



Director's Report
March 23, 2015
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

Director Search: On February 13, I informed Bob Prescott (President) that I would be stepping down from my position as Director of the organization during the first week of May to pursue a career in the private sector. Since that time an electronic letter has been sent to the Members to notify them of the transition, and the Director position has been advertised through a number of local, state, and national media channels. Since the original posting, nine applications for the position have been received.

At the February 2014 regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Trustees unanimously agreed to form a Search Committee to assist in the hiring of a new Director. Since that time the committee has outlined desired qualities associated with the position, drafted questions to use during the interview process, and met to discuss these documents. The committee has scheduled two more meetings between now and April 6, at which time the applications will be reviewed and interviews with applicants scheduled.

Dorothy Rowe Boyle Internship: On February 16, I formally posted the Dorothy Rowe Boyle Internship position to the Trust website. The individual who serves within this position will assist with land management needs and requests, reporting directly to the OCT Director. Since the posting the Trust has received two applications. Those interested in learning more about or applying for the position can find details at:
<http://orleansconservationtrust.org/internship-opportunity/>

Amendment of Declaration of Trust Revisions: During the last week of February, a postal mailing was sent to our Members outlining details associated with amending the organization's Declaration of Trust. The same week, a similar electronic mailing went to Members for whom we have email addresses. Both mailings described the Members' voting options. Since sending out the mailing we have received 200 "yes" votes to amend the Declaration. We need just under 320 affirmative "yes" votes from the membership to amend the Declaration of Trust. A Special Members meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, April 26, at 5:00 pm at the Orleans Yacht Club, to answer any final questions relating to the amendment process and hopefully celebrate the revision of the document.

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>. At the March 23 Board meeting I plan to provide an update regarding the revised hybrid plan and financial model.

Green Week/AmeriCorps Week: For more than six months, Frank Deleo (OCT AmeriCorps Individual Placement) and Matt Russnik (Town Tree Warden AmeriCorps Individual Placement) have been working to establish a week-long service project at the Nauset Regional Middle School and Orleans Elementary School, which will take place April 13–17. On March 12, representatives of the groups involved in the project, which includes a number of Town departments, local nonprofits, town committees, etc., came together to review an outline of activities planned for the week, the budget associated with those activities, and how best to wrap up any remaining necessary tasks. In the coming week a press release about the project—and how community members can get involved—will be sent out to the general public through the Barnstable County AmeriCorps program office. ..

Town-wide Trail Guide: On February 12, John Jannell (Town Conservation Agent) and I met with MapWorks to review the updated trail guide design and make final suggestions and edits. MapWorks has since made the changes, and we have a near-final draft of the guide. In the coming weeks we will print a proof of the entire guide for final layout review. As planned, we expect the guide will be printed and available to the public by the middle of April.

AmeriCorps Individual Place Orientation Meeting: On February 26, I attended the Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Individual Placement Request for Proposal (RFP) orientation and release meeting. Since the Trust wants to apply for an Individual Placement for the 2015–2016 program years, we were required to attend the meeting. The program’s focus areas include Natural Resource Management, Disaster Preparedness and Response, Environmental Education, and Volunteer Engagement.

MA Land Trust Conference: On March 21, the MA Land Trust Conference hosts its 25th MA Land Conservation Conference. This is a conference I have attended for six years, but due to the expected timing of the birth of my first child, I will not be able to attend this year. Fortunately, new trustee Karl Goldkamp expressed interest in attending the conference, so I have since pre-registered him. As mentioned in my February report, this annual day-long training and networking event provides an opportunity for land trust board members and staff; parks administrators and advocates; colleagues from federal, state and local government agencies; students; and philanthropists to participate in a full day of workshops and discussions that focus on fostering healthy communities in MA through land conservation.

Land Acquisition

Walton Potential CR: On January 23, we received feedback on the CR from the state. Since then we have edited the document based on the state’s suggestions. Currently Mr. Walton’s attorneys are reviewing the document.

