



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

March 28, 2022

Virtual Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Anne Savage, Nancy Costello, Grace Bennett, Marsha Penrose, Laura Shaddak, Jeanette Carioto, Kate Carleo, Jenny O'Neil, and Felton McLaughlin

Absentees: Mark Schlessman and Ted Kolankowski

1. Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the February Board meeting were not available and will be considered at the next meeting.

2. Treasurer's Report

Jeanette referred to the current Treasurer's report which was presented at the Annual Meeting on March 27 via Zoom. There was a discussion about the rising cost of mailings, and Anne suggested that mailings to people who haven't been heard from in a while can be discontinued.

VOTE: The treasurer's report was accepted.

3. Board Member Election

VOTE: The following Board members were elected:

Gabi Sarhos – President

Felton McLaughlin – Vice President

Jenny O'Neill – Treasurer-Elect 2022-2025, 3-Year Proposed Term

Grace Bennett – At Large

Marsha Penrose – At Large

Anne Savage – At Large

Mark Schlessman – At Large

4. Park Updates

a) Shoreline Stabilization

Laura reported on an updated plan for the shoreline stabilization project which will be presented to the City. The Water Department will be asked for a discussion about how to bid. Felton said a proposal for contractors to bid should be requested, and templates used by DGS could be obtained. After reaching out to Jess, there should be a meeting with the City Attorney regarding a separate MOU with the City. Laura thought the nationwide permits should be OK at the 250 feet planned.

Marsha asked about the eventual need for draining and whether or not the proposed plantings would interfere. Felton replied that the area is further east by the parking lot. Dredging was

discussed as costing a million or more which was said to be more than BPC could pay. In the 1990s silt could be stored onshore but now it would have to be trucked off-site. Efforts now are to push off the date for such a project.

b) ARPA Albany grant from Deb Zamer (Felton)

The grant window was said to still be open and anything done for the shoreline stabilization would probably qualify. Gabi wondered if a volunteer could be found to work on this. Felton commented on the amount of work involved but said that a lot could be pulled from the Management Plan. Pre-application involves a checklist and four narrative paragraphs. Laura and Ted would have to work on the narrative, but there is a need for one person to be the gatekeeper. Gabi contacted Elizabeth Draper who will probably be interested in taking this on. Gabi would like to get it in by May.

c) Playground Maintenance (Al Lawrence)

Al Lawrence of Greenway South has volunteered for the position of playground advocate. He has been a member for a long time. It will have to be determined how issues will be reported. The Board should be made aware of any problems, and a relationship with the Dept. of Recreation would also be desirable.

d) CSLAP

Laura, Felton, and Grace will be going to CSLAP training on the 30th. This is a full day of training.

e) Spring Cleanup

May 15 was determined to be the best day for Spring Cleanup, which will focus on garlic mustard and bittersweet removal rather than plantings. Zones will be identified and maps available for distribution. Grace will order the necessary equipment from DGS, allowing enough time to avoid previous issues of delivery. The difficult job of log removal was discussed, along with the need for a push on social media.

f) Japanese Knotweed / Herbicide Committee

Felton mentioned that Hyde Clark, a land-use attorney and 6th Ward councilman, has said that the city's pesticide committee is moving forward.

5. Membership

- Grace noted that checks should go to Jenny now and that some bank things need to be done.
- Gabi and Felton will be signers. Jenny needs to get all necessary records and she will meet with Grace to do so.
- Grace had a question about a \$250 donation from Fidelity Charity to be put in the database but not as a membership.

6. Social Media Updates

There was no Social Media update.

7. Website Updates

- It was noted that there is no posting of emails provided in the new website proposal unless continuing with Bluehost. Anne expressed dissatisfaction with Bluehost.
- The \$2,350 fee falls within the previous allocation of \$2,500.
- **VOTE:** The proposal from GoatCloud website designer/developer was accepted and the process of moving forward as needed was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38

Next meeting is April 25