



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

July 27, 2022

Virtual Meeting 7:00

Meeting Minutes prepared by Nancy Costello.

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Anne Savage, Nancy Costello, Laura Shaddak, Jeanette Carioto, Mark Schlessman, Felton McLaughlin, Kate Carleo, Jenny O'Neil, and Grace Bennett, with guests Sophie Kolankowski, Al Lawrence, Ruth Pelham, and Rudayna Ghubash

Absentees: Marsha Penrose, Ted Kolankowsk, and Ceiligh McLaughlin.

1. Introductions: Rudayna Ghubash and Ruth Pelham were introduced as guests.
2. Minutes of the July 27 Board meeting were accepted as edited by Gabi and presented during the meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report, encompassing April through July, was accepted.
 - a. Website design expense was noted.
 - b. One large donation from years ago was highlighted as not locked into a specific use.
 - c. Grace acknowledges large donations, and she'd like to notify donors when they're used.
 - d. Funds allocated for Sophie's services on the grant application should be reported.
4. CFA Grant due Friday, July 29 at 4 p.m.
 - a. The ask is \$500,000 with a \$50,000 match.
 - b. Sophie, Grace, and Felton moved content and all narratives have been completed.
 - c. Outstanding items include photos/slides and existing conditions graphics.
 - d. There is space in dropbox for letters of support that are outstanding.
 - e. A meeting is scheduled for Deb Zamer, Felton, and Gabi with BLNA on 7/26.
 - f. Park-wide signage and path widening will be revisited as part of the grant's scope.
5. Park Update
 - a. Park Maintenance / Park Stewards
 - i. Ruth Pelham spoke for Raft's Way neighbors upset about extensive one-time pruning.
 - ii. The formation of regular volunteer group(s) for basic pruning was suggested by Ruth. The pyramid idea of organized stewardship was introduced and favorably received.

- iii. The initial approach to Jessica about forming a team of stewards was well received.
 - iv. Posting on Facebook and circulating emails will be necessary to canvas for volunteers.
 - v. Some minimal training is desirable, and Ruth will meet with Laura to discuss details.
 - vi. Laura was asked if she would take on the rain garden maintenance.
 - b. Aeration Fountain
 - i. This missing fountain has been replaced, and aquatics treatment was done on June 8.
 - c. Garlic Mustard
 - i. Mark reported the garlic mustard area of concentration now has dill weed and impatiens.
 - ii. Future garlic mustard pulling should be less time-consuming
 - d. Ice Cream Social
 - i. The ice cream social will be Sunday, Sept. 11, focusing on inviting pond stewardship.
 - ii. Grace will buy ice cream sandwiches in bulk at Walmark, and Anne will try to get dry ice.
 - iii. The bag with tablecloth etc. needs to be located.
 - e. Playground Maintenance / Rec
 - i. Al Lawrence is following up on the guard missing from the big slide and may talk to Deb.
 - f. CSLAP
 - i. Grace reported that CSLAP work is at the halfway mark and there are no problems.
 - g. DGS Coordination / Quarterly Report
 - i. Deb has been in discussion with DGS about the unresolved port-a-potty location.
 - ii. Regularly scheduled walk-through sessions with DGS will include talk of tree removals.
- 6. Membership & Post Office Mailbox
 - a. No news about future post office location(s).
 - b. 246 members reported.
 - c. More memberships than usual but donations higher?
Interest expressed in comparison.
 - d. Many more checks since COVID—more use of the pond and big mailings are factors.
- 7. Social Media Updates
 - a. Kate will walk through the process of Facebook and Instagram posting for others.
 - b. Mark will be consulted about tree tag posts.
 - c. A message will be crafted about stewardship and Kate will put it out repeatedly.
- 8. Website Updates
 - a. Gabi and Nancy to meet on content after the grant is submitted.

- b. A privacy policy is needed.
 - c. There will be volunteer signup and consolidation of lists on the new website.
- 9. Fundraising for the grant match would be considered initially by a committee.
- 10. Best practices research on bench donations will be revisited when time permits.
- 11. Next Board meeting will be on August 22.

Gavel out at 8:30