



Draft Monthly Report  
August, 2018  
Stephen O'Grady

### **Administrative**

I've solidified speakers for our upcoming winter/spring lecture series and have finalized our walks schedule as well. I have begun working on a CPC grant application for expansion of our bluebird box trail and addition of other bird boxes/bat houses to OCT and Town properties (Putnam Farm).

Kevin and I have narrowed our focus and are approaching a deal with a landowner interested in extinguishing a right of way on their property, affecting OCT legal access. I have consulted with Mark Robinson on the issue and will be taking a few more steps before there are any changes.

### **Land Management**

We have put up 4 new signs, replacing those that broke this past season. We are using heavier duty signs and a new bracket that will allow them to sway, so hopefully less replacement of broken signs will be necessary going forward.

The 6 trail kiosks should be delivered sometime in October. Andrew and I are determining when we'll be able to install the kiosks, and we'll be enlisting help from AmeriCorps and other volunteers. We have relocated the older Kiosk from Twinings Pond to the Mauch Gift, a property that we'd like to draw a little more attention to.

Fall mowing of our grassland habitats and a few other parcels where we mow to keep back invasive species will begin soon. We will be doing more of this in house this year, but we do plan to hire a contractor for some of this work on larger parcels. We also hope to have a prescribed burn at White's Lane this fall/winter.

Andrew and I will be getting a pesticide applicators license in the coming months to have a more lasting effect while managing invasive species. ECF will fund half the cost of Andrew's license.

### **Governance**

Sue, Sharon and I have begun discussing how to balance term expirations so we don't have too many trustees up for reelection in any one year. With a 13-member board, there should not be more than 5 trustees with terms expiring in any one year.

### **Land Acquisition**

A Conservation Land Tax Credit for a small waterfront property near Skaket Beach was approved and we expect to close on a small undevelopable lot in that area in January of 2019. Mark Robinson will

develop the CR and the deed. We continue to explore a couple other larger land acquisition opportunities, with increasing focus in the Tar Kiln Marsh area.

#### **Finance/Investment Committee**

We continue to have donations coming in sporadically. We'll expect this to continue until the fall newsletter and year end appeal are sent out, and we should receive a good number of donations then. Funds from the Moerschner Bequest will be allocated according to the vote at the last board meeting.

#### **Fundraising Committee**

We have confirmed that we will host an event at the Addison Art Gallery again for Earth Day 2019. We hope to make some tweaks to how we run the event, but we had a great turnout last year. We'll have to start thinking about who we may ask to perform/display their works, and Helen Addison will help with some of this work.

Trustees will be asked to reach out to a list of contacts to see if people are willing to meet with Charlie and I to discuss the where we stand as an organization today, how we envision our future, and how specifically donors can help.

We received the bill for the Donor Appreciation Event that Sharon and Paul Davis hosted, and we were happy with the value of using Chillingsworth.

#### **Communications/Marketing**

We have begun a website overhaul, involving South Coast Internet, our web host and web designer. We have largely solidified the new homepage, and have restructured the menu. Content changes on almost all our pages will be made by OCT staff and Trustees in the coming weeks.

Another round of 40 new landowner letters were sent out August 7<sup>th</sup>, and we have received three free membership responses.

#### **Neighborhood Initiative**

Clyde and I have recently discussed this initiative, and we agree that we should be ready to unroll the initiatives in a few neighborhoods by early next summer. While sending letters out introducing people to this initiative will be an important step, we will benefit most from the face to face interactions. Diana has a draft of a letter to non-members in the Ice House Pond neighborhood that we should send out soon. We should be working to compose narratives for each neighborhood we intend to target, highlighting our properties in the area, their significance, and historical background.

#### **Educational Meetings/ Programs**

I will be attending the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative Net Zero Conference on 9/27.

Recent Event:

Terrapin Turtle Release

Another OCT-Mass Audubon co-hosted event, and a huge success! 18 terrapin hatchlings released and over 50 people turned out for the event.

Recent Fall Lecture:

Max Holmes, Deputy Director and Senior Scientist at the Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC) spoke to a roomful of over 50 about his experience gathering data from rivers around the world to measure how the changing climates is affecting watersheds.

Upcoming Walk:

Pochet Island Walk

Sunday, September 23, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Part of Celebrate our Waters weekend, hosted by Jamie Demas and guided by Tim Payson, Lynn O'Connell, and Stephen O'Grady.

Upcoming Fall Lecture:

Ecological Garden Design

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Theresa Sprague, Proprietor & Designer for Blue Flax Design will share her extensive experience in ecological design, creating landscaped habitats that thoughtfully balance the needs of people and wildlife.