



Monthly Report
August, 2018
Stephen O'Grady

Administrative

I have “upgraded” our Crash Plan subscription to Small Business instead of Home Subscription, but saved OCT money because we were paying for devices that did not need to be backed up. As the name suggests, this is a security measure to be able to recover files if our system were to crash.

We have received over 120 absentee ballots for the election of Trustees and Nominating Committee Members. The large majority of these were submitted electronically, suggesting that email is a very effective means for getting these out. This is all the more reason to keep gathering email addresses wherever possible.

Kevin, Sue, and I have met with a landowner who would like to extinguish a right of way on their property, affecting OCT legal access. After a discussion with the Executive Committee, we had a follow up meeting. We will work through the logistics with the Executive Committee and will report to the board thereafter.

Both of our summer interns have gone back to school. Though both were brief internships, we benefitted greatly from having their assistance. Thanks to their efforts, we have two new/updated land management plans and have the ability to access survey plans and deeds, while in the field, for the majority of our properties. Going forward, I'd like to think more about how we may structure a summer long internship.

Land Management

We continue to pursue a solution to runoff and associated invasive species issues on the Mauch Gift, in East Orleans. It sounds like the Town is willing to work with us to put a catch basin on the lowland section of the Mauch property just off Lovell Lane. We will still be dealing with the first flush of water that enters OCT land in heavy precipitation events, and we plan to get back together with Blue Flax Design to address this runoff.

I have confirmed that Timberhomes is on schedule, and the 6 trail kiosks should be delivered sometime in October. Andrew and I will develop a plan for old kiosk removal and relocation and new kiosk installment.

An Administrative Review with the Conservation Commission for vegetation alteration in the form of invasive species cutting and pulling on a section of the White's Lane Conservation Area was approved, and we will do that work sometime in the fall or spring. We did some significant

clearing of bittersweet along Henson's Way, with Wilkinson Ecological Design donating a brush box for us to fill up.

Governance

We have received over 120 absentee ballots for the election of Trustees and Nominating Committee Members, which exceeds the minimum number of votes needed. We will need a quorum of 50 members at the meeting Monday (8/27/18). At the board meeting Tuesday (8/28/18), officers will be elected and committees for the coming year finalized.

Land Acquisition

A Conservation Land Tax Credit for a small waterfront property near Skaket Beach was approved and we expect to close on a small undevelopable lot in that area in January of 2019. Mark Robinson will develop the CR and the deed. We continue to explore a couple other larger land acquisition opportunities, but nothing is developing rapidly at this time.

Finance/Investment Committee

An increase in dues will be announced at the Annual Meeting, as our operational costs have increased in the last couple years, and we continue to offer excellent programs to our members. We have received a very generous \$100,000 bequest, which we knew was coming to OCT, and there will be a vote on how to designate these currently unrestricted funds at the next board meeting. Dues have narrowly surpassed where there were last year at this time, with many donations coming in in response to our reminder postcard.

Fundraising Committee

Trustees will be asked to reach out to a list of contacts to see if people are willing to meet with Charlie and I to discuss the where we stand as an organization today, how we envision our future, and how specifically donors can help. We will have a discussion about our Earth Day plans for next year at the coming board meeting and whether we'd like to pursue another event that weekend. The Police Block Party was a fun event, with many good conversations and new faces. We also showcased the DipJar, which allows us to take credit card donations quickly at a set amount. The biggest advantage is that it's a standalone device.

Communications/Marketing

We will be doing a website overhaul, involving South Coast Internet, our web host. There will be a vote to continue to pursue this opportunity at the upcoming board meeting, as we feel we're getting great value. Content changes will be made by OCT staff and Trustees in the coming weeks.

Another round of 40 new landowner letters were sent out August 7th, and we have received three free membership responses.

Neighborhood Initiative

Diana has a draft of a letter to non-members in the Ice House Pond neighborhood that we should send out soon. At this point, it seems we should hold off on events until next summer. We should

be working to compose narratives for each neighborhood we intend to target, highlighting our properties in the area, their significance, and historical background.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

I met again with many fellow directors at land trusts in Southeastern Mass. These meetings are a great forum to bounce ideas off each other and to discuss problems and solutions that many of us deal with at our respective land trusts.

Recent Walks:

Little Sipson Island Kayak Trip

A paddle out to OCT's first purchase. This was a joint OCT-Mass Audubon led trip.

Upcoming Event:

Terrapin Turtle Hatchling Release

Saturday, September 8, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

With Mass Audubon, we will release some of this years hatchlings into the marshes at White's Lane Conservation Area.

Upcoming Fall Lecture:

Going with the Flow: Rivers and Global Climate Change.

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Max Holmes, Deputy Director and Senior Scientist at the Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC) will speak on his experiences researching changing rivers around the world. He'll also talk about the Cape Cod Rivers Observatory Program, which is a WHRC initiative.