



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

August 26, 2024

Zoom

Present:

Board: Anne, Gabi, Grace, Mark, Felton, Laura, Linda, Marsha,

Other: Alex Word, City of Albany

1. Discussion with Alex Word

- **Ruts in the Path** **Alex** posted an issue regarding ruts in the path to seeclickfix and will continue to follow up.
https://seeclickfix.com/web_portal/fthfYtKcha4PpMuyvr6M153z/issues/17354382
- **Broken fence rails:** Gabi noted that there are **broken fence rails** at the corner of Davis & Berkshire. **Alex** will go in the morning and take a look at that.
- **Poison Ivy** exists at the South East corner of the pond. Initially Mark was told by Jeff Kelley that the City would remove it if we tagged it. We tagged it as requested, and then were told by Jeff Kelley that the City would not handle it because of concern for employees. All are agreed that this is unacceptable, this should be a municipal issue.

Alex will investigate and figure out how to get this handled. Alex thinks he has the email chain and will let us know if he needs that, if he does **Mark** can send it. Similarly we have an ongoing problem with the city's failing to handle Japanese Knotweed which Alex is already aware of.

Alex advises that we also email key staff directly on these issues. **Gabi** and **Grace** will finalize language for an email which will prioritize Poison Ivy (and include Poison Ivy in the subject) and will also include Japanese Knot Weed as another important and problematic species. **Grace** will send that email to Frank Zeoli and Sergio with a cc to Alex and the Mayor.

- **HABs** - lots of seeclickfix conversation about people fishing in the pond. There is a sign, but it is not in a really great spot. We are definitely concerned that people are not aware of the concern, but this is a city issue not BPC.

After a long discussion, **Alex** agreed to investigate how the Water Dept became aware of this. (Water Dept posted it on fb and tagged BLNA, and posted physical signs. They did not contact BPC nor tag us on fb even. Given our long relationship with the City they should minimally have tagged us, and really should have contacted us before posting. Also, a quick google search suggests there appear to be some mechanisms for controlling HABs although not clear if they work in our situation.

Grace will contact Joe Coffey to discuss our concerns.

- Thanks to DGS for removing the posts and clearing the curtain drain at the Western end. Additional thanks for the raw materials and assistance with the planting project. Jeff Kelly has been very helpful bringing materials and taking away detritus for us.
2. Acceptance of July 22's meeting minutes
 - a. Motion to accept by Gabi Sarhos, Second by Linda Wagner. Unanimously accepted
 3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. No report
 4. The next meeting will be the 4th Monday September 23. Not sure yet if it will be PH Library or on zoom [Note: Confirmed after the meeting that we meet in person at PHLibrary]. **Grace** will try to get the library and we will be virtual if it is not available. (Side note that Laura is performing on Monday 9/30 with a band coming all the way from Peru, performing at Alias Cafe 219 4th St, Troy, NY 12180. This is not yet confirmed. Time likely to be 7 pm.)
 5. Update of Jessica's work
 - a. We would like to see if the City can provide the black plastic chain that they have used previously to protect this long area. **Laura** will find out how many linear feet we need, and provide that to Alex Word.
 - b. We received an additional \$2170 grant from Albany County to support this work so that will continue.
 6. CSLAP
 - a. Will be only 4x next year and will be included in our NYSFOLA membership at no additional charge over the membership fee.
 7. Ice Cream Social- Sunday, September 15: 1- 3

- a. **Gabi** will make sign and provide it to Jeanette for Social Media
- b. **Felton** will print and Grace will hang by 9/6.
- c. **Grace** will get Ice cream etc. including dry ice
- d. **Anne** will send by email.

8. Planting Day - Sunday, September 22: 1-3

- a. **Gabi** will include that on the sign somehow
- b. 10 or so volunteers are needed
- c. Plants will include a variety of ferns and bluebells in the shady area by milner, replacing an infestation of burdock.

9. Signs

- a. Gabi gave a brief presentation.
- b. **Mark** thinks his wife Laura might be interested in working on this project and will check with her. If she is, Gabi will send information to her
- c. Anne is willing to help starting towards the end of October.
- d. Linda & Laura willing to help starting in late Nov/December

10. Tree tags and Tree issues

- a. Mark proposed purchasing 28 tags (some needed now, some back stock) \$12 per tag, \$35 for any new species, plus shipping total cost about \$406. Motion made and carried for up to \$500. **Jenny** please take note.
- b. Some conversation about the condition Eastern Larchs on Western side near playground. They are or will be tagged, and one leafed out despite having been in bad shape prior.
- c. Also discussion of Scots Pines at the foot of Lenox on the New Scotland side, they are in bad shape, but are not native and Mark advises not to prioritize these..
- d. Jenny can you see when we have paid Davey Tree Service to treat the Ash trees? Anne looked and only saw it 1x in quickbooks in 2020 which does not seem to match our recollection, both Grace and Anne think we've been doing it every other year. If the last time done was 2020 we should contact Davey to see if another treatment is needed/appropriate and what the cost would be. No one committed to do this but **Mark** seems like the likely person! [Note after the meeting Grace confirmed with Davey that the last time was 2020 and Grace is following up with them to move forward.]

11. Albany County Parks & Recreation Dept's Fall Fest -October 5th, 11 - 4.

- a. They asked if we wanted a table but there was no interest in tabling.

12. Membership data/ change membership dates?

- a. This was not discussed at this meeting, held for next time.