



Draft Monthly Report  
July, 2018  
Stephen O'Grady

**Administrative**

I have been working to prepare the ballots, mailing list, and online voting for the annual election of Trustees and Non-Trustee Nominating Committee Members. Ballots will be sent out the week of 7/23, for those who cannot make it to the annual meeting or who would prefer to vote ahead of time.

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. We have started to work through the logistics and will brief the Executive Committee on the situation next week.

We are currently working with two volunteer interns a day or two a week, and we will have another intern for the month of August. Much of the work on which they're focusing is land stewardship related, and we are also having them update some of our online GIS maps.

**Land Management**

Rob Bennett has just finished his AmeriCorps service year with OCT. We're grateful to Rob for his service, and we thank AmeriCorps for the service they provide to the community.

We continue to pursue a solution to runoff and associated invasive species issues on the Mauch Gift, in East Orleans. We received an estimate that was outside of what we feel we are capable of funding (or fundraising), so we hope to reduce the scope of the proposal but still to improve this property. We may end up creating more of a holding pond than a wet meadow, which was originally suggested.

I have ordered 6 trail kiosks from Timberhomes in Vermont, which should be delivered sometime in October. Andrew and I will be working to develop a plan for old kiosk removal (and perhaps relocation and new kiosk installment).

With the help of AmeriCorps, Andrew and I have done some significant clearing of invasives on the Mauch Gift. Dan Connolly and the DPW kindly removed the brush for us. This property will require significant clearing of debris in the coming months, likely when the poison ivy dies back.

I've submitted 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.

### **Governance**

Nominating Policies and Procedures were updated at the last board meeting. Ballots with a slate of trustees and non-trustee nominating committee members will be sent out to OCT members before the annual meeting, which will be held on August 27.

### **Land Acquisition**

I will be attending a Lower Cape Landowners Workshop on July 28 in Brewster, where I'll do a presentation using GIS to shed light on the conservation value of attendees' land. We hope to generate land acquisition opportunities at this workshop.

There continue to be ongoing land acquisition opportunities, but nothing is developing rapidly at this time. Charlie, the Land Management Committee and I are still working to make trails on Braddock and Cullen properties a reality.

### **Finance/Investment Committee**

The Board voted to increase dues at the last board meeting, as our operational costs have increased in the last couple years, and we continue to offer excellent programs to our members. Steve Koehler and our bookkeeper have worked together to file everything for our audit, which went over without any issues. We continue to receive donations in response to our newsletter and appeal letter, and most recently in response to our dues reminder postcard.

### **Fundraising Committee**

Sharon will be hosting a donor appreciation event August 1, and we will also participate at the Orleans block party this year. Meff and Sharon will be working on a bequest campaign this fall, and we are starting to think about OCT's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

### **Communications/Marketing**

Jamie, Diana, and I will be working to do an overhaul of the OCT website, under Diana's website design leadership. Though a big undertaking, we are due for some significant updates.

New landowner letters are at a standstill for the time being. An issue with the Town's website has caused the data to not update with new landowner information as it should. I am in conversations with folks from the town so I am informed about the process to fix the issue.

### **Neighborhood Initiative**

Diana, Clyde, Jamie, Steve G. and I had a productive conversation about this initiative, and we hope to host two events in two smaller areas within the established neighborhoods we agreed upon earlier. Letters are being drafted, and a meeting with a donor invested in this effort is to be scheduled.

### **Educational Meetings/ Programs**

Brewster Conservation Day was a very well organized event, but unfortunately attendance wasn't great. We had some good conversations, but I will consider whether our continued participation in this event is worth it.

Recent Walks:

Kent's Point Conservation Area

I led a walk at Kent's Point on Thursday, 7/19. We had about 10 attendees, and I educated them on the herring run into Lonnie's Pond and Pilgrim Lake, native and invasive vegetation on the property, the history of the acquisition, and a potential vernal pool on site.

Upcoming "Walk":

Little Sipson Island Kayak Trip

Monday, August 27, 9:00-11:30 am

We'll paddle about 3 miles round trip out to OCT's first purchase. This will be a joint OCT-Mass Audubon led trip.

Upcoming Fall Lecture:

Going with the Flow: Rivers and Global Climate Change. 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.