



Draft Monthly Report  
April, 2018  
Stephen O'Grady

### **Administrative**

In order to be in compliance with the Mass Conservation Partnership Grant Program regarding Braddock Lot 13, I have been working with Mark Robinson from The Compact to update and finalize documents as necessary. I'm also getting a custom sign for Braddock Lot 13 that acknowledges this grant contribution.

I attended the last Compact Board Meeting and met some new people involved with local conservation efforts. OCT Trustees met to discuss a new regional member involvement initiative. We also had a meeting with the Sipson Island Collaboration, and OCT is working with the Friends of Pleasant Bay on this effort.

Andrew and I have met with ECF representatives and Dick Hilmer, Natural Resource and Endangered Species Specialist with the town about jointly applying for an AmeriCorps individual placement for the coming service year. An application has been submitted, and we will hear back by early June.

### **Land Management**

OCT is awaiting a proposal for a solution to runoff issues at the Mauch property on Old Duck Hole Rd, where we are hoping to conduct a multi-tier restoration effort to create a wet meadow or bioswail. This work will require a fundraising effort, and we hope to have AmeriCorps/volunteers contributing labor!

We have cleared nearly all the late winter storm damage from our trails, with many thanks to Rob Bennett, our AmeriCorps IP. We are still waiting to hear about funding from the CPC for new trail kiosks. We're also trying to schedule a service day with AmeriCorps members for some invasive species control in our White's Lane Conservation Area. And we had a very successful volunteer day at White's Lane to prepare the turtle gardens for the terrapins this season!

OCT is working with a contractor to remove some downed trees and an invasive black locust on the Young/Flint Gift on Champlain Rd. We have had the ability to contract this work out thanks to a generous gift from a neighbor. We hope to have similar partnerships at other properties around town.

An administrative review for vegetation alteration in a resource area has been submitted for construction of a trail on the Cullen property. I also flagged a portion of OCT properties off

Henson's Way, including on the newly acquired Lot 13. We are exploring multiple possibilities for this trail.

### **Governance**

Sue Meisinger has been working hard revising the by-laws, streamlining the trustee nomination process, and revisiting policies and procedures in need of updating.

### **Land Acquisition**

We are finalizing the last documents for Braddock Lot 13 to ensure we are in compliance with the state Conservation Partnership Grant. There are a few potential acquisitions in the early stages.

### **Finance/Investment Committee**

The OCT treasurer is looking into our CR Defense Fund and determining what funds are necessary. We are evaluating our annual dues, and the board will likely vote on this matter at our next meeting. We are also in the process of devising a plan to increase our annual revenue so we are not drawing on our savings account to meet annual operating costs.

### **Fundraising Committee**

OCT hosted a fundraiser at the Addison Art Gallery on Saturday April 21. All the pieces have come together and we had an excellent turn out! Skip Appleyard was our big raffle winner, congrats Skip! Special thanks to Stephanie and Pam for all their efforts organizing, and to all trustees who helped with raffle ticket sales! Thank you to all the artists and authors, and thanks too to Helen Addison who made this event possible.

We will be sending out a spring appeal letter in a couple weeks. We are discussing potential regional fundraising efforts and events.

### **Communications/Marketing**

The Spring Newsletter is in production and should be to Orleans residents by the end of the week. Diana has done an excellent job on this and has had help from many others. We are again working with Terry Machie at Machie Design, and we're using Sir Speedy for printing. We've made a few small changes to the appeals remittance envelopes, and I'm working to streamline the mailing process and formalize which members will receive what mailings so there is standard protocol for future years. Sandra has been readily accepting advice on how she can change the database to facilitate this process. We have also agreed to run another ad in the Orleans Firebirds program.

Andrew and I have also been working to keep our Facebook page up to date and interactive. We have access to our Twitter account, however I don't think it's worthwhile to maintain this account for now. With our membership, I think Facebook is currently the most effective social media platform. However, we should continue to reevaluate using Twitter and Instagram over time.

### **Educational Meetings/ Programs**

Andrew and I both attended the Mass Land Trust Conference hosted by the Mass Land Trust Coalition on 3/24. This consisted of many productive workshops and breakout networking

sessions. Most insightful for me was a workshop on fundraising, and I plan to implement some of what I learned in our fundraising tactics. I also attended two more SCORE workshops. These covered an operational model canvas (the non-profit equivalent to a business plan) and the strategic planning intentions and process. SCORE provides free mentoring, workshops, and resources for small businesses on Cape Cod. These workshops were part of a six-part series specifically for nonprofits.

#### Recent Walks:

##### Putnam Farm Conservation Area

We had 26 attendees on a raw Saturday morning, and Alan McClennen led an interesting walk. He educated attendees on the history of Putnam Farm, the Putnam family, and how the town acquired the land. The property has a new section for community agriculture that has been organized by the Conservation Commission, which was a subject of particular interest. Alan also spoke about Jeremiah's Gutter, and how the topography of the Putnam property reflects its part in the history of filling in the "gutter" to create the Orleans Rotary.

#### Recent Lectures:

##### Native Stories of Cape Cod

Todd Kelley and Marcus Hendricks spoke to a full room about walks they have led in coordination with local towns and conservation trusts. They touched on a few stories related to certain pieces of land and their histories and encouraged attendees to join on their walks to learn more.

#### Upcoming Walk:

##### Baker's Pond Conservation Area

Friday, May 4, 3:00- 4:30 pm

1.75 mile walk on adjoining conservation lands around Baker's Pond, in Orleans and Brewster. Meet at 80 Baker's Pond Rd, Orleans.

#### Upcoming Fall Lecture:

Next lecture will be in September. Details to come!

#### Upcoming Events

Arts for the Earth: Painting, Writing, Singing for Conservation

Saturday, April 21, 4-6 pm at the Addison Art Gallery