



## **BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING**

**August 22, 2022**

**Virtual Meeting 7:00**

Meeting Minutes prepared by Nancy Costello.

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Anne Savage, Nancy Costello, Laura Shaddak, Mark Schlessman, Marsha Penrose, Kate Carleo, Jenny O'Neil, Grace Bennett, with guests Ruth Pelham, and Rudayna Ghubash

Absentees: Jeanette Carioto, Felton McLaughlin, Ted Kolankowsk, and Ceiligh McLaughlin

(Laura announced that she is moving out of the area at the end of September and will no longer be serving on the BPC Board. She is willing to be consulted as questions arise, especially regarding native plantings. Board members thanked her for her invaluable contributions!)

1. Meeting Minutes

VOTE: After a correction of two dates, the July 25 Board minutes were accepted.

2. Treasurer's Report

- a. The Treasurer's report was presented by Jenny.
- b. A total of \$57,108.07 in bank accounts was highlighted.
- c. Unrestricted assets are to be moved to unrestricted balance.
- d. Jenny will write a check for taxes and reimburse herself by PayPal.
- e. Jenny will send Gabi tax confirmation
- f. VOTE: Unused funds for grant management are to be released to general funds.
- g. VOTE: The treasurer's report was accepted.

3. CFA Grant

- a. Gabi noted that there was a lot of work involved in submitting the grant.
- b. Results may be known in December of this year.
- c. If awarded, the next step would involve a committee for fundraising the match.

4. Park Update

A. Stewardship

- a. Ruth Pelham presented a stewardship initiative she worked on with Laura.
- b. The pathway was divided into sections and concerns identified:

- overgrown bushes and vines that need pulling
  - huge overgrown grass
  - tree branches overhanging path
  - rocks that could cause tripping
  - garlic mustard
  - dead trees that have fallen (may be home to animals and insects)
  - leaves not raked (may be desirable to leave them)
  - ~~• seasonal concerns such as path shoveling~~
  - need for publicity
  - the formation of a committee before announcement
- c. Questions were raised and discussed around the following topics:
- scope of work to be attempted by volunteers–level of touch
  - how to manage the different plants
  - the aesthetics of dead and down trees
  - no-mow areas, no random mowing, and no use of salt
  - volunteers' tools to be used or borrowed from DGS
  - picking up vs keeping organic matter on site
  - how to prioritize–share with DGS, talk to Deb Zamer
  - legal ramifications
  - survey the membership?
  - extension of usual cleanups and/or every two months for steward
  - need for control by a supervisor and specific tasks assigned
  - need for an agreement with the City
  - pilot one narrow task and feel out problems that might occur
  - hopefully lead to greater community engagement
- d. Another look at the issues in each section was seen as necessary.
- organization of one small part before presenting to Deb Zamer
  - a landscape plan and/or a yearly maintenance plan?
  - conceptual and organizational plan is needed

- B. Native Plantings
    - a. Redayna Ghubash spoke about her interest in honeybees.
      - she would work in any targeted section with plants they prefer
      - an entomologist friend studying ants could help with picking plants, who might be able to do a presentation at the annual meeting
  - C. Discussion of application for legislator-sponsored funding due Sept. 19.
    - simpler process than the recent grant application
    - Legislator Domalewicz helped on a previous erosion control grant
    - cash was paid and DGS did the work
    - the application was said to be worth a conversation
  - D. Ice Cream Social is scheduled for September 11, 2022.
    - mailing the flyers and putting out announcements to be done
    - Grace will purchase and be reimbursed for the ice cream bars
    - better to have too much ice cream than not enough
    - Anne's table will be used and dry ice available
    - Gabi's tenant is attempting to find the tablecloth
5. Membership
- Three new members were mentioned during the Treasurer's report.  
Grace noted a \$25 donation to honor a former BPC member's birthday.
6. Website layout is being checked with the designer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39