



Monthly Report
March, 2018
Stephen O'Grady

Administrative

I have been meeting with Committee Chairs to get up to speed on recent goings on and to become familiar with the inner workings of OCT. Thanks to those whom I have already met with, as it has been a huge help to me. Liz Migliore, former OCT Director also kindly gave some of her time to answer many questions I had for her to help me get oriented.

One of my early goals will be to get a handle on our Volunteer Program and to increase the frequency of volunteer events and participation in these events. This will serve as a way for me to get to know community members and some of those who supporting OCT.

Land Management

Recent storms have created a backlog of land management activities for us. We are working hard to clear trails of fallen trees, however we are constricted by our chainsaw capabilities. Our AmeriCorps IP is the only one in our organization who is chainsaw trained, and he is only with us one day a week. We are working to remedy this restriction. We have restored our largest trail system at Ice House and Reuben's Pond, which incurred the most damage. We've also restored our Woods Cove trail.





Governance

Sue Meisinger is working to revise our by-laws, streamline the trustee nomination process, and update our policies and procedures.

Land Acquisition

OCT has closed on Braddock Lot 13 on Friday, 3/9/18! This Conservation Restriction adds 1.71 acres to the lands OCT has preserved. This lot is now part of the greater Whites Lane Conservation Area and creates a larger tract of habitat, increasing wildlife corridors essential for a variety of wildlife. Thank you to all those who were involved in the preservation of this property! As with all OCT acquisitions, this land will be permanently protected in its natural state for the good of wildlife and the community.

Finance/Investment Committee

I met with Steve Koehler to go over OCT's budget and financial statements.

Fundraising Committee

OCT will host a fundraiser at the Addison Art Gallery on Saturday April 21. Permits for selling raffle tickets are still valid (obtained for the G. Love concert last August). Staphanie Gaskill is the lead on this initiative.

Communications/Marketing

Members have been notified that our new director has started. All Trustees are encouraged to take one of the Compact's publications *Fifty Years Forward* and members who would like to stop by to pick one of these up are welcome to! Diana has walked me through the newsletter process, and I will be following her lead to pull together the many parts that make this publication. We have 3 lectures lined up for the fall, and we will recycle walks from last summer/fall. I have been conducting many website updates, and I have "recovered" the OCT Twitter account, which we can decide if and how we'll use.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

The Mass Land Trust Conference hosted by the Mass Land Trust Coalition will be held on Saturday 3/24. I also attended two SCORE events on using financial reports for decision-making and reviewing the key aspects of an operational canvas. SCORE provides free mentoring,

workshops, and resources for small businesses on Cape Cod, and this workshop was one of a six-part series specifically for nonprofits. I plan to attend a couple more of these.

Recent Walks:

Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area

Tuesday, March 20, 10:00 – 11:30 am

There was a good turnout after the walk was rescheduled (14 attendees), and Vince Ollivier led an excellent walk. He educated walkers on lots of native and invasive vegetation, the history of the property, and vernal pools, among other topics! We also encountered an injured Great Blue Heron, which brought a hasty end to the walk for a few of us who rushed the animal to Wildcare. Unfortunately, this beautiful bird was too weak to recover, apparently plagued by parasites. We're thankful for the efforts of those at Wildcare, as they do great work!



Recent Lectures:

Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative

Thursday, March 1, 2018, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Mon talked about the recently formed Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative, and spoke on how Cape Codders can mitigate climate change.

Upcoming Walks

Putnam Farm Conservation Area

Saturday, April 7, 9:00 – 10:00 am

A short walk through a former working farm that's now being managed as an early-succession field habitat with a new community garden!

Upcoming Fall Lectures:

Native Stories of Cape Cod

Thursday, April 5, 2018, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm (Doors open at 6:00 pm)

Todd Morgan Kelley and Marcus Hendricks, Naturalist educator, Kelley Trailblazer; member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

Todd created Kelley Trailblazer, offering personalized day hikes to explore the natural history of Cape Cod; he also serves as park interpreter at Nickerson State Park. Todd and Marcus have partnered to lead educational walks on the native history of Cape Cod. Join us for this slide show presenting their remarkable series of three walks: The Native Lands of Monomoyick Territory; The First People: Before and After First Encounter; and Spring Thaw: The First People's Journey Following the Water.

Upcoming Events

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

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

For information on this special event, go to <https://orleansconservationtrust.org/lectures/>.