



The attached minutes for consideration at the Board Meeting involve revisions of the original by Linda Wagner:

## BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

February 26, 2024

ZOOM Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Nancy Costello, Jeanette Carioto, Marsha Penrose, Felton McLaughlin, Linda Wagner, Laura Andrea Leguia, Kate Carleo, and guest Cremilda Dias  
Absentees: Grace Bennett, Anne Savage, Mark Schlessman, Jenny O'Neill

The meeting opened with guest Cremilda Dias introducing herself as a long-time neighbor and master gardener.

1. Felton amended the minutes of January 22 regarding the necessity for nominating submissions reaching Deb Zamer 15 days before being voted on at the annual meeting.  
**VOTE:** The amended minutes of January 22 were accepted.
2. Treasurer's Report: Jenny was absent from this meeting.
3. Grants follow-up: Linda reviewed her previous report on the possibility of reapplying for education projects to the Community Foundation and/or applying to the Bender Foundation for larger projects. The need for spending money that's already been raised was reiterated. **Laura has an invoice for \$105 from the Saratoga Tree Nursery which she will get to Jenny for payment by mail.**
4. Board Business:
  - The JCC has been secured for the March 17 Annual Meeting.
  - **Set up can start at noon and the meeting will be 1-2:30**
  - **Laura, Marsha, Kate, Felton, and Jeanette will attend; Gabi, Nancy, & Linda will not.**
  - **Gabi will get other Board attendance information and the financials from Jenny.**
  - **There will be someone at the door to direct people to the meeting.**
  - **Gabi will print attendance and volunteer sign-up sheets and get them to Laura.**
  - **Laura also needs other things for the volunteer table from Gabi.**
  - **Snacks were provided at previous meetings; Marsha said she will bring brownies.**
  - **The availability of a projector or the need to provide a laptop must be determined.**
  - **Felton will email Deb regarding tech and Gabi will put together a presentation.**
  - **To discuss at the meeting: priorities and goals, what's been done, and reelection.**

- Everyone up for election will renew except for Ted who has resigned.
- The Board decides on officers' roles at the next monthly meeting.
- The meeting will be held in person at the Pine Hills Library from 7-8:30 on March 25.
- Grace has agreed to run as President with Gabi to run as Vice President.
- The agenda for this meeting will be reserved for discussion of Board procedures.

5. Park Update:

- A previous discussion of the need for fishing-line receptacles was reviewed.
- Educational value was mentioned but receptacles were not seen as necessary.
- It was agreed that this matter would be revisited at the April Board meeting.
- Gabi will email AI to find out what plans the Dept. of Rec has for the playground.
- There's a need for more wood chips and answers about a porta potty.
- Felton reported that CSLAP is all set for this summer with info coming in April.
- Laura will be gardening in the park this year rather than working on CSLAP.
- Gabi will follow up with Mark for the April meeting regarding tree tags.
- Work on the broken bench leg has been completed.
- Gabi talked about using grant money for a graphic designer to help with signage.
- Gabi asked that Laura and Mark determine what to focus on at Spring Cleanup.
- Usual tasks are pulling bittersweet and other invasives, trash, and some path pruning.
- A "tree that shouldn't be there" and a dead tree that got burned were discussed.
- Laura said people could help with planting 100 saplings, although some could die.
- She said planting could be on a different day with volunteers recruited at the cleanup.
- Laura suggested May 4 or 5 as possible dates for planting.
- National Gardening Day on April 14 was decided as the best date for the cleanup.
- Tools need to be ordered for this event.

6. Memberships: It was noted that the Cleanup and Annual Meeting are usually good for memberships.

7. Volunteers and Stewards:

- Laura explained the use of Google Sheets to track the Stewards' work.
- Info about the program could be presented at the Cleanup and Annual Meeting.
- Gabi will make a slide on the Stewards' program for the Annual Meeting.
- Black and white save-the-date flyers could be made from the slide.

8. Social Media:

- There's been some posting on Facebook.
- The new website may be helpful but training on how to update is needed.
- Linda, Marsha, Nancy, and Kate are interested in sessions on the technology.

9. Website Updates:

- Felton stated that Anne wants a vote to approve the contract.
- Board expressed a general lack of understanding of the description of services.
- Questions involved a lack of troubleshooting and expiration of unused time blocks.
- VOTE: \$100/month maintenance for the term of one year was approved.
- Anne will be sent a list of questions to be answered.
- There will be an email vote by the Board for the remaining part of the proposal.

10. New Business: Gabi will reply to Frank Zeoli's email regarding Japanese Knotweed plants.

#### 11. Long Term Projects:

- BPC could activate some native planting if it's separated from plans for DGS coir logs.
- Laura could use some available funds for help and will reach out to some people.
- Gabi will investigate funds for printing the panels.
- Trail improvements are a major longer-term project.
- An estimate of a sustainable solution for the trail is needed to approach the City.
- Status of Adirondack Trail group's interest in assessing BPC trail needs clarification.
- Linda said the Bender Foundation will not fund any group two years in a row.
- Their maximum grant is \$15,000 and that alone wouldn't cover trail improvements.
- Questions were raised about the porta potty and its removal for the winter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42

Next Meeting will be on March 25 (Pine Hills Library)