



Director's Report: August 21, 2014
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

Annual Meeting: The Orleans Yacht Club has confirmed that we are set to utilize their facilities on Tuesday, August 26th from 4:00-7:00pm (doors open at 5:00pm). Land Ho will be providing the OYC with their 2014 food license and have confirmed they will be catering the event. Cynthia Wigren, guest speaker, will be arriving at the meeting shortly before 6:00pm to give a 20 minute presentation, providing information about the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy and highlight their recent research results.

Election of Trustees: Over the last month Sandra Ladd and I have met three times, processing 213 absentee ballots (as of 8-15-2014). Since we had a total of 737 voting members this year, we need 33 more votes before we reach our quorum (246). An Annual Meeting check-in and voting process has been drafted and will be provided to the Board for review and consideration for our 8/21 Board meeting.

Members Meeting: On August 5th the Trust hosted a Members' Meeting at the Orleans Council on Aging. The meeting focused on Articles IV & V within the Declaration of Trust. Roughly 50 members attended the meeting.

Boland Pond Project: On August 11th I attended a joint meeting of the Town of Orleans Marine and Freshwater Quality Task Force and the Orleans Pond Coalition at Snow Library. The meeting was to introduce the Boland Pond Project. Other "stakeholders" in attendance were from the Town's Planning Board, Natural Resource Department, local business, and private residents whose properties abut the pond. While this project is in the preliminary design phase, the focus of the project is to clean up the water quality of Boland Pond and encourage students at the Nauset Regional Middle School to get involved. OCT owns land on and in Boland Pond, which we commonly refer to as the Boland Pond Park. This parcel is made up of 3.1 acres and was purchased in 1998 as the last buildable lot on Route 6A in Orleans. The two committees would like OCT and the other stakeholders to be involved in the process moving ahead.

Town-wide Trail Guides: On July 8th I received the MapWorks Project Workup, which outlined Stages I-VI in the trail guide development process and a first invoice for \$2,000. To get the Town CPA funds, I have submitted the invoice request form. Once this is received and processed the Town will issue OCT a check for \$2,000, so we can pay the first invoice in full. Since that time I have provided MapWorks with all the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS) Trail shape files. They are currently working with the files. In the coming month(s) we will need to draft some narrative to go along with each of the trails being showcased in the guide.

Brewster Conservation Trust/Compact Annual Meeting: On August 7th Lynn Bruneau and I attended the Brewster Conservation Trust's and The Compact's Annual Meeting at Ocean Edge in Brewster. About 85 people attended the meeting and both BCT and The Compact gave brief administrative reports and elected their Trustees.

The Board of Directors of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. unanimously chosen Barbara U. Birdsey of Centerville to receive the Ansel B. Chaplin Award for outstanding efforts to preserve open space on Cape Cod. Named in honor of The Compact's founding President, Ansel B. Chaplin of Truro, this award is intended to recognize and celebrate significant work conducted by an individual or group of persons to increase the amount and quality of legally protected conservation or park land in Barnstable County.

Brewer Announces Conservation Land Tax Credit Signed by Governor—Senator Stephen M. Brewer announced on August 14th that Governor Deval Patrick signed a bill into law authorizing up to \$2.23 billion in spending over the next four years to provide for the preservation and improvement of land, parks and clean energy across the Commonwealth. Included in the bill is a Conservation Land Tax Credit, championed by Senator Brewer, which increases the individual tax credit from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and increases the tax credit’s annual cap from \$2 million to \$5 million. This increase in funding within the Tax Credit program should further encourage private landowners to donate, sell, or place a CR on their land.

National Land Trust Rally: From September 18 to September 20th the National Land Trust Rally will take place in Providence, Rhode Island. For full details click <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/rally> . Similar to 2010 when I attended the National Rally in Hartford, CT, I would also like to attend this conference, which will be made up of three days full of workshops and classes. Unlike the CT Rally, I will not need to stay overnight, thus cutting down on the cost associated with the conference. The total basic fee is \$565.00. I will be asking the Board to consider approving an expenditure of \$565, enabling me to attend the conference.

Land Acquisition

“Executive Session”

Land Management

Namequoit Bog: Keith Johnson of Billingsgate Land Management worked for a day and a half in the bog between July 31st and August 1st. Keith removed a number of large dead trees and treated the ever-encroaching Phragmites reeds along the major ditch lines.

White’s Lane Terrapin Update: Starting on August 15th MA Audubon and OCT will have multiple volunteers visiting the site during the morning and evening hours to check to see if the baby terrapins have hatched and come to the surface of the enclosures. In total we had 3 documented terrapin nest sites, which is slightly less than we had in 2013.

Conservation Restriction Inspections: This year we had 13 Conservation Restrictions (CR’s) that needed to be inspected. To date I have inspected all but 1 of the CR’s. I expect to wrap up the final inspection this week. We have not had any violations.

Paw Wah Point Osprey Pole Installation Proposal: This past month I was contacted by Ed Lynch, OCT Member, inquiring whether or not the Trust would support the installation of an osprey pole in Memory of Jodie Montoya, longtime OCT Member and friend. Since that time Bob Prescott and I consulted on a number of different locations and recommended that, with Board approval, a pole be installed at the Paw Wah Point Conservation Area. This location was suitable to the family, and friends have agreed to offset the total costs associated with the purchase of the pole and the installation. The Conservation Commission has approved the installation of the pole in that location. Now, I would like the Board to vote their approval of the proposed installation of an osprey pole on OCT’s land located at 0 Eli’s Creek Rd., which is within the Town’s Paw Wah Point Conservation Area. The financial gifts made to offset the costs associated with the pole and installation would be documented as short-term restricted gifts.

Marketing Committee

Fall 2014 Newsletter: The committee met on June 11th and July 18th to discussing and review the layout for the fall 2014 Newsletter. Since that time we have run the membership list to be included in the publication, drafted up the walk and talk programs, reached out to the Gilmores to see if they would be interested in featuring Jerry Gilmore in an article, and finalized Eli Simon’s volunteer feature page. The Committee hopes to have the newsletter finalized and sent to the printer by the end of October.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Up-coming Walk: On Saturday, September 6th I will be leading a walk through the Town's Kenrick Woods Conservation Area off Namequoit Road in South Orleans. This will be a unique walk through large stands of white pine and the very rare American chestnut trees.

Recent Walks: On Thursday, August 14th I led a walk through the Town's Christian Property off Portanimicut Road in South Orleans. 12 individuals joined me for the hike.