



The attached minutes for consideration at the Board Meeting involve revisions of the original by Linda Wagner (including corrected date for the annual meeting):

BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

January 22, 2024

ZOOM Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Ted Kolankowski, Nancy Costello, Grace Bennett, Jeanette Carioto, Marsha Penrose, Anne Savage, Felton McLaughlin, Linda Wagner. Guests Sara Hart and the Audubon Society of the Capital Region's representatives Teresa Murphy, Eric Latina, and Carol Quantock.

Absentees: Gabi Sarhos, Mark Schlessman, Jenny O'Neill, Kate Carleo, Laura Andrea Leguia

1. Meeting Minutes

VOTE: The minutes of November's Board Meeting were accepted.

2. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report, submitted earlier by email, included the following notes:

The main activity for the past two months has been finishing of the website and subsequently paying off those invoices (Legal & Professional Services). One item you will notice on the "activity since the last board meeting" is that the donations are negative. This is because Anne and the GoatCloud people have been making small donations on PayPal over months of testing of the website, and those "donations" needed to be refunded. They were included in prior months' donation income, and have now been offset against those prior donations. When looking at the Year-to-Date numbers, you will see our donations for the year total nearly \$2,300.

VOTE: The treasurer's report was accepted.

3. Park Updates and Events

Trail/Path Maintenance

- The death of a blue heron is seen as fishing gear-related.
- Teresa Murphy of Audubon Soc. presented Tangle Tainers.
- Eric Latina was introduced and described the receptacles.
- Receptacles are durable, easy to construct, and inexpensive.
- Constructed of glued elbow, long tube, and base PVC pipe.
- Mounting can be on stakes, wood pillars, or even trees.
- Must be securely mounted or they might be thrown in pond.
- Can use vinyl siding for door to keep out birds and insects.

- Aesthetics were questioned, as well as garbage accumulation.
- BPC would be responsible for twice yearly cleaning them out.
- Sara would volunteer to clean; they require little maintenance.
- Useless for lures at bottom of pond or stuck in tree branches.
- Receptacles encourage fishers to dispose of hooks and lures.
- Ones that have been placed, as in Pine Bush, are being used.
- Correct placement is crucial; playground area is a possibility.
- Should not be placed near delta; would encourage fishing there.
- Spring installation could be part of BPC Cleanup Day.
- Education is necessary to explain their use and prohibit trash.
- Signs, plaques, and/or stickers with BPC logo could be used.
- How many signs and who would make them was discussed.
- Could be included in the display case for education purposes.
- Handouts and one-on-one conversations are very effective.
- Matter was tabled until more Board members weigh in.
- Two can be donated if the Board officially votes to accept.
- If Board says yes, BPC must work with the City on this project.
- Sara is still attempting to connect with ADK's Charlotte Staat.

Broken Bench

- Gabi was said to be working on this problem.

Signage

- Laura, Linda, and Grace have submitted a draft plan to Gabi.

Posts on Bulletin Boards

- Temporary signs are making a statement that the display boards are for BPC's use, and the Great Blue Heron poster is also up.

Upcoming Events

- BPC annual meeting on March 17 will be from 1 to 2:30.
- Deb Zamer should be told that we'd like to book the JCC at \$180.
- Grace will find out if Board needs to allocate more for insurance.
- Letter needs to be composed, then Anne can pull the mailing list.
- Emails will meet the rule of public notice 30 days prior to mtg.
- Terms are up for Gabi, Felton, Anne, Grace, Marsha, and Mark.
- All who are up for reelection should reach out to Gabi privately.
- Nominating comm. of 3; 2 from membership, one Board member; (amended 2/26/24: Felton to reach out to Deb Zamer).
- Board members can email Gabi if they want to be on the comm.
- After the mtg. Board elects officers; no term limit for President.

4. Ice Skating Party

- City now requires insurance but there will be one year of grace.
- The existing permit is OK and it does not require payment.
- Weather predictions and City inspections determine the date.
- One week below freezing is required for permission to skate.
- Grace will make the call on the Thursday before a likely date.
- At that time those able to work the event will be determined.
- Work involves adding Swiss Miss to large pot of boiling water.

9. Grants

- Linda spoke about not getting a Community Foundation grant.
- They encouraged BPC to apply to the Bender Foundation.
- The amount would be \$5k-15k for a community education project.
- The deadline is mid-March, full proposals due May-June, TBD.
- Bender is seen as a source for future large projects by some.
- No other large project application is ready to go.
- Linda won't pursue the education project further at this time.
- Plan for spending money that's already been raised is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31. Next Meeting February 26