



Director's Report
June, 2016
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel: I attended the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel meeting on Wednesday, June 15, at town hall. The next meeting will be held on July 13. For all the meeting materials, go to <http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/water-quality-advisory-panel/pages/workshop-materials>.

Water Words that Work Environmental Messaging Workshop: On June 10, I attended the Water Words that Work workshop in North Grafton, with Trustee Karl Goldkamp. This workshop focused on communication techniques for environmental organizations. This was a valuable day of networking with other land trusts and learning useful tips to improve our website, mailings, and email blasts.

Summer Intern: We have hired a summer Dorothy Rowe Boyle Land Stewardship intern! Sam Chapman, a recent graduate of Whitman College, will begin this position on June 6, and will continue through August. He has been assisting us with brushcutting out walking trails, removing invasives, installing new OCT property signs, and updating our kiosks.

Land Management

Our trails continue to be regularly monitored for downed trees and other issues.

On June 1, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members completed an invasives removal and cleanup project at the Beilby Gift on Harvey's Lane and the Young/Flint Gift. On June 24, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members had a full workday at Mill Pond Conservation Area, rerouting sections of the trail that have become badly eroded. On June 15, volunteer land stewards helped us remove invasive honeysuckle shrub from Woods Cove Conservation Area. Four volunteers braved the heat to remove this invasive from along the trail.



Intern Sam Chapman and AmeriCorps Cape Cod Placement Leah Mould at the entrance to Woods Cove Conservation Area; Pile of invasive honeysuckle removed on the volunteer workday.



AmeriCorps Cape Cod members cut a new section of trail at Mill Pond Conservation Area to re-route around an eroded section.

Land Acquisition

The Orleans Conservation Trust was approached by the Ragsdale family about a gift of two parcels of Atlantic White Cedar swamp off Rock Harbor Road near Cedar Pond, totaling 2.38 acres. Mark Robinson of the Compact recommended it to OCT as a great opportunity since it is an outright gift of valuable habitat. Management should be minor for these parcels. These parcels also abut existing open space, and have been identified by the Town as having Strategic Potential for Open Space. After walking the property, the Board voted to accept this gift. The land has transferred to OCT as of June 24!

OCT is exploring the feasibility of fundraising and applying for grants to acquire two undeveloped parcels on Olivers Way in East Orleans. OCT has been given until June 2017 to raise the funds for this purchase, and is currently waiting to hear back about a proposal to the landowner.

OCT was approached by a member to purchase a vacant lot for sale on Captain Curtais Way. This half acre property abuts the Ice House 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 has agreed to give OCT the entire purchase price of the property in order to move quickly to take the property off the market. We are currently working on a purchase agreement with the seller.

Strategic Planning

The strategic planning committee completed interviews of other land trusts in order to gain insight about the strategic planning process, and to consider new perspectives to bring back to more effectively run OCT. A facilitator was selected for the process, Hal Minis of Brewster Conservation Trust. The committee sent out letters to the membership at the end of January outlining the process, as well as conducting a member survey. This survey was also posted in our website and set out in an email blast, with 189 members responding. Interviews have been conducted with key town leaders in order to complete a community scan for insight on conservation needs and collaborations. Key themes were pulled out of these surveys and interviews, to guide the Trustees' development of the plan. The board met for a strategic planning workshop in April, and again on May 24. The final document will be shared on our website 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 has been increasing with the mailing of our spring appeal.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee has been meeting regularly to plan this year's fundraising events. Events have scheduled this summer, including two Blue Claw boat tours of OCT properties. 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. The spring appeal has been mailed at, and funds received have been comparable to the previous year.

Communications/Marketing

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

Newsletter: Our spring newsletter was mailed out at the end of the month. 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:

White's Lane Conservation Area: On Saturday, May 11, President Bob Prescott led an educational walk at White's Lane Conservation Area. The walk focused on the effort to restore this property as a grassland meadow habitat from an area overgrown with invasive species. Bob discussed the diamondback terrapin turtle nesting sites on the property, including the extensive volunteer hours that go into monitoring the nests and how the nests are protected. Various birds were spotted during the walk, such as bluebirds.



Upcoming Walks:

- **Christian Property Conservation Area**
Thursday, July 21, 2016 from 9:00 – 10:00am
Meet at 80 Portanimitcut Road, South Orleans

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
- Tuesday, October 11
- Tuesday, November 1