



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING
November 27, 2023
ZOOM Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Mark Schlessman, Nancy Costello, Grace Bennett, Tabora Marcus, Jeanette Carioto, Marsha Penrose, Alex Word, Al Lawrence, Anne Savage, Laura Andrea Leguia, Felton McLaughlin, Linda Wagner, and guest Amy Bizer

Absentees: Jenny O'Neill, Ted Kolankowski, Kate Carleo

1. Minutes

- **VOTE:** The minutes of October's Board Meeting were accepted.

2. Treasurer's report

- The \$500 donation previously recorded was \$475 with \$25 going to membership.
- The option to purchase short-term CDs at around 4% APR was reviewed.
- APR for 3 months is 4%, and 6 months is 4.5%.
- **The minimum to open the CD is \$500 and the Board will vote next month.**
- **VOTE:** Checks up to \$500 to be signed by Jenny O'Neil only. Checks larger than \$500 to include a second signature. Gabi Sarhos, president; Felton McLaughlin, vice president; Jeanette Carioto, past treasurer, and Anne Savage, founding member are accepted cosigners.

3. Any Grants Follow Up (Linda) - None

4. Park Updates & Events

Little Free Library:

- There has already been some damage and the window is not fitting correctly.
- **This is Therese Joyce's issue but Gabi will follow up with her.**

Trail/Path Maintenance:

- Sara emailed that she's corresponded with Charlotte Staats of ADK trails.
- Charlotte has not been to see the pond and ADK trails may not be interested.
- Alex reported that DGS is reorganizing the engineering department.
- He foresees that a City plan will occur only after Berkshire is repaved.
- Alex said that time is on our side to decide on the desired improvements.
- **We have a lake management plan and Gabi will send a copy to Alex.**
- We do not have landscape maintenance or path plans.
- Problems of stone dust wash and the growth of cat tails were discussed.
- Path improvement was described as easier than eventual draining.

CSLAP Update:

- All info and checks are in and the application was made early.
- Laura is withdrawing from CSLAP to take on one-day-week pond gardening.
- Gabi, Felton, and Grace can do the lab work.
- Grace and Felton will do the canoe work.
- Grace's husband, Charlie, can be a substitute paddler if needed and available.

Tree Tag Replacements:

- Mark reports that he's in good shape with the tree tags.
- He inquired about follow-up with the City on marked shrubs and bushes.
- Alex said it looks like a lot of cutting back was done.
- Gabi will check on this with Jeff Kelley

Broken Bench:

- The replacement leg has arrived and Gabbi texted Jeff.
- Installation will have to be coordinated with DGS.

Signage:

- The committee of Grace, Linda, and Laura will meet again on the 5th.
- Gabi wants to see an outline before anything is written up.
- Grace will focus on history, Linda on water quality, and Laura on species.
- There will be 3 display-board drafts at the next Board meeting.

Great Blue Heron:

- Amy Bizer described the heron's wounding and her poster design was praised.
- It was suggested the term "deliberate act" be modified to indicate carelessness.
- Inappropriate feeding of wildlife should also be addressed.
- A "hazards to our wildlife" section will be included in the final poster.
- Amy will redesign and Gabi will help with the language of the poster.
- Sara Hart introduced Capital Region Audubon's fishing line receptacles.
- The Board liked this idea but needs to consider placement carefully.
- Gabi will inform Sara of the Board's interest and ask her to follow up.

Posts on the Bulletin Board:

- The community bulletin board has some postings of a political nature.
- This can't be policed but once our posters are up there won't be room.
- BPC's interpretive educational signs will be park-related only.
- Gabi will call the City sign shop but temporary signs will be put up now.

Upcoming Events:

- Ice Skating Party date should be as soon as the ice is ready after January 1.
- Grace will ask Deb Zamer if she'll contact Jonathan Jones of Rec Dept.
- Jonathan should be asked if City will again cosponsor the ice skating party.
- He should also be asked if it's OK to keep the date open until the ice is ready.
- Grace will also ask Deb about the JCC as site for the Annual Meeting.
- March 17 is the date decided upon for the Annual Meeting.

5. Membership and Dues

- The check that Cynthia Fredericks “gave someone at the Annual Meeting” has not been found.

6. Volunteers (Laura Andrea) - None

7. Social Media Plan (Kate/Linda), Tree Tag Posts - None

8. Website Update

- Anne reports that the website is back to square one.
- She suggests not paying the balance unless the contracted work is done.
- It could be taken and completed by BPC or someone else that’s hired.
- Gabi said she wants this settled in December.

9. New Business

- Laura proposed a project to buy plants and replace some invasives.
- She will get, remove, and plant with volunteers at BPC activities.
- The new plants will be picked up in mid-April for Spring Cleanup.
- Money from the Albany County grant can be used for the purpose. While there were no actual restrictions on the grant, an accurate accounting of funds must be kept so that a letter showing expenditures (if needed) can be sent to grantor.
- **VOTE:** \$200 is allocated to Saratoga Tree Nursery for removal of invasives and replacement with native plants.
- Alex Word suggested a fire safety team of Joe Gregory and Tyler Briggs could speak at the Annual Meeting. Gabi said Jeff Kelley might also speak representing DGS.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40

Next Meeting January 22