



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

November 28, 2022

ZOOM Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Nancy Costello, Anne Savage, Marsha Penrose, Kate Carleo, Grace Bennett, Felton McLaughlin, Ted Kolankowsk, Mark Schlessman, Jeanette Carioto, Al Lawrence, with guests Timothy Marsh, Jay Hamilton, Kimberly and EJ Verhoff

Absentees: Jenny O'Neil, Ceiligh McLaughlin, Laura Andrea Leguia

EJ Verhoff introduced himself and spoke about his interest in the pond as a site for his Eagle Scout project. The project should be of benefit to the community and have a lasting effect. He would plan and act as project leader, providing labor from members of his troop and perhaps additional friends. He would like to decide upon and accomplish a project by spring.

EJ's Eagle coach, Jay Hamilton, described the process as follows:

- 1) writing a proposal that the troop and the local scout district must approve,
- 2) developing a plan or blueprint with safety contingency,
- 3) reporting after the completion of the project.

Costs involved could be donated by BPC or by fundraising by the troop.

Some project ideas were then discussed, including signage with stories of plant life that BPC has considered as a future project. There would have to be coordination with both the Board and the Department of General Services. BPC Board will discuss the matter further and more ideas will be submitted by EJ. Kim Verhoff gave her email address for future correspondence and said they would wait to hear from the Board.

Timothy Marsh spoke about a multi-county effort in conjunction with SUNY to reintroduce the Karner Blue Butterfly. This involves creating a local community of Wild Lupine plants for the caterpillar to feed on and linking it with a Saratoga Springs effort. This plant is a perennial which will spread. The space must be scarified and kept clean, perhaps using signage. The cost would be \$600 for a pound of seeds plus \$6 for Rhizobial inoculum, available at Prairie Moon Nursery. The plant is native to the area so it should be fine planted directly in the ground, preferably in late fall. They could tolerate both the manicured and the wild areas of the pond, but the invasive species may be a problem. Vines would need to be cleared as previously done by BPC. Acidic and well-drained soil conditions are important. The pond's soils have been disturbed over time and there would need to be a detailed analysis conducted. Also, the City would need to consider the plants and sign off on the planting.

Individual projects by some of the 300 members of the conservancy could be an option. Seeds can be gathered and planted in backyards and pots. Data could be collected with very low impact on the community and on researchers by reports of the coordinates of sightings. Outreach materials and displays for community centers are being created. A SUNY paper is coming out and the Board will be able to see a redacted pre-publication copy.

1. **VOTE:** The October meeting minutes were accepted after corrections were made.

2. In the absence of Jenny O'Neil, voting on the Treasurer's report was postponed.

3. Grants Follow Up

- CFA–Acceptance is usually announced in the second week of December.
- County Grant–The check has been deposited, and all receipts will be kept for possible follow-up reporting. Question of using funds for CFA match as there were no specified conditions required. Also possible to use for Wild Lupine.

4. Park Updates

Vegetation Pruning Regular Steward Group

- The original idea was for a small group of volunteers to keep the path walkable.
- Plan must not be overcomplicated to be workable and Laura said she'd organize.
- Need City approval and Jessica Morgan is willing to work with the effort.
- Vests with BPC and City logo would be good to identify trained volunteers.
- Felton will reach out to Laura to form a subcommittee and involve Ruth.

Clean-up Results

- Much more work to be done on the vines.
- Jess will take care of brush piles, but clarification is needed on bagging.
- Vines tend to be mixed with thorns so bagging can hurt the pruner.
- Could a personal truck deliver to the chipper area?
- Vine removal made some trees and shrubs unattractive.
- Some volunteers were unnecessarily raking and bagging leaves.

Tree Tag Loss

- Mark has extra tree tags and will be replacing those that are lost.
- The evergreens can be done now.

Playground Maintenance

- The large slide's green plastic fencing was replaced by a painted particle board.
- Al phoned and emailed the new Deputy Commissioner at the Parks Department.
- A misunderstanding exists about who should pay for parts replacements.
- MOU states that the City is responsible for maintenance, agreement of 8-10-17.
- Al will reply and copy Gabi.

CSLAP

- There are large areas of the pond where sub-surface green algae is growing.
- Stephanie June is running CSLAP and she joined once for water testing.
- Felton will reach out to her and may send pictures as well.

Meeting with City Forester

- Mark attended the meeting and was impressed with Jay Levigne's report.
- Trees cut down on City property will be replaced.

5. Grace reported that there are currently 259 members.

6. Social Media Updates

- Kate will write something about the grants.
- Gabi will reach out to Ceiligh to help with this.

7. Gabi reported that the website will become a focus after the first of the year.

8. New Business

- BLNA has indicated that they want to work with us on overlapping issues.
- Board members have concerns about diluting or detracting from BPC's mission.
- Questions arose about involvement in a coat drive to be held at the pond.
- Gabi will reach out to BLNA saying we can't put a table at this winter event.
- Mention in flyers &/or shared presence at a pond's spring event are possibilities.
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Meeting adjourned at 8:46

Next meeting: January 2, 2023