



Administrator Report: January 16, 2014
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

Community Preservation Act Application: Last month I put together and submitted a Town Community Preservation Act Application and submitted it to the Town's Community Preservation Committee. As previously discussed, the Application requests a \$15,000 grant to be used to develop and print a Town-Wide Trail Guide. I will be presenting to the CPC on January 23, 2014. We have received a letter of support from the Harwich Conservation Trust, Brewster Conservation Trust, The Compact, Town Open Space Committee, and Town Conservation Commission.

AmeriCorps IP Update: Allyson Stein currently serves as our AmeriCorps Land Stewardship Individual Placement. She is only in the office once a week and has been helping to update our existing property files, clear and maintain trails, research potential walk leaders, and research potential grant sources for an invasive species publication.

Land Acquisition

Fleck Conservation Restriction (24 Twinings Lane): The Conservation Restriction (CR) was recorded at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds on December 12, 2013! Last week I put together and sent out the final acknowledgment letters for tax purposes, notified the Town's tax assessor of the change in ownership, and helped Ann hire an appraiser to identify the value of the CR itself. I also developed a press release, which the family is reviewing. Once reviewed and approved, this press release will be sent to the Cape Codder for potential publication. It will also be placed on our website.

McMahan Gift: This gift of land was recorded on December 24, 2013! As a reminder, since Page McMahan qualified for the additional State tax credit, the land first needed to be gifted to The Compact, an "incorporated" organization, and then The Compact gifted the CR to OCT.. Now that the land transfer has been recorded The Compact would like OCT to accept title to the land and we will subsequently transfer the CR back to The Compact, to be held in perpetuity. At our meeting I will be asking those in attendance to sign the "Assignment of Conservation Restriction" in order for us to properly transfer ownership of the land to OCT.

Land Management

AmeriCorps Sustainable Land Stewardship Program Proposal: On January 8th, 2014 I met with Erik Boyer, Advisor for the AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) Fire Crew. Erik has identified OCT as one of three organizations across the Cape that he would like to work with to try and create a sustainable land management volunteer group. With the help of the service partner (OCT in this case), AmeriCorps would help train the volunteers in different areas of natural resource management. The hope is that this group would be self-sustaining after a couple of months and coordinate with me on subsequent projects. After the initial launch period, the effectiveness of the program would be evaluated on an ongoing basis. This would allow for the creation of a framework for a stewardship startup program that ACC could offer other towns. Erik is meeting this coming week with the two other organizations he intends to work with. After that we will pool our ideas and start developing a more formal framework.

Namequoit Bog: This past month I drafted the Namequoit Bog land management plan. That plan has been sent to the Land Acquisition/ Management Committee for review and comments. I have also shared that plan with the Town's Conservation Administrator. While I think the Committee has a lot to consider and discuss, I think it is a

good foundation and I thought it would be especially important to document how the bog has changed since OCT took ownership of the parcel.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Up-coming Walk: On Saturday, January 18th, 2014 we will be hosting an educational walk into Hosea's Swamp off Quanset Road. Todd Kelley, Native Naturalist and owner of Kelley Trail Blazers will be leading the walk.

Up-coming Talk: On Monday, February 3rd, 2014 from 6:30-7:30pm we will be hosting an educational lecture entitled the "Highlights of a Record Sea Turtle Stranding Season" at the Orleans Yacht Club. Dennis Murley, Science Coordinator at MA Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, will discuss the higher than usual sea turtle standings over the last two years and their surprising survival rate.

Recent Lecture: On Monday, January 6th, 2014 from 6:30-7:30pm we hosting an educational lecture entitled the "History of the Wild Turkey" at the Orleans Yacht Club. Brian Malone, Retired Director of the Town of Dennis Natural Resources Department, outlined the history of the wild turkey in MA from its demise in the mid-1800s to the modern restoration efforts. About 50 community members attended the presentation.