



Draft Monthly Report
June, 2018
Stephen O'Grady

Administrative

We have received \$85K for the Braddock Lot 13 acquisition from the Mass Conservation Partnership Grant Program. Our \$85K loan from the Compact will now be paid back.

We are lucky enough to have been granted another AmeriCorps individual placement one day a week for their next service year, starting in October. We will share that position with Dick Hilmer, the Town's Natural Resource Specialist.

We have switched our email platform to Outlook, of Office 365, which is proving much easier to use! I will continue to transition our files to this online storage provided through this account.

Land Management

OCT has received a proposal for designing 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 bioswale. Kevin and I met with a representative of the town who indicated that they would be willing to contribute labor and machinery. Our contractor has worked with MassAudubon and HCT, so I will discuss with these organizations how they collaborated and raised funds for the work. The proposal and implementation of it will require a fundraising effort, and we hope to have AmeriCorps and other volunteers contributing labor.

I have ordered 6 new trail kiosks from Timberhomes in Vermont. We will receive \$9900 from the CPC, providing partial reimbursement for this purchase. OCT will need to pay an additional \$5355 to cover desired upgrades and delivery. One trustee has generously agreed to cover a portion of this cost to allow for kiosks to be engraved with the name of the property where they are to be placed. Andrew and I will be working to develop a plan for old kiosk removal and new kiosk installment, which is scheduled to take place in October.

With the help of AmeriCorps, Andrew and I have done some significant clearing of invasives on the White Gift at 3 Apple Way. A neighbor has generously agreed to fund brush pile removal. We also continue to cut back invasives as they pop up at the White's Lane Conservation Area. I will look into getting an applicators license so we can treat some of those invasives that will come right back when cut them.

Governance

Proposed changes to our Nominating Procedures are being presented to the board for a vote at our upcoming board meeting. We will also vote to approve the candidates for the board of trustees and the

nominating committee. Ballots with a slate of candidates will be sent out to 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. Charlie and I have discussed all the ongoing and "dormant" potential acquisitions that OCT has been involved in over the past couple years. We are also working actively with a new OCT member and Mark R. to determine any legal obstacles regarding a trail on the Cullen property and the Braddock Lot 13 property (and surrounding area).

Finance/Investment Committee

We are evaluating our annual dues, and the board will vote on this matter at our next meeting. Steve Koehler has just sent out the May financials for review. Revenue is increasing following the spring appeal letter, which is much needed at this time of year.

Fundraising Committee

Sharon will be hosting a donor appreciation event August 1, and we are hoping to schedule a couple more regionally focused fundraising gatherings this summer and fall. We're also exploring OCT's potential role in already existing events, like the Orleans block party.

Communications/Marketing

Appeal letters were sent out at the beginning of the month. Jamie, Diana and I will be discussing our communications to make our website easier to navigate and to get a hold on our regular correspondence with members. Andrew and I have also been working to keep our Facebook page up to date and interactive.

74 free membership offers sent out between September and March as part of the New Residents Initiative, and six have been returned. All respondents taking advantage of the free family level membership.

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

Andrew and I attended a very useful chainsaw training put on by the Massachusetts Transportation Center. The two-day course was very informative, with an emphasis on safely felling trees and operating a saw.

I also attended a wildlands fire management course at the National Seashore. With many properties where we hope to burn brush piles in the future, and a couple where we may consider a prescribed burn if resources permit, this was an excellent area with which to familiarize myself.

Recent Walks:



White's Lane Conservation Area

Bob Prescott led another excellent walk at White's Lane. Focus was on terrapin turtles, but Bob shared with attendees information regarding some of the Cape's hydrological history of connectedness, land management tactics, and information on birds nesting at White's Lane.

Upcoming Walk:

Kent's Point Conservation Area

Thursday, July 19, 9:00-10:30 am

We'll walk this Town property, admiring the views over Pleasant Bay and hearing about the herring run connecting Pilgrim Lake to Keskeyogansett Pond, visible from Kent's point.

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.