



## BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

December 9, 2024

Zoom Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Grace Bennett, Marsha Penrose, Anne Savage, Linda Wagner, Jenny O'Neill, Felton McLaughlin, Mark Schlessman, Kate Carleo, Sarah Kampf for City of Albany Neighborhood Specialist Lori Kochanski

Absentees: Nancy Costello, Gabi Sarhos, Laura Andrea Leguia, Jeanette Carioto

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Wagner. Formatted by G. Sarhos 1/27/2025

### 1. Meeting Minutes

Oct 28, 2024 minutes were accepted by unanimous vote

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Was sent and posted during the Zoom call. Jenny posted a report of the past six years. Current year membership dollars are near a midpoint of the total annual amounts during the past six years. A complete neighborhood mailing appeal for memberships and donations was just sent. Mailing to entire neighborhood were sent in 2020 and 2021 and those resulted in high member income.

We used to put postage and printing in annual meeting expenses. Since this mailing is several months prior to the annual meeting, the Board agreed to move those expenses to fundraising.

Quickbooks renewal went up \$50. Park improvements so far were \$9544, including little library, plant purchases, Garden Lady. Overall, we show a loss so far this year, due to investments the Board approved. With printing expense included, the loss will be -\$10,000, but new memberships from the current mailing will mitigate that.

Total bank balance now is \$51,213 – after recent expense bills are paid, the balance will be approximately \$45k.

Sarah Kampf confirmed during the call that the new \$19k grant from the County will go to the City of Albany. **The City will reimburse BPC from that fund for documented expenses related to shoreline stabilization efforts.**

Broadview Bank did not approve the new signers on the account. Apparently the paperwork BPC provided was lost. The only signers on bank account now remain Jeanette and Anne. We will go again tomorrow to correct this.

Jenny O'Neill made a motion to have Jenny O'Neill, Grace Bennett, Jeannette Carioto, and Anne Savage be signers on the Broadview accounts. Seconded by Felton McLaughlin.

**VOTE:** Unanimous vote of Board quorum present approved the motion.

Jenny made a motion that Grace and Jenny open a CD 9 month at highest rate available, to transfer the \$35,000 the Board approved at a prior meeting.

**VOTE:** Unanimous vote of Board quorum approved the motion.

### **3. Next Board Meeting**

Next board meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, January 27, 7 pm – Kate Carleo will send Zoom invite. Linda will take minutes.

### **4. Annual Meeting**

Regarding the Annual Meeting date and place – Anne has some outstanding requests on a Sunday date at the end of March. Grace will book the library for that Saturday to ensure we have a location by the library's deadline. If a Sunday location is identified without insurance requirements, the library reservation can be released.

### **5. Ice Skating Party**

Anne noted that the pond has not been frozen enough for skating since 2022. Given the very recent drowning accident in Washington Park, it is unlikely that a request for a skating party would be approved. The Board will revisit considering a request for this event at the January meeting, after the City has had a chance to address the recent tragedy.

Question was raised – can we have some type of safety equipment - rescue ladder or cables – at the pond? Sarah noted that it is likely any safety measures and actions the city takes in the aftermath of the drowning accident will be city-wide for any park with a body of water.

### **6. Shoreline updates**

Jessica finished and sent all invoices in, with substantial detail. Photos were included with invoices. Grace will forward the invoices and photos to Felton and Mark.

### **7. Updates**

#### **a. Ducks**

Regarding the ducks that are not native here and were dropped off at the pond. The North County Wildlife Conservancy found a home for one of them. It is not clear if they found the other duck, but a sanctuary home is available. Neighborhood resident Sarah Cohen asked if we could put signage up about not releasing fish, turtles, ducks, etc because it is harmful to the animals and eco-system. This could be added to the signage that we have in planning. NYSDEC may have a signage they can provide directly. North County Wildlife Conservancy has been in touch with DGS to update about the ducks.

**b. Tree Fertilization**

Grace reported that the trees we identified were fertilized. If we want fencing around the shore stabilization plantings, we will have to purchase it.

**c. Fencing**

Can the City provide the fencing like that used in the tulip gardens? Grace will forward details of what we need to Sarah and she will ask Frank if the city could order it at a lower cost than we could obtain. Sarah confirmed the County grant of \$19k is being awarded to the city – this is a potential source of funding for the fencing.

**d. Membership**

Grace reported we have 251 members and 10 more response cards she has not yet reviewed. A second subsidiary member is not showing up as member in our system. Anne will help Grace troubleshoot this problem.

The Board expressed concern for Board members facing medical issues.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm**

**Next Board meeting, January 27, 2025 by ZOOM  
Zoom invitation will be sent by Kate Carleo**