



## Orleans Pond Coalition 2020 Annual Meeting

### Minutes

The annual meeting of the Orleans Pond Coalition was held via Zoom on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by OPC President, Judith Bruce.

The board approved the minutes from the 2019 annual meeting.

Jamie Demas presented the Treasurer's report. In 2019 OPC received \$63,827 in donations which was a 25% increase over the prior year. Expenses for 2019 were \$55,324, which was flat to the prior year. This resulted in a surplus of \$8,827 for the full year 2019. A very strong result. OPC had \$62,910 in cash on the balance sheet. This put OPC in a very solid position to fund its programs for the following year.

Due to restrictions brought upon us by Covid, our October 2020 year-to-date expenses were lower than the prior year's by \$5,010. One big reason is we had to cancel Celebrate Our Waters. That was among the reasons why the OPC board made the decision in 2020 to push the membership drive from the customary spring time frame to September. We still had a strong response to the membership appeal through October, with over 200 donations and nearly \$22,000 received. Also, as of October OPC had \$63,914 in the bank.

OPC's biggest expenses in 2020 went to the Sarah's Pond oxygenation demonstration (\$11,500), the 95,000 Mutt Mitts dispensed in 2020 (\$4,300) and communications and advocacy (\$3,600) which focused on our Ponderings Newsletter and get-out-the-vote mailings related to Town Meetings.

Judith Bruce reported on the nomination of new OPC Board members as follows:

- Lisa Allen and Eileen Godin were elected to 1-year terms
- Judith Bruce and Eric Spengler were elected to 2-year terms
- Mary Griffin, Ed Hafner, Maxine Minkoff, and Natalie Timoshin were elected to 3-year terms

The following individuals were elected to the Nominating Committee

- Eileen Godin and Paul Davis were elected as the OPC board representatives, and
- Anne Hanyen, John Ostman, and Josh Wile were elected as community members to the committee

Judith thanked the many members (over 125) who voted on the two slates.

Judith Bruce then presented her annual report on OPC. Judith began by noting that OPC had worked tirelessly over the years on wastewater remediation which resulted in final approval for the downtown wastewater collection and treatment system. This project will help protect Town Cove, Cedar Pond, Boland Pond and Rock Harbor and is a tremendous accomplishment for the town of Orleans. She thanked our membership for their voices and votes as well as their support to OPC, all of which helped make this project a success.

OPC also directly supports the cleanliness of our waters with our Mutt Mitt program which has grown to over 50 dispensers, 25 volunteers, and over 90,000 mitts used to keep pet waste from polluting our waters. Judith extended thanks to Agway of Orleans and Nauset Disposal for their participation and support of OPC's Mutt Mitt program.

Three years ago, OPC committed to learning more about some relatively new approaches to using oxygenation to remediate impaired ponds. We are just now concluding our demonstration of the nano bubble technology and are hoping to pursue a different approach in the upcoming year. OPC also hopes to join the APCC cyanobacteria monitoring program next year on four of Orleans' freshwater ponds.

Judith introduced Keynote Speaker, Dr. Ken Wagner. Dr Wagner is OPC's technical advisor to the oxygenation demonstration project. He holds degrees from Dartmouth College and Cornell University and earned his PhD in Natural Resource Management in 1985. He has over 40 years' experience in water resources assessment and management and has been an invaluable consultant for OPC's oxygenation demonstration project.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Wagner:

Dr. Wagner reported on the nano bubble demonstration on Sarah's Pond over the past two years. While there were some indications that this technology may have helped restore some oxygen, the equipment was unable to produce sufficient levels of oxygen to overcome the oxygen demand of the pond. Dr. Wagner indicated this approach continues to show good promise for the future but noted that the technology just wasn't quite there yet.

He went on to provide a background "primer" of information on cyanobacteria, noting that it is naturally occurring in virtually every freshwater pond on Cape Cod. However, when waters warm and there is an excess of nutrients - especially phosphorous - in the pond, the bacteria can explode into a bloom. For some species of cyanobacteria, this can result in the release of toxins that are detrimental to pets and, if severe enough, to humans. We can expect this to become an increasing problem as temperatures warm and our ponds become more impaired with too much phosphorous from septic systems, fertilizers and stormwater runoff.

After Dr. Wagner's talk we had a brief question/answer session. The meeting was adjourned at 6:08PM.