



Director's Report
August, 2016
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel: I attended the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel meeting on August 17. The next meeting will be held on September 14, and will include discussion on fall town meeting warrant articles. For all the meeting materials, go to <http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/water-quality-advisory-panel/pages/workshop-materials>.

AmeriCorps Cape Cod Individual Placement: We have been notified that we will receive an AmeriCorps Cape Cod individual placement again for 2016-2017, starting October 26. This member will assist OCT one day a week with land management and educational outreach projects, particularly focused around volunteer coordination.

OCT Annual Meeting and Election

On August 29th, we held our 46th Annual meeting at the Orleans Yacht Club. The meeting included updates from the President, Director, and various board members; a guest speaker from New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance; and voting for the slate of new Trustees as well as the next Nominating Committee.

Our slates of trustees and nominating committee members were approved, with a final vote of 170 yes, and 1 no for both slates.



Director Liz Migliore presents the annual report.



Recognition of President Bob Prescott, who is retiring after 9 years on the board.

New Headquarters

OCT has purchased a house at 203 S. Orleans Rd. to provide a new office headquarters! We closed on August 29, and plan to move the second week of September. The office will not be accessible to the public until ADA accessibility renovations and fire code compliance are completed. We hope to host an open house when these renovations are finished (hopefully by spring). For more information on this exciting change, read our blog at: <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/a-new-home-for-the-trust/>.

We are currently looking for furniture for this new office space. If anyone has lightly used office furniture they are willing to donate, please let us know!

Land Management

Mowing/trail maintenance: Our summer intern has been regularly mowing our paths and maintaining our trails. Removal of small stands of invasive Japanese Knotweed occurred on three different sites.

A complete survey of OCT property signs was conducted by intern Sam Chapman to survey for damage and trim any vegetative growth around the posts.

White's Lane Conservation Area Terrapin Turtles: Three nests have been protect at White's Lane, with three additional wild nests discovered after hatching. Volunteers from Mass Audubon are currently monitoring the site twice a day, awaiting the hatching terrapins. One protected nest has hatched so far, with 13 lively hatchlings!



Protected terrapin turtle nests at White's Lane Conservation Area.

On Tuesday, August 30, we released the 13 hatchlings at White's Lane.



Terrapins ready to be released into the marsh at White's Lane!

Land Acquisition

OCT was approached by a member to purchase a developable lot for sale on Captain Curtais Way. This half acre property abuts the 24 acre Ice House and Reuben's Pond Conservation Area, contains a potential vernal pool, and could allow for a new neighborhood trail entrance to that extensive trail system. The generous donor agreed to give OCT the entire purchase price of the property in order to move quickly to take the property off the market. This parcel transferred to OCT on July 15. Read more on our website here:

<http://orleansconservationtrust.org/recent-land-acquisitions/>.

OCT has begun fundraising to acquire two developable parcels on Nauset Heights Road and Olivers Way in East Orleans, and is currently one-third of the way to the \$600,000 purchase price. These parcels will connect to existing OCT conservation land donated by the Cullen family, including Mill Pond waterfront. We have been given until April 2017 to raise the funds for this purchase.

Strategic Planning

The strategic plan has been finalized and unanimously approved by the board! View a summary of the plan on our website at <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/home/strategic-planning/>. A presentation of this plan and the process undertaken to complete it was given at the annual meeting on August 29.

Finance/Investment Committee

Our spending continues to remain within our 2016 budget. The flow of money in from membership dues is comparable to last year. We will be creating a revised budget in September to reflect the change in expenses due to the new office space.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee has been meeting regularly to plan this year's fundraising events. A fundraising campaign has been launched to raise money for two parcels on Olivers Way in the Nauset Heights neighborhood.

On August 19, nine members attended a Blue Claw boat tour of OCT properties in Pleasant Bay, including Little Sipson's Island and Henson's Cove. President Bob Prescott discussed the conservation value of the properties, and the restoration project at White's Lane Conservation Area, and Trustee Mon Cochran discussed the history of South Orleans. A picnic lunch was held on the Cochran's Eelman's Cove beach.



The fundraising committee is looking to establish a long-term fundraising plan to complement the strategic plan. The committee is looking to recruit additional members from the community who have prior experience with fundraising or event planning.

Communications/Marketing

We recently sent out a mailing to our membership about the recent land acquisitions and our new headquarters.

Pamphlet: We are in the process of updating our OCT informational brochure, and hope to have these available by the end of the year.

The Communications Committee is currently recruiting members interested in assisting with our newsletters and other materials sent out to the community.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks:

Kayak Trip to Sipson Island: On Monday, August 1, seventeen community members participated in guided kayak trip in Pleasant Bay, led by President Bob Prescott. The tour stopped at OCT-owned Little Sipson Island.



Kayaks launching from Quanset Town Landing.

Upcoming Walks:

- **Grassy Knoll Conservation Area**

Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Meet at 60 Champlain Road, Orleans

Bird walk led by Philip Kyle, Past President of Cape Cod Bird Club, head naturalist at Barnstable Harbor Ecotours

Upcoming Fall Lectures: Our fall lecture series will be held at the Orleans Yacht Club from 6:30 pm -7:30 pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday, September 13: *Bird Migration Mysteries*, Philip Kyle – Past President of Cape Cod Bird Club, head naturalist at Barnstable Harbor Ecotours
- Tuesday, October 11: *The Lowdown on Terrpains*, Bob Prescott and Barbara Brennessel – Mass Audubon Welfleet Bay Sanctuary
- Tuesday, November 1: *Farm/Land*, Lucas Dinwiddie - proprietor of Halcyon Farms