



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

Truro Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 327, North Truro, MA 02652
www.TruroConservationTrust.org

Support for Great Hollow Project

The vacant property at 2 Kill Devil Road is particularly deserving of conservation. At a little more than an acre, it features 267 feet of Cape Cod Bay beach, a coastal bank, and upland covered with indigenous coastal grasses and plants favored by wildlife. Even in rural Truro, it is rare to have the opportunity to acquire and protect such a significant parcel for town beach expansion and to protect bay-front upland from development. It is in the public interest to do so. If not protected in perpetuity, another large bay-front house with a private beach will be built which is neither indicative of our rural community nor friendly to the environment, aquifer, and wildlife. Consequently, your Trust and the Town of Truro, as previously reported, have embarked on a joint project to purchase this land for Town beach expansion and open space preservation. The beach portion of the property will be used to expand the small and popular public beach while the upland will be protected as open space with the potential for a bench and picnic table.



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Twine Field Project Stewardship and Public Access

If you haven't heard, your Trust closed on the Twine Field property during Christmas week this past December. It was a long time coming, but well worth the time and effort put into it by so many people. We thank everyone who made this happen – the Capital Campaign committee, those of you who sent in donations, the Community Preservation Committee for its grant, your Trustees of the Trust, and all the people of Truro who offered their strong support and encouragement. We must, of course, single out Twine Field neighbor Mary Ann Larkin for the phenomenal work that she did to organize, coordinate, and oversee the success of the Capital Campaign Committee and Barbara Wohlgemuth for her significant donation – BRAVO!



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Trustees

Fred Gaechter, Chair
Tony Hodgin, Vice Chair
Phil Smith, Treasurer
Meg Royka, Secretary

Brian Boyle
Tom Bow
Guillermo Chang
Bob Daglio
Valerie Falk
Amanda Reed
Irma Ruckstuhl
Bill Worthington

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As you can see in the accompanying articles, the Trustees of your Trust have been busy over the winter finalizing the Twine Field acquisition and simultaneously starting potential projects to protect and maintain new open spaces, in perpetuity, in our beautiful town. In addition to what is reported in this Newsletter, we are working on two new potential donations of land and two new potential acquisitions, one in partnership with another Truro non-profit. Our property stewardship team is also actively pursuing concerns about two properties potentially in danger of being damaged by planned work on adjacent properties – always an issue when responsible for protecting open space. Whether it's acquisition or stewardship, I can report that I've rarely seen our Trustees and volunteers so busy implementing our mission.

In recent years, several of our most significant land acquisition projects have been financially possible because of bequests made to your Trust from the estates of longtime friends of land conservation and the rural character of Truro. Such bequests are "forever" gifts that become a legacy to the donors' generosity and support in perpetuity. The value of such bequests accrues to everyone in our community, now, going forward, forever. Whether the bequest is a financial one that enables us to purchase land or is a direct donation of land, the deed states clearly that the land can never be sold or exchanged by the Trust and can only be used in accordance with recognized practices for conservation land. Such bequests are always appropriately honored and recognized with naming opportunities, e.g., a trail, a bench, an educational display.

So, we encourage those of you who can to consider a bequest through your estate planner. This can be accomplished by creating a new will, adding a codicil to your present will, including the Truro Conservation Trust (TCT) in your revocable trust, or designating the TCT as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy. Obviously, it is always recommended that the advice of a financial planner and tax consultant be obtained for any such decision.

We don't ask your consideration in this regard lightly. We know that it's a personal decision with many ramifications. So, we deeply thank you for considering a bequest to your Trust. Past bequests have made a real difference in Truro and will continue to do so with your support.

We look forward to seeing you around Truro this summer. Please take the opportunity to visit our properties that you have been so instrumental in protecting.

Yours Truly,

Fred Gaechter
Chairman

"What We Can Accomplish Together!"

In the spring of 2016 the abutters of the 10-acre Twine Field upland meadow learned that it was to be sold for development and that houses were planned for the site. This is one of the Cape's last undeveloped upland meadows and is a haven for a variety of plants, animals and insects, several of which are endangered or threatened. It is bordered on the south side by Pond Road and historic Pilgrim Pond and Park.

