



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING
April 24, 2023
ZOOM Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Nancy Costello, Marsha Penrose, Felton McLaughlin, Mark Schlessman, Jeanette Carioto, Jenny O'Neil, Grace Bennett, Ted Kolankowski, Sara Hart, Therese Joyce, and Neighborhood Specialist Tabora Marcus

Absentees: Anne Savage, Kate Carleo, Laura Andrea Leguia, Linda Wagner, Ceiligh McLaughlin

1) Members of the Board introduced themselves, and neighbors Sara Hart and Therese Joyce were welcomed to the meeting.

2) **VOTE** The March 27 Board meetings were accepted.

3) **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Membership is down to 176 from last year's total of 207.
- Only expense was the website host at \$120 per month.
- Bank balance April 24 is \$63,000, with restricted funds of \$5,545.

VOTE The Treasurer's report was accepted.

- Discussion of who should be reported to bank as signers of checks.
- **The bank needs to see the signers and have something in writing.**
- **A Friday date will be determined for those concerned to go to bank.**

VOTE BPC Treasurer Jenny O'Neil is authorized to sign checks under \$500.

VOTE BPC President, Vice President, and past treasurer will sign checks over \$500.

4) **GRANTS FOLLOW UP**

CFA:

- **It would be good to have Deb Zamer join the meeting on CFA.**
- **A Zoom or in-person meeting will be scheduled with Brain Gyory.**

5) **PARK UPDATES AND EVENTS**

Path Maintenance:

- Asphalt paving has not been considered for the path.
- Ted will send a brochure on the use of native material that hardens.
- Porous pavement needs special cleaning every 6 months or it clogs.
- The City is thought to have used the necessary equipment previously.
- Tabora will find out if the City has necessary maintenance equipment.
- Marsha will send an email to Deb Zamer; need to know City's plans.
- Sara will send links for the proposal of trail building without pavement.
- Cost would be comparable; City would have to do it or hire.
- The grant of \$5,000 for improvements could be explored.
- Turf from the rubber mat experiment has been covered by stone dust.
- For reasons of water quality and safety, need to plan for permanent fix.

Playground Maintenance:

Al reported that he was told the necessary parts will be ordered.

CSLAP:

- Felton, Laura, and Linda will be attending the conference.
- Laura will be testing water so she needs the training session.
- Work on the water is every other Saturday from early June.
- A definite schedule is to be determined.
- Sara said, if needed and she's available, she can be a sub for Grace or Felton in the canoe.

VOTE Up to \$500 is authorized for CSLAP attendance.

Spring Cleanup April 30:

- Felton printed and Linda put up the posters.
- Tools to be delivered Friday to Felton's and picked up Monday.
- A patch of garlic mustard in SW corner needs pulling.
- Other areas will be checked for garlic mustard.
- Some tree tags are missing and can be replaced.
- Laura could lead on bittersweet, helping people identify and cut.
- Grace will talk to Laura and work in one of the places needed.
- There was discussion of the need for chemical treatment.
- Felton will email Amy now to give lead time for possible permission.
- Gabi, Marsha, Mark, Grace, Ted, and Laura will be working.
- Gabi will pick up Anne's table, bring chairs and all the table things.
- Marsha will work the table by the entrance near the stone bench.
- It's necessary to find out how trash and cuttings should be left.
- Debris on the East end of the pond was said to provide a habitat.
- There is now a dresser in what's termed "the pit" area.
- Photo is needed to send to Sergio, and possibly to notify police.

EJ Verhoff Boy Scout Project:

- EJ is talking to DGS and BPC should hear from him shortly.
- New hardware for the signs is possible, with a possible 3rd sign.

Park Stewards:

- Mark said that corrugated plastic lawn signs can inform about invasives.
- Made locally by Staples the cost would be about \$15 per sign.
- Permission is probably needed to use the City's logo.
- Gabi said that 10 would be a good number and she will help design.
- When a vote is taken, Mark will order.
- Wearables such as vests would not be an either/or with signs.
- Gabi will check on the possibility of vests and follow up by email.

Port-a-Potty:

- There has been a back-and-forth with Deb about location objections.
- Change in company resulted in trucks not being able to have access.
- Parking lot was suggested as close to playground and picnic areas.
- Gabi and Ted will research possibility of a partition or screening.

6) MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Grace reminded the Board that memberships are due and can be brought to cleanup.

7) VOLUNTEERS (Laura absent)

8) SOCIAL MEDIA (Kate & Ceiligh absent)

9) WEBSITE UPDATES

Gabi has added content and will be asking for additional allocation.

10) NEW BUSINESS

- Tabora spoke about Hudson River Gateway Project Zoom mtg, 6:30, 5/4.
- She was asked to check on plans for any pop-up BBQ's in this area.
- Therese Joyce spoke about the possibility of little free libraries near pond.
- Gabi will send Therese the address to contact BLNA for consideration.
- These libraries need organization and constant maintenance.
- Some individuals buy them and there's some fundraising for the \$300 cost.
- Tabora said she would research with the City and get info back to Gabi.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32

Next meeting May 22

