



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING  
June 3, 2024  
Pine Hills Library, Meeting 7:15-8:45PM

Meeting Attendees: Grace Bennett, Nancy Costello, Marsha Penrose, Laura Andrea Leguia, Mark Schlessman, Anne Savage, Jenny O'Neill, Felton McLaughlin, Jeanette Carioto, Gabi Sarhos. Guests Jeri Cerutti, Therese Joyce, Carol Reid, and Alexander Word.

Absentees: Kate Carleo, Linda Wagner

1. Neighborhood Specialist Update – Alex Word
  - Pond's porta potty will stay in the parking lot circle
  - New system will be out to bid in the spring
  - **BPC should have input on the correct placement**
  - There's no current follow-up on knotweed
  - **The playground's teeter-totter needs repair**
  - It was noted that the pond has already been treated
2. Minutes

**VOTE:** The minutes of April 29's Board meeting were accepted.
3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report was not available because Broadview's site has been down.
4. Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for **July 1, in person if the Pine Hills Library is available.**
5. Shoreline Stabilization Project Progress (report on Jessica Marsico, That Garden Lady)
  - Jessica conducted a tour on May 19
  - **There is still concern about the extent of Sumac tree trim**
  - **At the present time she is owed for work already done**
  - There's \$3500 left to pay from the original vote
  - She's going to do up to 3rd crab apple tree before Lenox
  - She's done a great job but scope of work was underestimated
  - In effort to beat planting rush, field was not adequately verified
  - Project has been much more labor intensified than anticipated
  - She will not be able to go as far as planned with funds allotted
  - There was some shifting around of labor and materials figures
  - We will have until spring to figure out and factor in grants' result
  - **VOTE:** \$2900 is authorized for Payment to Jessica Marsico for work done.

- She will be working on Wednesday with four BPC volunteers
- The Stewardship proposal would use Albany Summer Youth help
- Her expertise is planting and remediation so focus on maintenance
- **Need to reevaluate after planting when maintenance would start**
- **VOTE:** After the current work is finished, funds for 5 hours per week for two months of maintenance are authorized.

6. BPC correspondence:

- FYI from Cityinfo@ messages won't be forwarded to the Board
- **Alexander Word should be asked to remove BPC from lists**
- **Membership PayPal receipts should stop going to info@ site**
- **Grace and Laura will check Emails re BPC Clickfix concerns**
- Special event Emails only to those Board members involved

7. DGS Action

As discussed at the May 31 meeting with Jeff Kelley, he intends to:

- arrange poison ivy removal **after Mark tags the area**
- contact the water dept about cleaning the apron grate
- continue work as needed on the path
- get BPC a shed key
- look into taking down rope posts on the stilling pond trail

8. Insurance:

- No final pricing for possible general liability insurance.
- The cost could be from \$800 to \$900, or as high as \$1800.

9. Therese Joyce spoke about the free Little Library project.

- GoFundMe was successful, but installation was challenging
- She would like to do another specifically for children's books
- BPC could fund and Therese would install and maintain again
- Jeanette will create a QR code for funding and post a sign
- **VOTE:** Up to \$500 is authorized to fund a second Little Library with no maintenance by BPC

10. Other Business and Announcements:

**Fall Planting**

- Laura suggests another planting event in the fall
- Marsha is willing and usually able to work events' table
- **Laura needs to confirm a good planting day**
- **Mark can help if the event is in September**
- **There can be a signup at the ice cream social**

**Pond Level**

- Mark noted that he thought the pond seemed quite low

- The level is regulated by a pump
- If there's an issue, Joe Coffey should be alerted

#### **CSLAP**

- CSLAP testing starts June 15
- Testing runs every other week until September 21

#### **Membership**

- Current BPC membership is 221

#### **Grants**

- Thanks to everyone who helped with the two grants submitted last week, especially Linda, Felton, and Jenny.

**Meeting adjourned 8:45**