



Director's Report
March 21, 2013
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

Compact Meeting: On Thursday, March 14th, 2013 I attended The Compact meeting in Barnstable. The focus of the discussion was centered on APCC's work to change Senate Bill 345, an act related to land takings, and Senate Bill 411, an act related to reinforcing the MA Endangered Species Act. I will be providing the Board with some of the handouts I collected from this meeting, which outline the details relating to each act.

MA Land Trust Conference: On Saturday, March 23, 2013 Meg will attend the MA Land Trust Conference in Worcester. This is a day-long conference where she will attend three, two-hour work sessions. Meg's work sessions range from land management to educational outreach. If anyone else is interested, it is not too late to register. <http://www.massland.org/node/33>

***Summer 2013 Internship:** Bob Prescott provided me with the MA Audubon employment application form which I used as a starting point for drafting an OCT Application Form. Lynn reviewed the draft and made a few small suggestions. This finalized form has been sent out to each of the potential summer interns.

Land Acquisition

***Land Acquisition Planning:** The Land Committee last met on March 6, 2013. We talked extensively about the best ways to reach out to the owners of our top three land acquisition priorities. It was decided that we would write a letter to each land owner informing them of how important their land is to us and outline some of the newest tax advantages. Each letter will be very specific to each property owner. Once these letters are sent out we will focus on the next three highest priority parcels.

State Income Tax Credit Seminar: The Compact, OCT, HCT, and other local land Trusts will be hosting a free information seminar on Saturday April 13th at the Harwich Community Center (beginning at 9:30am) to inform property owners on the lower Cape about the new State income tax credit they could potentially receive if they were to preserve their land. A letter outlining the presentation details has been sent out to 40 Orleans property owners whose properties have been identified as land acquisition priorities for OCT and the Town.

Land Management

***AmeriCorps:** On Friday, February 22nd, 2013, I worked with AmeriCorps Cape Cod at Namequoit Bog. The focus of the project was mucking out the existing ditches and cutting back encroaching vegetation to encourage the water to consistently flow out of the bog. Right now the ditches are silting in, inhibiting our ability to properly control the water levels within the bog.



*Namequoit Bog: Over the last few months I have continued to gather historical information, take site photos, develop a baseline report and start drafting a long term management plan. In the short term it was decided that it would be advantageous to grind up the dead briar vegetation, allowing the existing rushes and sedges to have a competitive advantage over the re-sprouting briar. I put together a Scope of Work proposal and sent the document to Wilkinson Ecological Design and Billingsgate Land Management LLC. I am recommending we hire Billingsgate to conduct this phase of the land management work. An abutter to the bog has pledged to pay for the work to be conducted. I have submitted an Administrative Review to the Town's Conservation Commission, who will be reviewing the proposal on Tuesday, March 19th, 2013. Once approval is gained, the work needs to be conducted by the middle of April to ensure we avoid the height of the bird nesting season.

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. An abutter, has committed to donate \$1,000 towards the project. Billingsgate submitted a bid of \$750 to apply herbicide to the ivy this spring and over seed the area with a Cape Cod conservation seed mix. I am recommending we hire Billingsgate to conduct the work.

Blue Bird Box Program: Pam Schultz, Meg and I installed eight Blue Bird nest boxes at White's Lane. On Wednesday, March 20th Judith Bruce will be giving the three of us a short educational work session to help train us to properly monitor and document the nest boxes.

Fundraising/ PR/ Branding

Newsletter: Paul Blakeley and I have nearly completed the layout for the spring 2013 newsletter. We are proposing to have a 12-page full-color newsletter, similar to the Fall 2012 newsletter. We are now going to be working with Sharon Davis to start drafting the stories. I have also re-designed the remittance envelop that will be included within the newsletter.

*Board Alumni and Advisors Meeting: On Friday, March 15, 2013 Jim, Lynn, Paul, Ad, and I met for the third time to discuss the proposed Alumni/Advisor information session and celebration. Sharon joined us as well. On Monday, March 11th, 2013 the Orleans Yacht Club Board approved our using their facilities for the gathering, which is scheduled for Sunday, April 28th, 2013. I also informed the group that the invitations for the celebration have been sent out to past and current trustees, land donors, and a small group of individuals that have either been major donors or we hope will become key donors in the future. It was decided that Sharon and Paul would start working with me to finalize the discussion items and slides associated with the presentation.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Up-coming Third Tuesday Winter Lecture Talk: On Tuesday, March 19th, 2013 we will be hosting our third "Third Tuesday" Winter Lecture at the Orleans Yacht Club (doors open at 6pm; lecture begins at 6:30pm). The presentation is entitled *Seals: Making a Comeback*. Jesse Mechling, Marine Education Director for the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies will be the guest speaker.

Up-coming Walks: Our next walk is scheduled for Thursday, April 18th, 2013 at Kenrick Woods. Rufin Van Bossuyt of the American Chestnut Foundation will be leading the walk.