around \$10,xxx and expenses were \$5,090.33 with one month left in the fiscal year. Onboarding Jenny is ongoing.

VOTE: The Treasurer's report was accepted.

3. Park Updates

- 3.1 Ice Skating Party Debrief: Gabi talked about the skating party and asked that there be a group of people committed to the event. Grace had suggested one person chair the event as there were several board members involved which felt at times difficult. Grace felt that it will be easier next year as there has been a learning process because of the permit required, changing contacts at the city and the need to be flexible with dates. Grace suggested that members commit to dates and find backups if they can no longer attend. Felton recalled Deb from the City Council helped a great deal and Justin who has been somewhat difficult to pin down attended during the entire event. We received \$86 dollars in donations and XX skaters enjoyed a good skate. Thanks to Jonathan from parks, Lucy from Dunkin Donuts, Justin from DGS, Vincent Rossi who spent a couple of hours clearing the snow from the ice.

- 3.2 *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 was complete by mid-February
 - Laura created a draft removals and new work plans and planting list which will be edited by **mid-March**
 - Still on schedule for plans submitted to Jessica/DGS by **end of March**
 - b. Ted will schedule a landscape committee meeting to finalize the plant list, add notes and details. Also
 - Received a list of potential bidders by **end of January**
 - DGS offered to help put together bid documents by **mid-March**
 - c. Grant (ARPA) funding: Felton **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. Ted contacted Nadine Medina regarding her assistance with permitting and Nadine gracefully declined stating that she was not comfortable committing to a potentially short time requirement.
 - f. **TO DO:** 1) **landscape committee meeting**
- 3.3 *Playground Champion*: Gabi listed some of the expectation for Al Lawrence our new volunteer. Al will report any issues to the board and eventually to the City with an eye towards damages, breakage, etc. to the equipment

4. CSLAP

New volunteers for the testing crew will be needed as Gabi will not be available from June through December leaving only Felton and Grace. Laura offered to help with testing. The Conference where training takes place is at the end of April in Lake George (4/29-30). Training is usually on the Saturday (4/30).

VOTE: A motion to cover the cost of attendance to the CSLAP conference for four board members was introduced by Gabi, seconded by Marsha was accepted.

5. Japanese Knotweed

Hyde Clark a land use attorney who is familiar with knotweed removal and will be involved in approval of the permit. Ted will forward information on herbicides that will help with managing oriental bittersweet to send along as well.

6. Native Plants Presentation by Laura

Laura would be willing to do her presentation again for the wild ones as well as for the Board at the annual meeting.

7. Membership

Grace stated that there was one new member.

8. Social Media

Mark suggested showing one visual tool illustrating one of the plants at a time.

9. Web Site Update

Gabi reported the web site is moving forward.

10. Annual Meeting

Jenny will be running for a three year term on the board to balance out the attrition of the board members. Besides Jenny, Mark and Laura will be running for re-election.

Anne received a quote for the mailing and asked that the board allocate up to \$1,000 for the annual membership meeting. Ted seconded, approved.

Letter has been prepared and is ready to go for Anne. Email and website update will also be done.

Felton reminded all that officers are not chosen until after the board member elections.

11. New Business

Treasurer discussion: Grace suggested approving the treasurer as signatory for checks under a threshold, say under \$500. Jenny O stated she does a lot of driving and would not have a problem stopping off for signatures.

Grace spoke regarding the 'Save the Ontario Street Post Office'. A petition is making the rounds. Use the post office there as much as possible. Spread the word!

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

The fourth Monday next month will be March 28.