



Draft Monthly Report
May, 2018
Stephen O'Grady

Administrative

Documents have been submitted for the Mass Conservation Partnership Grant Program, and we should receive the \$85K for the Braddock Lot 13 acquisition after I get the sign acknowledging the funding from this program.

I attended a Compact Board Meeting on 5/17/18. Sally and Steve Ballentine of the Bourne Conservation Trust are the Ansel Chaplin Award recipients for 2018. Carolyn Sedgwick, the new executive director of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition attended the meeting for an introduction and feedback on MLTC. Also in attendance was Alison Bowden of TNC, who presented on TNC's interests on the Cape, largely related to water quality and nitrogen loading.

I went before the Conservation Commission where John Jannell introduced me to the commissioners and we were given approval to create the proposed trail on the Cullen property. Charlie Carlson will take the lead in rallying a neighborhood group to conduct the trail work sometime this summer or fall.

We should hear back from AmeriCorps regarding our application for an individual placement by early June.

OCT is in the process of switching our email platform to Office 365, which will eliminate some of the inconveniences of Workspace and will streamline our file storage process.

Land Management

OCT has received a proposal for 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. The Land Management Committee will be reviewing this proposal at our next meeting. This work will require a fundraising effort, and we hope to have AmeriCorps and other volunteers contributing labor.

We will receive \$9900 from the Town for 6 new trail kiosks. OCT will need to pay an additional \$4000 or so to cover desired upgrades and delivery. Andrew and I will be working to develop a plan for kiosk removal and installment in the coming weeks.

We will have a service day with AmeriCorps members for some invasive species control at our White's Lane Conservation Area on Thursday, May 31. We will also have a volunteer day at

Mill Pond Valley scheduled for Wednesday, May 23 to remove some invasive species and also to repair a split rail fence at the property.

OCT is working with a contractor to remove some downed trees and an invasive black locust on the Young/Flint Gift on Champlain Rd. We have had the ability to contract this work out thanks to a generous gift from a neighbor. We hope to have similar partnerships at other properties around town.

I flagged a portion of OCT properties off Henson's Way last month, including some of the newly acquired Lot 13. Charlie and I are exploring multiple possibilities for the location of this primitive trail, which will be brought before the LMC before action is taken.

Governance

Sue Meisinger and I are working to streamline the trustee nomination process, and the nominating committee will be meeting next month. 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

Documents for the state Conservation Partnership Grant for Braddock Lot 13 have been submitted, and OCT should receive the \$85,000 from this program soon. There are a few potential acquisitions in the early stages.

Finance/Investment Committee

We are evaluating our annual dues, and the board will likely vote on this matter at our next meeting. We are also in the process of devising a plan to increase our annual revenue so we are not drawing on our savings to meet annual operating costs. We are hoping to start receiving donations, as our newsletter has just gone out, and the spring appeal letter will go out soon. Steve Koehler has just sent out the April financials for review.

Fundraising Committee

We are in the process of sending out a spring appeal letter. Sharon will be hosting a donor appreciation event at the end of July or beginning of August, and we are hoping to schedule a couple more regionally focused fundraising gatherings this summer and fall.

Communications/Marketing

Members and residents should have all received their spring newsletters by now. Andrew and I have also been working to keep our Facebook page up to date and interactive.

The New Residents Initiative has not been all that successful so far. Of 59 free membership offers sent out between September and January, six have been returned, with all respondents taking advantage of the free family level membership. Pam just sent out another round of these letters, as an issue with the town's database was failing to update new owners.

Neighborhood Initiative

Pam, Andrew, and I will finalize our lists of residents with mailing addresses and membership status in the two localities agreed upon by early June. Diana will work on a template for presenting background info for OCT's presence and history in these localities. Sharon will draft invitation letters to members.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

I attended a Southeastern Mass Land Trust Networking Group meeting with several other local land trust directors in Marion, MA (the first for that organization). It was insightful to hear how others have navigated similar challenges to those I'm experiencing. The group will meet quarterly, and the next meeting will be in Dennis in August.

Andrew and I will receive chainsaw skills and safety training during a two-day course with the UMass Transportation Center in Dighton, MA on June 5 and 6.

Recent Walks:

Baker's Pond Conservation Area

We had 19 attendees at our walk at Baker's pond on Friday afternoon, 5/4. Ron Mgrdichian, Friends of Baker's Pond President, Jamie Demas, and I co-led the walk. Participants learned about the history of settlement on the pond, the pond's excellent health and water quality, the greater Baker's Pond Conservation Area, and some of the flora and fauna encountered on the walk.

Upcoming Walk:

Whites Lane Conservation Area

Friday, June 1, 8:30-10 am

Short walk through the White's Lane Conservation Area with an up-close look at the Bob Prescott Turtle Gardens. Walk will be led by Mass Audubon Director, Bob Prescott. Meet at 33 White's Lane, Orleans.

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.