



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

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

Twine Field Fundraising - Great Teamwork!

Together, we have all successfully raised the \$1.6M for the purchase of the 10+ acres known as Twine Field on Pond Road in North Truro. In addition to that amount, there is an additional amount that has been set aside for trail building, bench construction/placement, and plantings. The team that accomplished this includes the Town's Community Preservation Committee, all our neighbors and friends who donated through the Capital Campaign Committee, and our supportive Trust members who not only responded generously and enthusiastically to the spring appeal for this project but who have financially supported our mission over the years, thereby, allowing us to contribute \$700K to this one project. Specific recognition must also be given to Barbara Wohlgemuth for her single most generous donation and to Mary Ann Larkin and the Committee who spent untold individual and collective hours successfully managing the Capital Campaign. There were also individuals who hosted fundraising events at their homes and businesses in support of the Capital Campaign. We thank and applaud them all - we could not have been successful without them. We've met some great people in the course of this project. It is heartening to realize the passion and commitment that exists in Truro for the

conservation and protection of open space.

Just as a reminder of what we've done together, the attached photo captures the essence of what we've protected.



Because of legal matters involving the sellers' estate and, thereby, the Probate Court, the closing has been necessarily delayed. We are hopefully that it will have occurred by the time you receive this Newsletter.

Over the winter, your Trust will be laying out the trail route, with guidance from the neighbors, designing and constructing several benches for the trail, and consulting with arborists on appropriate plantings in support of the environment and wildlife. We anticipate a public opening of the trail by early-summer - see you all there.



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Trustees

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

Robert Bednarek
Brian Boyle
Tom Bow
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Valerie Falk
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Irma Ruckstuhl
Bill Worthington

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We, the Trustees of your Truro Conservation Trust, when publicly extolling the virtues of land conservation and open space, are frequently asked why we need to protect more land, particularly in Truro where a significant percentage of the land is within the National Seashore. We've spent considerable time creating a compelling response to these queries. I'd like to share our thoughts on this so that we all can better understand, support, and converse on our mission.

First, foremost, and always, is the environment. All species of plants provide a natural filtering system that helps protect the aquifer and, thereby, the quality of the drinking water for every resident of Truro and Provincetown. The more plants, the better the filtration system; the fewer the plants, the greater the chance of, over time, polluting our drinking water. It's not just by happenstance that, year after year, tests of Truro's water consistently indicate a comparatively clean and healthy water supply, even without a central sewage system. Open space, particularly, contiguous open space, provides the habitat for all species of plants and animals living on the Outer Cape. Those of us who live and visit here are in awe of cohabitating with the coyotes, foxes, wild turkeys, butterflies, and the dozens of native and visiting birds, to name just a few. We live and walk among them because there is safe and adequate habitat for their survival in our open spaces.

Second, is maintaining our rural character. We live here because of it and people visit here because of it. They come here to enjoy our open space, our beaches, our trails, and our way of life. Friends who live in other Cape communities tell us of their frequent trips, during all seasons, to Truro to enjoy and photograph the numerous physical attributes of our Town.

The first two points, lead to the third. We are a visitor economy. People come here because of our environment and rural character.

These are just some of the reasons that we are passionate about our mission and thankful for your ongoing support of it.

As you've seen in this year's two Newsletters, we've had an active and successful year. The Twine Field project has been an inspiring community effort (thank you all for your support) and our ongoing land stewardship program always connects us to our environment. We have several significant projects on our 2018 horizon that we hope will make you proud of your support for our work.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Fred Gaechter
Chairman

Joint TCT-Town Project

Your Trust and the Town of Truro have filed a joint application with Truro's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for a \$250,000 Grant. This is the first step in a project to jointly acquire the 1.09-acre property at 2 Kill Devil Road, at the end of Great Hollow Road (see the map and photos). The first photo shows the upland portion of the property. The second photo shows the amount of beach area that would be added to the Town beach, i.e., from the sign to the stairs. Owned by the family of the late Milton Wright - nationally known landscape artist and Truro resident until his passing in 2005, the property is currently on the market for \$869,000. The joint interest in the acquisition of this bay front property, adjacent to the Town-owned Great Hollow beach, is the result of the Town's interest in expanding the small and congested beach area by an additional 267 feet to the north and the Trust's interest in maintaining the upland portion of the property as open space with the potential for public benches and picnic tables.



The Truro Board of Selectman, at its late-October meeting, approved the Town's participation in the joint CPC filing as presented by the Trust. If the grant is approved by the CPC later this year, it will be considered and voted by Annual Town Meeting in April. The filing, which was due on November 1st, has been submitted and the Trust has opened preliminary discussions with the property owners through their realtor. Numerous residents of the neighborhood around the property have established a fundraising committee to raise the donations necessary to acquire the property and were awarded a \$50,000 matching grant from the CPC and Town Meeting last year. The Trust is a qualified non-profit organization, and contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Your Trust has committed \$100,000 in support of the project.



Trail Dedication

On September 13, the Truro Conservation Trust (TCT) and the Town of Truro held an opening ceremony at the head of the Chaplin and Kuechle trails off Route 6 in Truro. The public trail through the town-owned parcel is dedicated to the memory of Ansel Chaplin in recognition of his many years of devoted service to the town in the field of conservation. The public trail across TCT's adjacent parcel connects with the Chaplin Trail and is dedicated to the memory of David Kuechle, whose bequest, along with a \$40,000 Open Space grant from the CPC enabled the acquisition. Town Administrator, Rae Ann Palmer, Mark Robinson of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts and Town Selectwomen Maureen Burgess and Janet Worthington attended, along with Truro Conservation Trust Board members. After the ceremony, several Truro residents walked the trails, which are now officially open to the public.



Truro Conservation Trust Chairman, Fred Gaechter, And Truro Town Administrator, Rae Ann Palmer, cut the ribbon and open the trails.

"Because I Believe ..."

My Mother and Dad purchased property in South Truro in 1949 that included a very tall hill. Mum never allowed Dad to spend the money on a bulldozer in order to get a road to the top of the hill, so they built a cottage in the valley below. I decided to sell my parents' 3+ acre property in 2010. I never wanted a house to be built on top of "Dad's Hill", one of the tallest hills in South Truro and in a very natural state. Tortoises, deer, and all manner of wildlife roam, and the bird life is fantastic. Also, anyone on the hill was within hearing of my own home on the adjacent hill. So I made the decision to protect most of the 3 acres, except the envelope around the original cottage, through a Conservation Restriction to the Truro Conservation Trust.

They in turn contacted The Compact of Cape Cod Trusts, Inc. who created all the evaluations and legal paperwork. The process went very smoothly. The new buyers were informed of the gift and the impossibility of building on the hill, and it made no difference to their desire to purchase the little cottage. The hill is now protected in perpetuity, the privacy of my home on top of my own hill is protected, and I got a really great tax break on the gift. For me it was a Win, Win, Win.

Beth Chapman

"Because I Believe ..." is the first in a series of articles by friends of conservation.