



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, Kate Carleo, Linda Wagner, Jenny O'Neill, and Al Lawrence

Absentees: Mark Schlessman, Anne Savage, Felton McLaughlin, Jeanette Carioto, Gabi Sarhos.

Al Lawrence began the meeting with his playground steward's update. He reported that the part needed to permanently repair the large slide has definitely been ordered now and that the temporary repair that's in place is safe.

The resetting of the unanchored teeter totter is in process, with a sign and plastic fencing being used as an alert about the problem.

A discussion followed about effective ways of communicating with those who frequent the pond. Some ideas that were considered involved having information sessions as part of various socials, using the website for periodic "Did You Know" messages, and constructing signs that change with seasons and needs, perhaps coordinated with Jeanette's posts.

1. Meeting Minutes

VOTE: The minutes of the June 3 meeting were amended by the Board and then accepted.

2. Treasurer's Report

Jenny highlighted items on a handout of the current balance sheet and profit and loss statement:

- Most memberships received at or around annual meeting
- Donations are often combined with memberships
- Payment to The Garden Lady has allocated funds left
- Playground-restricted assets have been held for a while
- Investment of BPC assets would require all signatures

VOTE: The treasurer's report was accepted

3. Board Members Contact List

The Board members' contact list is in process.

4. Shoreline Stabilization Project (Jessica Marsico) Progress

- Jessica plans to be done by the middle of July
- She's been told Board voted 2 mos. maintenance, 5 hrs a week
- Possible expansion if grant is awarded

- Laura reports the plants are good and in good places
- Some grooming of the areas would be an improvement
- Honeysuckle's coming through, will be addressed in fall

5. Updates

Jeff Kelley/DGS update–

- Weather emergencies have depleted City's resources
- Poison ivy will not be removed by City workers
- BPC could find out what Washington Park Conservancy does
- A key to the shed will not be provided to BPC
- He is checking on removal of posts at the stilling pond
- Everyone is invited to go on walk-arounds with Jeff

Update from Jena, The City Gardener–

- She looked into dealing with the Japanese Knotweed
- Previous City Gardener tried to deal with issue but it grew back
- What's recommended needs to be done by Water Dept
- Felton or Grace should contact the Water Dept
- Possibility of asking Jessica to work on problems?

6. Insurance

- Felton's contact says BPC can reach out to him as needed for specific events.

7. Common Roots Grant

- \$2500 max with a deadline of November 1
- Grant is community-oriented, often given to outreach
- Could be used for attractive signage and pond aesthetics
- Info needed for applications now in Google Drive
- Must determine the work involved and use(s) for the money
- Align with mission to protect, preserve, and enhance pond

8. Planting Day

- Laura will work with Mark and go through catalogs
- She predicts that the cost should not be too great

Noted: This year's Ice Cream Social date is September 15, 1-3.

Meeting adjourned 8:25

Next Meeting July 22, 7:00, Pine Hills Library