



Director's Report
December, 2016
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel: For all the meeting materials, go to <http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/water-quality-advisory-panel/pages/workshop-materials>.

Cape Coastal Conference: On December 6th and 7th, I attended the Cape Coastal Conference in Hyannis. Sponsored by Waquoit Bay, this conference focused on environmental issues the Cape is facing, particularly regarding climate change and water pollution. Discussion included actions that can be taken to make the Cape more resilient.

New Headquarters

We're continuing to work on setting up our new office space, including meeting ADA and fire code compliance. For more information on this exciting change, read our blog at: <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/a-new-home-for-the-trust/>.

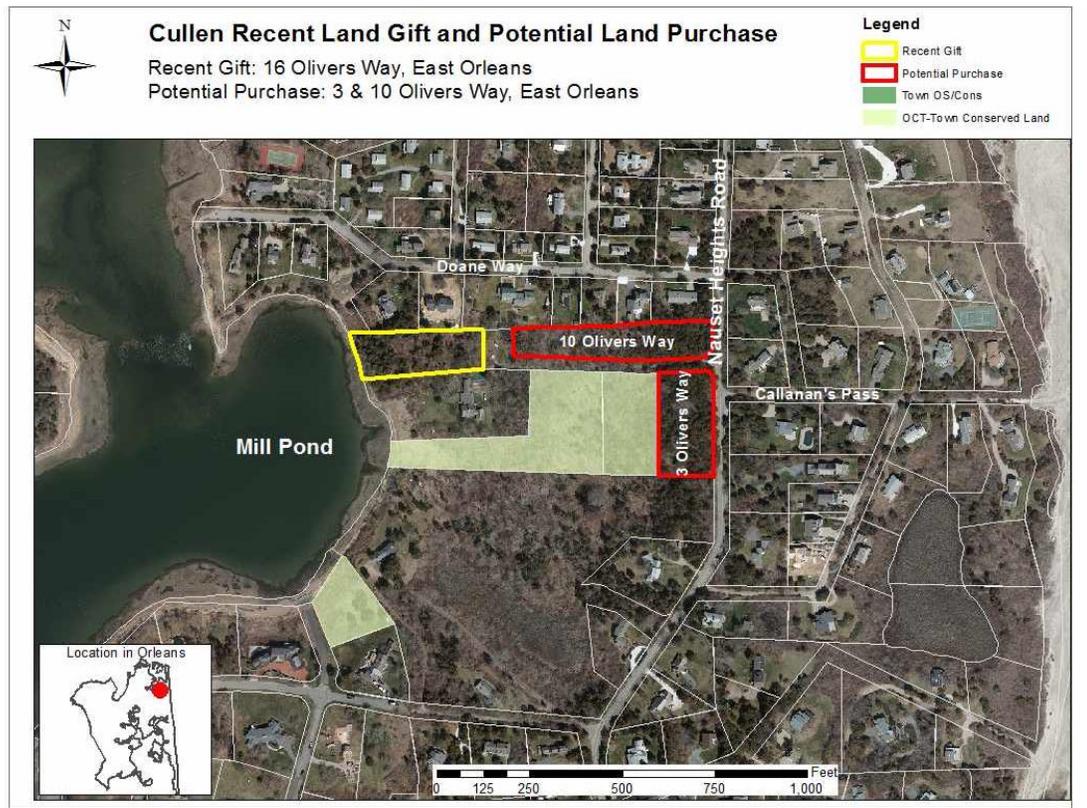
Land Management

I have been busy updating OCT's complete property inventory, which was last updated in 2000. This will be a bound book that each trustee will have, plus additional copies will be kept at the office for anyone interested in perusing. I'm also exploring formatting to upload the inventory to our website.

The land management committee has been working hard to prioritize property for land management in 2017. AmeriCorps placement Derek and myself have also been busy finishing CR monitoring for the year, and keeping up with hazardous tree removal on our properties.

Land Acquisition

OCT has been fundraising to acquire two developable parcels on Nauset Heights Road and Olivers Way in East Orleans, and has raised \$539,948 of the needed \$600,000 purchase price. We've also been notified this property is on the list to receive a \$75,000 state conservation tax credit in 2018. 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, although an extension may be negotiated to accommodate the state tax credit. For more information view the blog posting at <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/land-acquisition-opportunity-in-east-orleans/>.



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, with a slight deficit that is expected to be resolved by the year end appeal.

Treasurer Steven Koehler has drafted the 2017 budget, which will reflect the change in expenses due to the new office space. The budget will be adjusted after the year end appeal donations finishing being processed in early January.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee has been meeting regularly to plan next year’s fundraising events. A donor appreciation cocktail party and large fall fundraising event are being planned. A fundraising campaign is underway to raise money for two parcels on Olivers Way in the Nauset Heights neighborhood.

The fundraising committee sent out an annual appeal letter at the end of November. The funds from this appeal are important for OCT to meet its annual operating costs, complete land management work, and hold educational programming.

The committee is looking to recruit additional members from the community who have prior experience with fundraising or event planning.

Communications/Marketing

The Communications Committee is currently recruiting members interested in assisting with our newsletters and other materials sent out to the community. Work will begin soon on our spring newsletter!

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks:

Ice House/Reuben's Pond Conservation Area: On Saturday, December 3, Bob Prescott of Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary led a walk as part of the Cape waterfowl census. The 30 attendees were fortunate to see several different species of waterfowl foraging on Ice House Pond. The official count recorded was: 2 (invasive) Mute Swan, 56 Canada Goose, 8 Mallard, 2 American Wigeon, 6 Hooded Merganser, 3 Green Wing Teal. The group also walked around Reuben's Pond, which was vacant of any waterfowl visitors. Bob and Liz also discussed various land management efforts on the property, including cutting of hazardous trees and removal of invasive species, and pointed out different species of native and invasive plants along the way.



Bob Prescott talks beside Reuben's Pond.



Pam Schultz gazes at ducks on Ice House Pond.



Hikers listen to Bob talk about native trees.



Walkers count waterfowl on Ice House Pond.

Upcoming Walks:

Hosea's Swamp

Thursday, January 26 from 10:00-11:00 am

Meet at 70 Quanset Road, South Orleans

Up-close look at globally rare Atlantic white cedar swamp on Town and OCT property.

Upcoming Winter/Spring Lectures: Our fall lecture series is held at the Orleans Yacht Club from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month, in January-May.

Small Farms and Native Trees

Russell Norton, Horticulture Educator at Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

Thursday, January 5, 2017

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Doors open at 6:30 pm cash bar)

Orleans Yacht Club, 39 Cove Road, Orleans