Neighbors were understandably concerned about the stress so many new homes would have on local infrastructure, to say nothing of the damage created by the loss of a unique and beautiful habitat. They met to see what, if anything, could be done. They reached out to the TCT and to Nate Nickerson, the developer who intended to purchase the property. Nate agreed that he would give up the development plan and sell the property to us. A round of furious fundraising ensued, from barbecues, to cocktail parties to auctions, with the neighborhood taking the lead. Several significant gifts were made. The Community Preservation Committee contributed funds, the TCT coordinated the effort and added additional money and it was done.

Of course, it was more difficult and frustrating that it sounds, but the important thing is that it happened. Because these four - the community, the TCT, the CPC and Nate Nickerson - worked together, a unique Truro treasure was preserved and everyone benefits.

"Because I Believe ..."

Because I believe not very inch of land needs to be "developed," several years ago I donated a prime 1.2 acre building lot to the Truro Conservation Trust. In a world seemingly beset by a quest for the biggest, the tallest, the most, Truro's rural serenity survives. I hope my gift will forever provide a small oasis for its neighbors and good hunting for the beautiful fox who crosses my deck most every day at dusk, and tasty unmown grasses and plants for the few rabbits still here. And for those who choose to stroll within its borders, I hope they may see the wild orchids and other increasingly rare native plants growing there.

I hope those who still believe such land offers no benefits, may heed the salient point in one real estate agent's ad for the house nearby: "adjacent to conservation land...provide unusual privacy."

I am heartened by the remarkable effort of a group who feels as I do who have successfully preserved the ten plus acres of the twine fields from a proposed housing development; my one acre pales in comparison. But I am secure in my belief in the old adage "every little bit helps." Perhaps you may want to consider this also.

Irma Ruckstuhl

The Annual Meeting of the Truro Conservation Trust will take place at the Twine Field property on Pond Road at 3:30 pm on Saturday, June 23. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to present a report to members on the status of the Trust, to honor donors to the Trust, and to hold the election of Trustees. The Nominating Committee recommends the re-election of Brian Boyle for a five year term on the Board of Trustees; however, any member of the Trust may submit a petition signed by ten (10) members of the Trust nominating a candidate or candidates to the Board. Attendees may park on the shoulder of Pond Village Avenue and walk in to the site via the driveway. All are welcome.

Great Hollow Project (Cont.)

Reflecting the town-wide support for this project, Annual Town Meeting (ATM) voted overwhelmingly the last week in April to approve the \$192,000 grant proposed by the Town of Truro's Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Last year's ATM approved a \$50,000 CPC grant for this project, for a total of \$242,000 in CPC funds being earmarked for this purchase. Your Trust has pledged \$100,000 to the project, is applying for an \$85,000 State grant, and is discussing the purchase price with the sellers. It is currently on the market for \$869,000.

The recent purchase of the Twine Field property on Pond Road was enabled by the generous contributions of our members. We hope that you will similarly support the acquisition of this property adjacent to the town beach at Great Hollow. There will be few, if any, opportunities in the future to acquire additional bay-front parcels enabling the extension of an existing public beach. A capital campaign <https://sites.google.com/view/greathollowbeachextension/home> committee has been created by friends and neighbors of the project to raise the balance needed for the purchase. Tax-deductible donations towards the purchase should be made to the Truro Conservation Trust. Approximately \$78,000 has been raised to date in other donations and pledges, for a current total of \$420,000 committed to the project.

We hope you will agree that this project is worthy of your support.

Twine Field Project (Cont.)

There is much to do now that we have protected the property as open space in perpetuity. Our first project is the demolition and removal of the structures on the site (see the photo). Nate Nickerson, the seller, will be conducting the demolition. However, it has been determined that there is asbestos present in the cottage that needs to be removed by a certified expert prior to demolition. We have signed an agreement for the asbestos removal at a cost of almost \$12,000. We have also hired a crew to remove, prior to the asbestos removal, all the debris in the building either left behind or from the collapsed roof.

Regarding the nature of the property, we have hired a crew to remove the overgrown and invasive plants covering the property immediately behind the buildings. Once cleared we will have a better idea of the path that a trail should take from Pond Road to the meadow at the top of the hill and, hopefully, beyond. We will then determine a plan for the placement of benches along the trail and what plants might be appropriate to add to the site for attracting appropriate wildlife, e.g., birds and butterflies. An educational display concerning the history of the Twine Fields is also envisioned for the site.

You will notice a granite marker at the Pond Road frontage of the property. It was imprinted and donated by Scott Ashley of Pond Road.

We look forward to a busy spring and summer on-site and hope that our friends and neighbors will find the time to possibly help us implement our plan and, then to enjoy the fruits of our collective efforts.