



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

January 23, 2023

ZOOM Meeting 7:00

Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Nancy Costello, Anne Savage, Marsha Penrose, Kate Carleo, Grace Bennett, Felton McLaughlin, Ted Kolankowsk, Jeanette Carioto, Al Lawrence, Laura Andrea Leguia

Absentees: Mark Schlessman, Jenny O'Neil, Ceiligh McLaughlin

1) **VOTE:** The minutes of the November 28 Board meeting were passed.

2) **Gabi will contact Jenny about the Treasurer's reports.**

3) Grants Follow Up

County:

- Anne reiterated that there seem to be no specified expectations for this grant.
- All **receipts and anything to do with planting will be tracked.**

CFA:

- Ted reported that we did not get the grant, but it's a possibility in the future.
- City of Albany's award involves a porous pavement basketball court.
- **Gabi can write a thank you note for the opportunity to apply and get a debrief.**
- When we know how we scored, **Joe Coffey can be contacted about future grants.**
- The need for **something to be done about the path should be a priority.**
- Several other projects have been discussed but have not been implemented.
- BPC's **next meeting should involve prioritizing and strategizing.**
- **Ted will get information on porous pavement that bonds with stone dust.**

4) PARK UPDATES AND EVENTS

Playground Maintenance:

- Al met with Tim Diamond, Deputy Commissioner of Recreation.
- He reports that there is no budget money available for the slide repair.
- The parts needed are aluminum with metal bolts and cost about \$500
- **Gabi will contact Bree about the warranty and let Tim know the result.**

CSLAP:

- Felton presented the **forms that need to be filed after Board approval.**
- He then noted that participating volunteers need to be identified.
- **Laura, Gabi, Grace, and Felton will sign the forms, with Charlie as a backup.**
- There was a discussion of once versus two times a month in light of the costs.
- The membership fee covers the conference, but there may be training fees.
- There is a deadline so **Felton will try scanned copies for submission.**
- **VOTE:** Funds for twice-a-month CSLAP testing were authorized.

Skating Party:

- Felton gets hot chocolate and munchkins from Dunkin' Donuts.
- Camp stove bought for hot dogs can be used to keep hot chocolate warm.
- If camp stove is hot on the bottom, a piece of plywood could cover the table.
- Core of three people who can definitely attend will be needed to help.
- Helpers must get things out onto the ice and serve the hot chocolate.
- Grace's bag of supplies, Anne's table, camp chairs, and blankets are needed.
- Fire pit is a nice draw but there's a question about the need for a permit.
- City is cosponsoring and providing insurance so Grace will ask Mike Pakatar.
- Gabi will create the flyer listing all three possible dates—the 5th, 12th, & 26th.
- Flyer should say the party will take place the first time the ice is OK.
- Email to the community should have "save the date" for the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting:

- Date is set for Sunday, March 26 from 1-3, with Board elections taking place.
- Nancy and Kate agreed to run again, with Ted and Jeanette to be determined.
- Letter will be emailed to the membership this year as a "save the date" follow-up.
- Next year will be a big mailing to the neighborhood highlighting the new website.
- If the annual meeting is to be in person a suitable location must be secured.
- Marsha will contact the Bethany Reformed church regarding availability.
- The nominating committee needs 1 Board member and 2 other voting members.
- Deb Zamer will be asked to be on the committee, although she may have a conflict.

EJ Verhoff Boy Scout Project:

- EJ needs to be the planner and project leader, then report on the process.
- Removal/updating of the current sign, funded by Armory, is an option.
- There should be signs on both sides of the pond, with hinges to be opened.
- If he takes on a signage project, he would have to coordinate with DGS.

Party Pit Action:

- Consideration of this matter was deferred until after the annual meeting.

Vegetation Pruning, Steward Group, Training Process:

- Gabi has documents regarding what is done in NYC training program.
- These will be combined with the work done by Laura Shaddock and shared.
- Consideration will be given to stewardship@bpc.org and inclusion in the website.
- Laura Lequia will view the site of Janet Stutzman's garden.

5) LONG-TERM PROJECTS

Blue Lupine:

- Lupine likes to be dry and Laura Leguia suggested trying a small area first.
- No details from SUNY yet but drainage testing may have already been done.
- Laura will inquire about this and talk offline with Gabi about organizing.

6) MEMBERSHIP

- Grace reported that membership has not changed since the last report.

7) VOLUNTEERS

- Laura will get an online list of those who have volunteered before.

- **Mark will be asked for a separate list of volunteers from his projects.**
- **Events could become routine—for instance, every other Sunday.**
- **Routine cleanups could be brought up and discussed at the annual meeting.**

8) SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

- None discussed

9) WEBSITE UPDATE

- **What We Do content will be communicated with the designer.**
- **Cost may be more than what was in the original agreement.**
- **Designer agreed to more technical work than putting writing in templates.**
- **Gabi will follow up and confer with the designer.**

10) MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY

- **Gabi will attend this by-invitation-only event and report back.**
- **Interest is how money from the Federal Government was spent.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35

Next meeting scheduled for 2/27/23

Annual meeting 3/26/23