



September minutes with clarifications by Grace, Laura, and Linda.

BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

September 18, 2023

ZOOM Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Nancy Costello, Anne Savage, Mark Schlessman, Laura Andrea Leguia, Linda Wagner, Grace Bennett, Marsha Penrose, Jeanette Carioto, Al Lawrence, Neighborhood Specialist Alex Word, and Jeff Kelley

Absentees: Ted Kolankowski, Felton McLaughlin, Jenny O'Neil, Kate Carleo

The meeting opened with Jeff Kelley, Parks Division Supervisor, reporting on a meeting with Gabi and Alex Word:

- Stone dust was just applied with larger stones for less washout.
- Rubber pavement discussed and the possibility for fundraising.
- There's overgrown vegetation on south and north sides of pond.
- **Replacements should be determined before there's a pullout.**
- Loss of bird habitat by removal is not predicted to be significant.
- **Along with tree tag replacements, Mark will assess areas for removal.**
- **Laura will share knowledge of app to identify plants' points of origin.**
- **Specific removal targets will be determined on Wednesday.**
- **Jay Lavigne will be informed about the targets by early next week.**
- Milner Avenue area had trees cut down due to fire started by children.
- Neighbors feel more area should be cleared around nearby houses.
- **City and homeowners' property lines need to be determined.**
- **Jeff will look into follow-up procedures.**
- It was essentially a wildfire, so a followup might fall to the State (NYS Forest Rangers under NYSDEC).
- Jeff described a potential product for replacing the walkway's rope
- The need to replace the rotted and vandalized rope was questioned.

1. Board Meeting Minutes:

VOTE: July Board meeting minutes were accepted. (No quorum in August)

VOTE: August Board meeting minutes were accepted.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Anne will reach out to Jenny regarding the reports.

3. Grants Follow Up:

- Ask was for \$20,000 with decision to be announced in November.
- Community mailing with cover letter like national park brochure.
- 3,400 residences to receive info about what neighbors can do.
- Should be handed out to commercial properties and posted.
- Grant would also cover weather-resistant material for EJ's project.
- Other interpretive signage under consideration, as are speakers.
- They may ask for further clarification.

4. Park Updates and Events:

- Gabi attended installation of EJ Verhoff's scout project on Saturday.
 - Signs look good but more support is needed and will be added.
 - Need to determine what BPC wants as inserts for the signs.
 - Identification of pond as City park and brief history.
 - Explanation of BPC's role and call for volunteers.
 - Grace, Linda, and Laura to work on content consistent with website.
- Alex has not heard back from a long email about pathway solutions.
 - He did state that Frank Zeoli wants to pave the pond's pathway.
 - Stone dust is a stopgap and paving increases other problems.
 - Prime directive should be water quality so a consultant is needed.
 - Alex will ask about analysis of a consultant as a partnership with City.
- Ice Cream Social permit is for October 8 and posting will be Sept.29.
 - Laura will send Gabi a flyer for copying.
 - Flyers should be put in the new signs.
 - Mark, Marsha, Grace, and Gabi are able to work on this event.
 - Mark will bring 2-3 chairs and his iPad to enable legible signups.
 - It is important to emphasize signups for the Fall Cleanup.
 - Grace will pick up Anne's table and arrange for the dry ice delivery.
 - Grace said Sara Hart may be able to give a short pond tour.
 - **VOTE:** \$300 allocated for the purchase of ice cream.
- Al said the canopy over the playground train is missing a bolt.
 - This same equipment may have a bent part.
 - Tim sent pictures to Tim Diamond, Deputy Commissioner of Rec.
 - Still waiting on the replacement piece for the large slide.
 - Gabi asked if Alex could find out anything about this.
- Grace reported that September 30 will be the last CSLAP.
 - Grace's husband Charlie was thanked for his filling-in help.
- October 22 was decided as the date for Fall Cleanup.

- Gabi or Grace will see if Felton can request the tools
- Use sign-up sheet from Ice Cream Social and previous volunteers.
- Mark has enough tags for now and Gabi will order more if needed.
- Gabi will contact vendor Sarah Emory about the broken bench.
 - Will have to notify Jeff Kelley and ship to DGS if covered.
- Grace said there hasn't been a replacement for one lost check.
- Laura reported that there's been steward activity by Felton only.
 - She would like a pen and paper list of possible volunteers.
- Gabi reported the website designer is asking for additional \$100.
 - Anne stated that the work involved is in the original contract.
 - He's been paid and has control but says he's losing money on it.
 - It must be determined what he'll do going forward if paid the \$100.
 - Gabi will call and talk to him working from Anne's comments.
 - **VOTE:** Additional payment of up to \$200 allocated for website designer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38

Next meeting is October 23