



Director's Report: March 20, 2014
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

Annual Meeting/ Fall 2014 Lectures: On Monday, March 10th the Orleans Yacht Club voted their approval of our two applications to use their facilities on the following dates:

- Annual Meeting: Tuesday, August 26th, 2014 from 4:00-7:00pm
- Fall 2014 Lectures:
 - Tuesday, September 16th, 2014
 - Tuesday, October 21, 2014
 - Tuesday, November 18th, 2014

MA Land Trust Conference: On Saturday, March 22nd, 2014 I will be attending the MA Land Trust Conference in Worcester. This is the fifth time I have attended the conference, which is the largest State-wide land trust conference in the country. During the day-long conference I will attend the plenary session and three workshops focused on land stewardship, partnerships & funding, and estate planning outreach.

AmeriCorps 2014-2015 Application: On March 17th, 2014 I finalized and submitted an application for a 2014-2015 AmeriCorps Individual Position (IP). While we have been successfully awarded the position the last two years, I have recently learned that the total number of IP positions will be decreased in the coming year, thus there will be more competition for the remaining positions. I suspect we will hear about the application results by June, 2014.

Oral History Endeavor: Over the last month I have worked with OCT volunteer Stephanie Gaskill to develop an Oral History program. We have met with the Orleans Historical Society to review their oral history program, developed a list of baseline questions, drafted a release form, reviewed equipment needed, designed a timeline, and put together a list of potential individuals to interview (Life Members, land donors, etc.). The first two individuals we will be interviewing are Bobbie Thomsen, former Trust Treasurer and Life Member, and Bruce MacKenzie, resident of Town since the 1940's. Stephanie and I have met with both Thomsen and MacKenzie to explain what the program is, how we intend to use the information in the future, what types of questions we hope to ask, etc. We expect to conduct the first formal interviews in the first or second week in April. The resulting materials could be used in future newsletter publications, website newsfeeds, newspaper articles, etc. The information could also shed some light on how certain parcels of land might have looked historically, so that information could be helpful when designing management plans.

Land Acquisition

Ted Trump Land Gift: The Trump gift was recorded on March 17th, 2014. In the coming week I will put together the final acknowledgment letter and notify the State's Tax Credit program of the closing.

Land Preservation Seminar: In the coming month I would like to work with The Compact to identify a date to host a land preservation seminar in Orleans. During this seminar the OCT and Compact's staff would discuss land already preserved in Orleans, land preservation options/opportunities, and potential tax benefits associated with preserving private land. Land Trusts from neighboring Towns could be informed of the seminar date, giving them the opportunity to reach out to their own prospective land donors. The Trumps attended one of these seminars in Harwich, which is how we met them and they subsequently donated their land to the Trust.

Land Management

Namequoit Bog: This past month I spent a bit more time cleaning up the management plan and thinking about the next best steps. I am still working with David Lyttle of Ryder & Wilcox Engineering Firm to finalize the Notice of Intent proposal. Adrian Punch of Harrow and Seed Sustainable Landscape Design has offered to provide guidance on the project as needed. During the first week in March, Keith Johnson of Billingsgate Land Management burned three of the largest brush piles that remained from the spring 2013 land management activities. I have spoken to Len Rosen, a property abutter and historic donor to land management activities, and he has agreed to continue to financially support the Trust's next phase of land management activities in the bog.

Brush Burns:

As outlined in my February, 2014 Director's Report, in the next 2 months I expect to conduct brush burns on the following parcels:

- Young/Flint Gift
- Mauch Gift
- Henson Gift (White's Lane)
- Ewald Gift

Fundraising Committee

Cape Cod 5 Educational Program Grant Proposal: In January of this year I submitted a grant to the Cape Cod 5 Foundation, requesting \$3,500 to help offset costs associated with our 2014 educational lectures. The grant period ended on February 14th, 2014 and I expect we will hear about the results of the grant by the end of April.

Member Thank You Letters: In the first week of April I am planning to run a list of all gifts over \$200 from this past year and all new donors over \$100. Once these lists are run we can review the gift giving numbers and identify higher dollar donors for each Trustee to write a hand written thank you note to. I will draft up a template of the thank you note for Board review.

Membership Mailing: The Fundraising Committee has drafted a spring Membership mailing letter. Similar to last year, we will send one letter tailored more specifically to our existing donors within the database and also send another appeal Town-wide. This letter would be sent out 1-2 weeks after the newsletter is mailed out. In the coming week(s) I will review each donor's past giving levels and assign a specific amount to ask for.

Marketing Committee

Spring 2014 Newsletter: I have been working with the Marketing Committee to finalize the overall layout and articles within the spring 2014 newsletter. We have set a goal to try and get the newsletter finalized and printed by the first week in April, 2014.

Nominating Committee

Committee Meetings: On Friday, March 14th the Nominating Committee met. During the meeting committee members focused on the up-coming timeline and nomination questionnaire. A second meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 21st at which time the Committee will finalize the questionnaire.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Up-coming Walk: On Saturday, April 5th, 2014 we will be hosting an educational walk at the Town's Putnam Farm Conservation Area. The Putnam Farm Conservation Area, which is made up of 14 acres, was purchased by the Town in December of 2010. This land has been farmed for hundreds of years and borders Jeremiah's Gutter. This waterway once served as Cape Cod's first canal, allowing individuals to sail between Cape Cod Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, dating as far back as 1717. The farm was purchased in 1957 by the Putnams and gravel from under the topsoil was used to build the Eastham Rotary. Starting in 2011 the Town, OCT, AmeriCorps Cape Cod and community volunteers worked to remove hundreds of invasive shrubs and restore the ecological integrity of the site. Those projects were a success and today the parcel is being maintained as an early succession field habitat.

Up-coming Talk: On Monday, April 7th we will be hosting an educational lecture entitled “Climate Change, the Global Carbon Cycle, & the Management of Carbon on Land.” Richard (Skee) Houghton, III, Acting President and Senior Scientist at the Woods Hole Research Center will discuss the global carbon cycle, terrestrial ecosystems, land use change, and the response of ecosystems to recent and expected climatic change. Dr. Houghton has studied the interactions between land and climate for about 30 years, in particular documenting the ways people use land (for example, for food, feed, fiber, fuel) and the effects that land management has on the carbon dioxide of the atmosphere.

Recent Lecture: On Monday, March 3rd, 2014 from 6:30-730pm Jim O’Connell, a Coastal Geologist and Land Use Specialist for Coastal Advisory Services, entertained more than 70 residents and visitors from across the Cape with his enlightening lecture entitled “Erosion Control: Is It Possible?” at the Orleans Yacht Club.

Recent Walks: On Thursday, March 6th, I led a led a group of hikers on a mile-long walk through the Baker’s Pond Conservation Area off Baker’s Pond Road in Orleans.

