



Director's Report
October, 2017
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Administrative

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>.

I attended the Board of Selectmen meeting on October 18 regarding the placement of a Conservation Restriction on the 3 and 10 Oliver's Way property.

Land Management

Our new AmeriCorps Individual Placement Rob Bennett started on October 4. Rob will be serving with OCT one day a week through July, and serving two days per week with Dan Connolly at the town Tree Department. Rob grew up in Weston, Massachusetts. He graduated from St. Lawrence University in Upstate New York with a degree in Political Science.

Northern diamondback terrapin monitoring has completed for the year at Whites Lane Conservation Area through Mass Audubon. Seven nests were protected for the season, with ten wild nests also discovered after they hatched. A total of 136 terrapin hatchlings arrived this year!

Conservation Restriction monitoring has been wrapped up for the year. This will start up again in the spring.

Our annual mowing of conservation properties occurred the last week of October. A few additional sites will be completed in early November.

AmeriCorps Cape Cod members assisted with invasive species removal from our Whippoorwill Lane property in South Orleans on October 5.



AmeriCorps Cape Cod members assisted with invasive species removal from our Keller Gift property off Quanset Road in South Orleans on October 27.



Land Acquisition

OCT has officially closed on the two developable parcels on Nauset Heights Road and Olivers Way in East Orleans, with a conservation restriction to be placed this year! These parcels will connect to existing OCT conservation land donated by the Cullen family, including Mill Pond waterfront.

OCT has signed a purchase agreement for a parcel connecting to White's Lane Conservation Area, and is launching a fundraising effort for this 1.7 acre property. This purchase will create a 16 acre preserve off Henson's Way. This forested parcel connects to existing OCT land, creating an important wildlife corridor in an area that includes nesting Northern diamondback terrapins. This land is developable, and would include the construction of a long driveway and an additional septic system close to wetlands and Henson's Cove. We are currently over halfway to our \$350,000 goal. Read more about this potential purchase at <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/land-acquisition-opportunity-braddocks-way/>. I met with the state coordinator for the Land Conservation Partnership Grant on August 1, to walk the Lot 13 property at Braddock's Way. While the property meets the grant requirements, there are more applications than funds available. We will find out by the end of November if we're receiving the \$85,000 grant toward this purchase.

Finance/Investment Committee

Operating Revenue to date is \$71.6K. Operating Expenses to date are \$153.1K. Of this, \$8.7K is normal salary costs, \$2.0K is land management, \$3.8K in normal monthly office costs, and \$4.4K in Fundraising/Publicity costs. (of this amount \$3.5K was for the brochure which will be reimbursed by the CPC funding we were granted). This leaves an operating deficit of \$81.5K YTD. We budgeted a \$26.5K deficit for the full year, but of course we still await the year-end donations, which in the past have been enough to close that gap. We also recorded the third quarter Vanguard results, which were again very positive. This included \$6.7K in dividend income (to \$21.6K year to date), and \$37.6K in Investment gains (to \$115.7K). Both of these are well ahead of last year at this point.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee met on October 13 to develop a plan for increasing unrestricted giving. Discussion included more applications to foundations and grants, reaching out to abutters of our properties to assist with land maintenance costs and the salary of our land manager, and developing the bequest program.

Communications/Marketing

The Communications Committee is currently recruiting members interested in assisting with our newsletters and other materials sent out to the community. Work on the fall newsletter has begun, and will be wrapped up by early November. Expect to see the newsletter in your mailbox around Thanksgiving!

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks:

Kenrick Woods Conservation Area: On October 17, Rich Eldred led a botany walk at the town owned Kenrick Woods Conservation Area. Twenty-six community members participated in the hike. This 46 acre conservation area is an integral part of an extensive greenbelt on the lower Cape, the largest contiguous parcel on Cape Cod for groundwater protection, and part of the watershed contributing to Arey's Pond, which is a sub-embayment of Pleasant Bay. This habitat is a pine-oak forest, predominated by white pine which were likely planted. In addition to seeing the American Chestnut which grows throughout the property, the group spotted the rare rattlesnake plantain orchid.



Recent Lectures:

Climate Change and the Ponds of Cape Cod National Seashore: Sophia Fox, the Aquatic Ecologist for the Cape Cod National Seashore, presented on her research monitoring the Seashore kettle ponds and changes over time. Trends in her research included increasing air temperatures correlating with increasing water temperature over the past two decades. Concerns arise from the data as to whether enough healthy pond mixing will continue to occur with the warmer temperatures for the species living in them.

Upcoming Walks:

Woods Cove Conservation Area

Friday, November 3 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm

The Woods Cove parcel consists of 11.6 acres of upland forest, wetland, and salt-marsh ecosystems. The property is extremely important for wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, coastal resources, and scenic value. This half mile trail leads down to Woods Cove. Hikers can continue along the edge of the marsh to the landing at the end of Tonset Road, with views of the Nauset Inlet. Meet at 366 Tonset Road, Orleans.

Upcoming Fall Lectures: Our fall lecture series will held at the Orleans Yacht Club from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month, in September – November.

Wild Encounters

Stephanie Ellis, Executive Director, Wild Care of Cape Cod

Tuesday, November 14

6:30-7:30 pm (Doors open at 6:00 pm cash bar)

Orleans Yacht Club, 39 Cove Road, Orleans