



Director's Report
Kris Ramsay
February 21, 2013

Administrative

Meg's Green Week: Meg continues to plan for "Green Week", which will run from Saturday, April 20th through Friday, April 26th. This is a Town wide event so we have partnered with the Middle School, Tree Warden Department, County Farm, Orleans Improvement Association and a few others. Throughout the week we will be working with local school groups in and out of the classroom. This past month Meg learned that we received a grant of \$4,490 through the MA Service Alliance and \$15,000 from N-Star, in conjunction with the State Department of Conservation and Recreation. This money will be used to help purchase items associated with the education programs, trees, seedlings, blue bird box materials, etc. The money will be held by the County's AmeriCorps Resource Development Office on our behalf.

Conservation Summit: On Saturday, February 2, 2013 Beth, Ad, and I attended The Compact's Southeastern MA Land Trust Convocation in Bourne. Topics of discussion ranged from Habitat Restorations to Special Event Fundraising. The programs were educational and I was able to make a number of good connections at the State level and locally. The presentation materials, including an outstanding presentation on fund-raising, are available on-line at:

http://www.thecompact.net/SEMLT_Convocation_Presentations_2Feb2013.htm

Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition Planning: At the suggestion of the Land Acquisition strategy group I set up a way to evaluate and prioritize future potential land acquisitions based on location, acreage, connectivity, recognized rare or endangered species habitat, etc. The committee met on December 13, 2012 and again on February 5, 2013. At these meetings we evaluated and discussed a number of these "priority" parcels in detail. I will now take our discussion notes and further identify the best ways to communicate with landowners to encourage them to preserve their land.

***Twinings II Land Acquisition "Window on the Pond":** The Town closed on the purchase of the Conservation Restriction and Title was transferred to OCT on December 20, 2012. In January I applied for a Friends of Pleasant Bay grant of \$3,200 with the hope of offsetting our cost associated with the acquisition entirely. I have since learned that the grant was accepted and we will be awarded the full amount. I have completed all the paperwork associated with the an additional State Conservation Land Tax Credit for the Flecks. They can move ahead and claim the additional \$50k in the coming month.

***Winslow Potential Gift:** Both the Conservation Restriction to OCT and Title to The Compact were recorded on December 18, 2012. A final letter has been sent to the Winslows requesting that they consider offsetting our costs associated with the gift of land. The total amount came to \$1,800.

Land Management

AmeriCorps: On January 23rd, 2013, I worked with AmeriCorps Cape Cod at the Twinings Pond Conservation Area. The focus of the project was removing invasive species close to the trail head and re-establishing an early

succession field habitat. We also cut the large vines negatively impacting the trees on the Keller purchase directly across the street.



I will be working with the full AmeriCorps Wellfleet-based team on Friday, February 22, 2013 at Namequoit Bog. The focus of the project will be cutting back the vegetation along the ditches and cleaning out debris within the ditches.

Namequoit Bog: Over the last few months I have worked to gather historical information, take site photos, develop a baseline report and start drafting a long term management plan. The management plan will continue to be a work in progress as I gather more feedback and conduct site visits over the next few months.

On Friday, February 15th, 2013 I met on site with John Jannell, Town Conservation Administrator. John and I both agreed that while the long term outlook is still unknown, there is some work that can be done in the short term. That work would include cutting back the dead briar, thinning the dead Red Maples, and cleaning out ditches. I am putting together an RFP Scope of Work associated with that proposal. Once the proposal is complete we will send it out to a few companies for bids. Len Rosen has indicated he will support the project financially if the costs come in around \$5-8k.

Moerschener Gift: For the past few years I have worked to remove invasive plants and open up the understory at the Moerschener Gift, which is located at the end of Cheney Road in East Orleans. The last major focus now is the removal of the English Ivy. Steve Koehler, a direct abutter, has offered to fund the removal of the ivy. I have received a very low bid to apply herbicide to the ivy this spring, which also included the cost to cut back and remove the ivy after the herbicide is applied. I will be discussing this project with the Land Committee shortly.

Blue Bird Box Program: Meg and I are developing a Blue Bird box nesting program. I met with local expert Carolyn Kennedy on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 to gather the information and discuss specific details. I also spoke to Diane Silverstein, MA Audubon Education Coordinator, who actively runs a Blue Bird program and has volunteers in Orleans already trained. From what I am learning, it is reasonable to expect that we could install and monitor 5-10 nest boxes this year. We would install the boxes in mid to late March at White's Lane and possibly another location in Town.

Fundraising/ PR/ Branding

Newsletter: I am working to layout the Spring newsletter. The focus of the newsletter will be the Endowment Campaign and I am planning to have the newsletter out by the first week of May.

Alumni and Advisors Meeting: On Friday, February 15th, 2013 a Jim, Lynn, Patty, Paul, Ad and I met to discuss the proposed Alumni/Advisor meeting. Topics covered were potential locations to host the gathering, a list of potential attendees (based on past Trustees, major donors, and local advisors), and language on the invitation itself. Paul is working on modifying some of the language on the invitation and Kris is submitting a request to use the Orleans Yacht Club for the gathering and nailing down the specific list of people to invite. The revised date for the meeting is Tuesday, April 30th, 2013 – to give us more time to prepare for this important session.

Website Overhaul: The new website went live on Saturday, February 9th, 2013. We have received all positive feedback from past Trustees, donors, volunteers, and even other land Trusts around the Cape.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Past Third Tuesday Winter Lecture Talk: On Tuesday, February 19, 2013 we hosted our second “Third Tuesday” Winter Lecture. The presentation was entitled *The Glacial Origins of Cape Cod and the Arrival of the First People*. The presentation featured Todd Kelley and 80+ community members attended the presentation.



Past Walks: OCT hosted a walk at Hosea’s Swamp on Saturday, February 16th, 2013 and at the Town’s Christian Property on Saturday, February 16, 2013. We had more than 20 attendees at each walk.



Next Walk: Our next walk is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 10:30am, at Kent’s Point Conservation Lands.