



Director's Report: July 17, 2014
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

Annual Meeting: On June 30th a postcard was sent by first class mail to all of our members to inform them of the Annual Meeting location and date. On July 16th, 2014 the Annual Meeting "packet" was hand delivered to the printer. This packet included the 2014 Membership mailing list, the Annual Meeting postcard, an information sheet outlining the Election of Trustees voting process, a short biography for each of the Trustee candidates, the physical Absentee Ballot/Quorum Proxy, and a self-addressed envelope for returning a mailed-in Absentee Ballot/Quorum Proxy. I requested that this mailing be finalized and mailed (first class) for delivery by July 26, 2014.

Members Meeting: On July 17th, 2014 the Trust hosted a Members Meeting at the Orleans Council on Aging. The meeting focused on the 2014 Membership criteria and Articles II & III within the Declaration of Trust. Roughly 45 members attended the meeting. The next members meeting will take place on August 5, 2014 at the Orleans Council and Aging with a focus on Articles IV and V of the Declaration of Trust. See full recap for details.

Town-wide Trail Guides: On July 8th, 2014 I received the MapWorks Project Workup, which outlined Stages I-VI in the trail guide development process and a first invoice for \$2,000. The initial invoice is for the preliminary mock-up of Guide layout, which includes:

- Prepare Project Work Plan
- Download needed Orleans GIS Shape files
- Download any needed MassGIS Shape files
- GPS Trail Shape Files
- Digital Forms
- Site Description text
- Introductory and other text
- Points of Interest/Features for each site
- Special notes for each site
- Selection of possible photographs
- Logos for OCT and Town of Orleans

The invoice will go directly to the Town's Community Preservation Committee and I expect to be able to get all this information to MapWorks by the end of the month. As I start to develop texts with the Town's Conservation Agent, I will ask for 1-2 Trustees to provide feedback/suggestions relating to the proposed text and pictures. .

Land Acquisition

Brooks Potential Gift: The Brooks land gift, which is made up of a 4 acre salt marsh, is located at 162 Quanset Road, South Orleans, was recorded at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds on 6/26/2014. The donors have received their formal acknowledgment letters and the Town Assessor has been notified of the gift to OCT.

Land Management

Namequoit Bog: On June 27th I worked with AmeriCorps Cape Cod for a second time in one month in the bog to cut back dead vegetation located in the northwest corner of the property. The cutting and removal of the dead vegetation is directly in line with our approved Notice of Intent and Management Plan, and will encourage the native rushes and sedges to grow faster. Keith Johnson of Billingsgate Land Management is scheduled to work in the bog during the last week of July. Keith will work to consolidate the brush piles, remove some of the larger dead trees, and mow back areas being dominated by briar species.



Trail Maintenance: Over the last month I have needed to mow back all of our trail systems because of the thickness of the vegetation.. This is general maintenance that takes place each year around this time. We have also had a number of large trees come down across the trails due to the high winds in the beginning of July.

White's Lane Terrapin Update: Since the beginning of June we have had a volunteer or two visit the site each day to monitor for terrapins. To date we have three established nests that have been protected by a protective enclosure. The total nests identified is down some from last year, but I suspect there are more terrapin nests on site that have not been identified. During the site visits volunteers have also identified bob whites and the box turtle.

Blue Bird Box Installation & Monitoring: Since the beginning of June we have had volunteers monitoring the bird nesting boxes at our White's Lane, Mauch, Young/Flint, and Moerschener land gifts. Nearly all the boxes were/are being used by Chickadees, Wrens, and Tree Swallows. For the most part the first round of fledglings have left the nests and we hope the boxes will be utilized once more before the bird nesting season is over.

Conservation Restriction Inspections: This year we had 13 Conservation Restrictions (CR's) that needed to be inspected. To date I have inspected all but 3 of the CR's. During each of the CR inspections I have asked one of the interns (Ben Crowley or Allyson Stein) to attend and take pictures of the property. After the on-site visit the intern loads the picture and creates and/or updates the baseline photo location maps. These maps will help those individuals inspecting the property in the future to better understand what the property looked like in 2014 and help to determine if there are any future violations.

Property Booklet: This month Beth Minear typed out the introduction narrative within our 2000 Property Inventory Booklet, which was not available electronically. The hope is that within the year we will be able to update and/or add to this language, update the property maps, and revise the information associated with each property that OCT holds title to.

Fundraising Committee

Life Member Mailing: At the last Fundraising Committee meeting we discussed developing a letter to Life members, informing them that we are updating our database information and would appreciate any information they could provide with regard to their involvement with the Trust. The hope is to gather information on those Life members that we do not have much information on.

Marketing Committee

Fall 2014 Newsletter: The committee met on June 11th and July 18th to discussing and review the layout for the fall 2014 Newsletter. During the meeting it was agreed that we would plan to print the giving history from July, 2013 through June, 2014.

Nominating Committee

Committee Meetings: Since the Committee made their final nominee recommendations to the Board, letters have been signed and sent out to each of the nominees that did not already exist on the board, whether they were being recommended to be approved by the members to join the Board as a Trustee or not.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Up-coming Walk: On Thursday, August 14th I will be leading a walk through the Town's Christian Property off Portanimitcut Road in South Orleans. In 1998 the Town acquired this land parcel because it was completely within the Pleasant Bay Marine Water Recharge Area and contained Atlantic White Cedar trees, which are recognized as a State threatened tree species.

Recent Walks: On Thursday, July 17th I lead a through Namequoit Bog. During the walk hikers heard about the historical use of the bog, why it was so important to preserve, and what management tactics are being implemented to encourage the bog to transition to a wet meadow vegetative community.

