



Monthly Report  
December, 2018  
Stephen O'Grady

### **Administrative**

I have submitted a CPC grant application for expansion of our bluebird box trail and addition of other bird boxes/bat houses to OCT and Town properties (Putnam Farm). The hearing will be on January 3, and Bob Wilkinson is our liaison from the CPC.

I am continuing to work with a landowner to alter a right of way in a manner that will not affect the Trust while appeasing the landowner's desires. OCT will receive a payment for extinguishing public access in this way, but there is public access to the same spot via another property OCT owns.

I continue to work with Pam to clean up the database, which makes all of our mailings easier and more cost effective in the long run.

Our year-end appeal mailing has been sent out, but it took the printer 3 weeks to get it out. I plan to have a meeting with the printer to discuss what happened and how we may address issues going forward. The Communications Committee will also consider alternative options. We had a similar delay with our open house invitations, but VistaPrint does provide a guarantee on timing.

### **Business Advisory Council**

Our breakfast meeting was poorly executed, so going forward we will take a different approach in starting this group, involving more one on one conversations and a meeting scheduled at a less busy time of year. On the plus side, Meff and I have had helpful conversations with David Lyttle of Ryder & Wilcox and Jim Botsford of Cape Cod 5.

### **Land Management**

The Land Management Committee has begun two larger projects. We are underway with a comprehensive approach to address issues of encroachment (lawns extending onto OCT land, boats or sheds wholly or partially on OCT land, or dumping of brush/lawn waste). We are beginning with an aerial evaluation of all property boundaries, and we hope to ground truth our findings where appropriate. The goal will be to address and resolve all major issues and to acknowledge every issue we notice to eliminate potential for any future claim of adverse possession by abutters.

The other larger project will be to categorize all our properties. We will have three tiers according to size, proximity to open space, waterways or other environmentally sensitive features, accessibility, habitat quality, and visibility. This categorization will inform our prioritization of land stewardship needs.

I'm continuing to review land management plans (LMPs) that Courtney (AmeriCorps placement) and Andrew have been drafting. The committee then reviews the LMPs (each being specific to a certain property), and once approved, they inform our goals and future management activities. Our current budget for land management activities will not cover all our needs, but this approach will allow for more informed decision-making.

Fall mowing of our grassland habitats is nearly complete. I'd been hoping we'd be able to have a prescribed burn at White's Lane this fall/winter, but that doesn't seem feasible anymore. Given the size of that property, we will contract out mowing. All other mowing was done by OCT staff (with the exception of the DeWitt gift, which a neighbor funded), which was cheaper and gave us complete control over where we mowed.

### **Governance**

The Governance Committee met and reviewed its charter and two governance-related policies. There will be a vote to approve changes at the board meeting on Tuesday, 12/18. We'll be reviewing a few more policies the first week of January, and eventually will begin a review of the Declaration of Trust.

### **Land Acquisition**

The Land Acquisition Committee has been active reviewing and evaluating our priority acquisition list and considering other potential acquisitions that aren't on that list. The most focused on opportunities at this time include 66 Portanimitcut Road and a few properties in the Tar Kiln Marsh vicinity. OCT is standing by with regards to Sipson's Island. A CPC application was submitted on behalf of FoPB, and a public hearing on the application will be on January 31.

### **Finance/Investment Committee**

The Finance Committee will meet Monday 12/17, and we'll begin discussing the 2019 budget.

### **Fundraising Committee**

The holiday open house was a great success! I feel the office proved to be a good venue for such an event, and we had a great turnout. We have settled on 4/27 for the Addison Art Gallery event, and we also hope to try a pollinator event this spring. I've also reached out to Mike Lach and got specifics on their wine tasting dinners, which seem quite successful for them.

Charlie and I will be revisiting our plan for conversations with larger donors in early January.

We have just started receiving donations from our year-end appeal mailing.

### **Communications/Marketing**

We hope to launch the new website by the end of the year. We'll also be discussing newsletter distribution with the fundraising committee in early February.

### **Educational Meetings/ Programs**

Andrew, Courtney and I all attended the Cape Coastal Conference on Coastal Resiliency on 12/5. It was a thought-provoking day considering rising sea levels, increased storm frequency and intensity with special importance to this peninsula. For me, it emphasized the importance in

planning for saltmarsh retreat and heightened protection of species that depend on these increasingly fragile ecosystems.

Recent Fall Lecture:

Seth Rolbein, of the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust spoke to a roomful at the Orleans Yacht Club.

You can read more about his talk here: <https://orleansconservationtrust.org/seth-rolbein-speaks-to-oct-on-local-fisheries/>

Upcoming Walk:

Hosea's Swamp

Thurs, 1/17, 10:00-11:00 am

Meet at 70 Quanset Rd, South Orleans.

Upcoming Fall Lecture:

Mark Faherty, Mass Audubon

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mark will speak on cavity-nesting birds and the impacts, both good and bad, that humans have on these birds, and how they are doing on the Cape.