Braddock Land Gift: In December 2014, Isaac Braddock and Sarah Fisher transferred title to their land to The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. Since that time The Compact has transferred title to the land to OCT, and The Compact will hold a Conservation Restriction over the land.

Executive Session: A recent land gift and potential land purchase was also discussed.

Land Management

Osprey Pole Installation: In July 2014, longtime OCT supporter Jodie Montoya passed away. Jodie was passionate about nature and wildlife preservation, a love she pursued through her work at Mass Audubon’s Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary in Barnstable. Several generous gifts were made to OCT in her memory, and after consulting with family and friends, the Trustees decided that these gifts would be used to erect an osprey pole on the OCT Gilmore Gift, located in the Town’s Paw Wah Point Conservation Area. The installation date is Saturday, April 4, at 9:30 am. Anyone interested in helping to install the pole or simply attending can park at the Paw Wah Point Conservation Area parking lot.

Dog Leash Policy: At the February 2015 Board meeting, the Trustees unanimously approved a motion stipulating that that dogs must remain on leash on Trust lands unless otherwise posted. We are currently in the process of drafting the policy language.

Vernal Pool Program: In late February, Karl Goldkamp and I developed an Excel sheet identifying the remaining uncertified vernal pools in Town and conducted site visits to familiarize ourselves with both the certified and uncertified pools. During the first few weeks in March we prioritized vernal pools that we plan to inspect for vernal pool species during April and May, and we have identified locations that would be best suited for an outdoor educational program. In the coming weeks we will evaluate weather patterns to try to choose exact dates for the site visits and educational programs.

Communications/Marketing

Newsletter: During the second week of March, Diana Landau (chair of Marketing and Communications Committee) and I met with Terry Machie (newsletter designer) to discuss the layout of the spring 2015 newsletter as well as the timing of publication. We will continue to strive to have the newsletter completed and mailed by the first week in May.

Finance and Investment

On March 18, the Finance and Investment Committee met to discuss and review the Cash Receipts–Disbursement Procedures and Investment Policy and Procedures. Both documents were reviewed, and revised drafts will be presented to the Board at its March 23 meeting.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks: On March 12, I led 12 community members through the Woods Cove Conservation Area. In 1988, the OCT acquired this area, located just before the Tonset Road town landing in Orleans. The parcel is 11.6 acres of upland forest, wetland, and salt-marsh ecosystems, with an existing trail of less than 1 mile that traverses rolling hills. The property is extremely important for wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, coastal resources, and scenic value. Its wealth of habitats host diverse plant species, and enable animals to migrate through these lands. The most important feature of Woods Cove, however, is its vernal pools, which are ideal breeding grounds for many amphibian species such as the wood frog and red-backed salamander, both of which have been observed on site.

Recent Lecture: On March 2, Dr. Jonathan Way gave a presentation titled *Coywolves on Cape Cod*. Dr. Way, a Cape Cod native, has spent the better part of his professional life researching coyotes in suburban and urban settings of eastern MA. Dr. Way presented the history and findings of his research on the coywolf here on Cape Cod and eastern MA, his plans to continue those studies, and the difficulties he has encountered in obtaining state permits for further research. He also described his study of wolves in Yellowstone National Park and the similarities he found between the behavior of those Yellowstone wolves and that of coywolves here in MA.

Upcoming Lectures:

- On Monday, April 6, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm at the Orleans Yacht Club (39 Cove Road), Dr. Graham Giese, coastal geologist and co-founder of the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, will discuss his recent and ongoing development of methods for determining the volume rate of sediment transport (the river of sand) along the shores of Cape Cod.
- On Monday, April 20, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm at the Orleans Yacht Club, Robert P. Cook, a National Park Service wildlife ecologist, will give a presentation about the plants and animals that depend on vernal ponds. He will discuss spring amphibian migrations to vernal ponds, and what the National Park Service’s Inventory and Monitoring Program tells us about the health and status of vernal pond amphibians in the National Seashore.