



Director's Report
November 18, 2014
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

2015 Budget: On November 10, Sandra Ladd and I met with the Executive Committee to discuss the 2015 budget. The draft budget should be ready to be reviewed by the full Board before the end of the month.

Orleans Historical Society Award: On November 1, I attended the Orleans Historical Society's Annual Meeting at the Orleans Inn. At that meeting I was given the organization's award for Environmental Preservation.

Declaration of Trust: The Governance Committee met for the first time on October 14. Attending were Kris Ramsay, Bob Prescott Sharon Davis, Beth Minear, Patty Platten, Sue Meisenger, and Jeanne Berdik. The group was able to work through and revise Articles I, II, and III. Since we first sent out the request for additional volunteers to help finalize the declaration, only one or two members have expressed interest. Here is the draft schedule for moving forward:

October 21, 2014	Joint member/trustee meeting	Review draft DOT and member recommendations
November 20, 2014 4:30 pm/Davis	Joint member/trustee meeting #2	Review new draft language
December 15, 2014	Joint member/trustee Meeting #3	Committee approval of recommended language changes
December 16, 2014	Trustee meeting	Discussion of proposed changes to DOT
Dec 20 – Jan 15	Attorney input	Review proposed DOT
January 20, 2015	Trustee meeting	Approval of DOT draft
January 21, 2015	Notice to members of special meeting including DOT materials	
January 22–February 11	Period for member review and comment	
(Tentative) February 12, 2015	Special members' meeting	Report on the Trust & DOT discussion
(Tentative) February 13 – 19, 2015	Governance meeting Trustee meeting	Prepare final draft of DOT Trustee approval of final draft of DOT
(Tentative) March 1, 2015	Ballot mailing to members	Quorum proxy/ballot to members for member passage of DOT

Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel: On October 22 and November 12 I attended meetings of the 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> .

Dorothy Rowe Boyle Internship Fund: Since August of this year we have received 65 gifts in Memory of Dorothy Rowe Boyle. On October 20, I met with her husband, Kevin Boyle. Kevin expressed interest in seeing these funds used for educational purposes, but didn't really want them to be spent on a single program or event. After a brief discussion about the Trust's needs, Kevin and I agreed that a good use of the funds would be to create a paid internship position for land stewardship. This internship will bring in young professionals with youthful enthusiasm and energy, diverse talents, and a willingness to take on unfamiliar challenges. I am currently drafting some language to further define the position and how the funds could be

allocated. Once this document is complete, I will consult with the Personnel (?) Committee to nail down any final details.

Green Week/AmeriCorps Week: In just the first three weeks since Frank DeLeo joined the Trust as our AmeriCorps Individual Placement, we have laid the groundwork for Green Week 2015. The focus of the project is directly related to the Town's Boland Pond restoration project and finding ways to work with the students from the middle and elementary schools. Frank and the Town Tree Warden's Individual Placement have identified the stakeholders (e.g., teachers, Town committees, local nonprofits, etc.), narrowed down the proposed projects, drafted a timeline, and even started to design a budget. This project has caught the eye of AmeriCorps administrative staff at the County level, and it is very likely that AmeriCorps Week 2015 will be coming to Orleans to support this initiative. If this happens, we will gain additional support from all 24 AmeriCorps members and be assigned a grants administrator to help identify and apply for additional funding.

Land Acquisition

Braddock Potential Gift: As reported last month, the final deed, CR, and plan of lands are at the Compact office and ready for recording. On October 21, the Planning Board amended a covenant placed over the land, allowing for the land to be transferred to the Compact without the need to widen the road to the property any further. The Planning Board will sign the covenant on November 18. Once this document is signed and recorded at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, we can close on the land gift.

(Other items discussed in Executive Session)

Land Management

Namequoit Bog: On October 31, I worked with 9 AmeriCorps members within the bog, conducting land management activities. This is the third time in the past 3 months that we have worked with AmeriCorps in the bog, cutting back dead vegetation in the northwest corner of the property. This work is directly in line with our approved Notice of Intent and Management Plan, and will encourage the native rushes and sedges to grow faster.



White's Lane - Controlled Burn: On November 5, I met with Dave Crary, Fire Management Officer at Cape Cod National Seashore, and John Paino, an employee with MA DEP, to discuss conducting a controlled burn on site. Many ecological benefits can be derived from using a prescribed fire in a warm seasonal grassland habitat. This ecosystem requires a regular cycle of fire to maintain its structure and species composition for rare species and wildlife habitat. We hope that the State will decide that this project falls within the National Seashore's umbrella burn plan for Cape Cod, so that we don't need to design our own extensive burn plan for the individual site. If we do fall under the National Seashore's plan, Dave expects that we could conduct a burn on site this winter.

Property Mowing: As we do each fall, Frank DeLeo and I have started to mow back our properties that are made up of warm season grasses. This helps keep back unwanted woody vegetation and invasive species. The properties we mow are the Mauch, Young/Flint, Fleck, Moerschener, Hannum, and Ewald gifts.



Educational Meetings/ Programs

Upcoming Walks:

- Kent's Point Conservation Area – On November 15 I will lead a walk to the Kent's Point Conservation Area. The Town acquired this land in October 1988, after years of planning by the community to preserve the property for conservation and recreation purposes. This land contains more than a mile of undeveloped shoreline, and fronts on Lonnie's Pond, Little Pleasant Bay, and Frost Fish Creek. Attendees will learn in detail about how the land came to be preserved, recent land management efforts, and local animal species commonly found on site. The walk is roughly 1 mile in length and will take place from 9:00 - 10:30 am.
- Pochet Island - Due to heavy rains during the week of November 1, Bob Prescott and I postponed this walk to Saturday, November 29, 2014. Bob and I will co-lead a lengthy, 4+ hour walk from the Nauset Beach parking lot to Pochet Island. The walk will be approximately 5 miles round trip, often through loose sand and changing topography. In our public notices, we have encouraged hikers to pack a lunch and plenty of water, and bring an extra pair of socks in case their feet get wet while reaching the island from Nauset Beach. The time will be 10:00 - 2:00 pm.

Upcoming Lecture: On Tuesday, November 18, 2014, OCT will host a lecture entitled *Piping Plovers Taste like Starlings*. Peter Trull, local naturalist and science teacher at the Lighthouse Charter School will give the presentation, scheduled for 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Orleans Yacht Club.

There is a great deal of misinformation and controversy related to piping plover protection and beach closings along the Massachusetts coastline. One of the biggest misconceptions is that they are eaten for food on their wintering grounds in South America. (This may be partly responsible for the bumper stickers sometimes seen locally that read "Piping plovers taste like chicken.") Although thousands of plovers and sandpipers are killed for food each fall along the coastline of Guyana, South America, by market trappers working day and night and using various methods of nets and whip-wires, none of these are piping plovers. Peter Trull lived and worked with these trappers during two research trips funded by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, learning about, recording, and even eating a dozen species of shorebirds as well as the common terns we see roosting and staging along the Massachusetts coast in late summer, before they continue south. Peter will show his never-before-seen color photographs of the market-trapping process in Guyana—from catching birds to preparing them for the table.