



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

May 22, 2023

ZOOM Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Nancy Costello, Anne Savage, Felton McLaughlin, Mark Schlessman, Jenny O'Neil, Grace Bennett, Ted Kolankowski, Laura Andrea Leguia, Linda Wagner, Therese Joyce, Neighborhood Specialist Tabora Marcus, and EJ Verhoff

Absentees: Marsha Penrose, Jeanette Carioto, Kate Carleo, Sara Hart, Ceiligh McLaughlin

Linda called into the first part of the meeting. While she was available, there was an initial discussion following up on Ted's and Linda's emails regarding grants. Linda has pieces from the previously unfunded grant application, and she talked about making sure BPC is a good candidate. The organization's identification may need to be updated.

Minutes Acceptance:

VOTE: The minutes of April's Board meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report and Acceptance:

- Jenny presented the latest treasurer's report.
- Some memberships paid by Pay Pal are coupled with contributions.
- Total can be recorded as membership unless there's a large contribution.
- CSLAP and NYSFOLA expenses have not been paid yet.
- Jenny gave instructions for picture confirmations of expenses.
- Jenny reiterated **bank notification should be done as soon as possible.**

VOTE: The treasurer's report was accepted.

Grants Follow Up:

- **Ted will call to follow up on the emails sent to Brian Gyoryre re CFA.**
- Information emailed earlier re CR-PRISM grants was discussed.
- BPC's eligibility was questioned re free-flowing water and species.
- Ted's interpretation is that pond is part of the tributary system.
- Gabi pointed out that the application process takes 2 to 3 weeks.
- Working with Joe Coffey on these grants could eliminate competition.
- **Ted stated that he will call the program's administrator, Susan Pepe.**

Park Updates:

- Social media post re City's herbicide application was discussed.
 - Application was two weeks ago so little harm to dogs now.
 - Laura brought up a possible winter project for educating residents.
 - She stated that residents don't need to use fertilizers or herbicides.
 - Anne recalled that previous efforts were met with resistance.
 - No vendors have been found that work with organic materials only.
 - Ted said the new website can be a source of educating residents.
 - Anne pulled up previously distributed educational materials.
 - **Gabi will connect Anne with the Dropbox for sharing materials.**
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- Sara has been taking the lead on engaging with trail builders.
 - Mark would like path plans connecting the woods area to the park.
 - The possibility of a loop for the pit area was rejected.
 - EG brought up the fact that access to that area is rocky.
 - Questions include estimates and bringing the info to the City.
 - **Mark will reply to Sara about the next steps with the companies.**
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- Al sent word that the part for the playground has been ordered.
 - Shipment is scheduled for June 8 to port and then on to Albany.
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- **Scheduling for CSLAP water testing should be done soon.**
 - **Felton will follow up with Nancy Mueller about delivery of the box.**
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- EJ described his proposal, physical project, and reflection process.
 - DGS was positive about refurbishing the two existing signs.
 - There's a blueprint for one new sign of the same size, colors, etc.
 - **EJ will send Gabi blueprint's details after scoutmaster's review.**
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- Laura provided a spreadsheet for park steward volunteers.
 - **She will contact those who signed up but didn't get spreadsheet.**
 - Felton is the only volunteer to log in any work so far.
 - Proposed vests for park stewards would cost about \$44 each.
 - The tee shirts worn for CSLAP work cost about \$22 each.
 - Vests saying "Volunteer" would allow use at cleanups and other events
 - **Gabi will order 10 vests with flexible wording as well.**
 - **Mark will order signs with flexible wording for use at other events also.**

VOTE: Up to \$500 was approved for purchasing vests and signs.

- Messages continue from people angry about the porta-a-potty issue.
- Locations at Berkshire and Davis and near picnic tables were rejected.
- Anne presented four possible locations, but all had some problems.
- **She suggested that Deb and DGS rep come to pond to check out sites.**
- **Anne will forward information to Gabi who will try to arrange a meeting.**

Membership and Dues:

- Grace said she needs to be shown how to transition to new website.
- Anne feels that it will be just an improvement on what Grace knows.
- She thinks that this should occur before more money is approved.
- Money for additional content should be after the website is functional.

New Business:

- Therese has reported that DGS is in favor of a little library at pond.
- Gabi reiterated a need for terms of agreement about maintenance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38

The next meeting is June 26