

High Head Conservation Area

Six thousand years ago the Wisconsin Glacier retreated from Cape Cod leaving behind many geological features, one of the most prominent in Truro being the 60' high scarp known as High Head. Thirty-five hundred years ago, the sea level rose and the wind and waves eroded the face of the scarp and pushed the sand away to form the barrier beaches of Beach Point and the Provinceland dunes. There is one reported prehistoric archaeological site on the land and it is presumed to have been an important encampment for the native Paomet tribe. What remains today at the top of the scarp is 48 acres of a rarity known as a coastal heathland (see map).

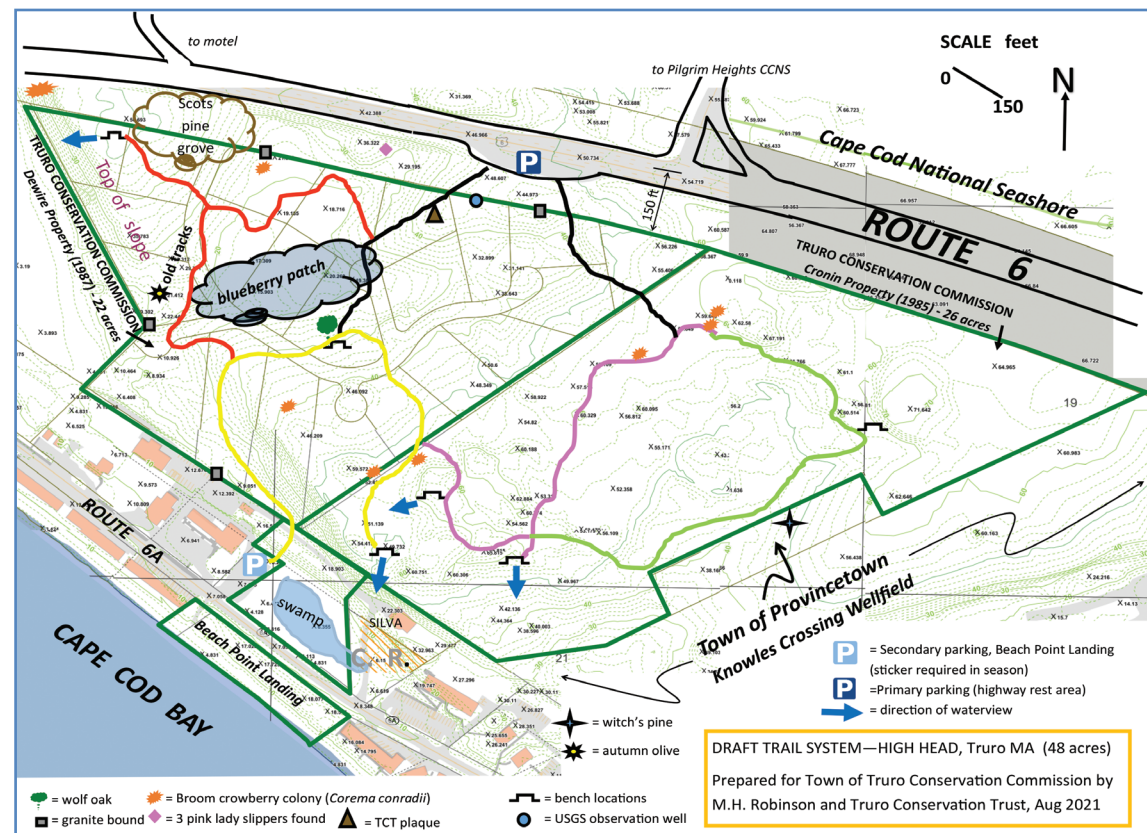
In 1985, the Truro Conservation Trust and Commission initiated a project for the Town to acquire these 48 acres, from two separate owners, by developing and coordinating a funding strategy that included local donations with State and Federal grants. Once the land was in public hands, it was officially designated as the High Head Conservation Area in perpetuity and the High Head Conservation Area Management Plan ("the Plan") was prepared by the Truro Conservation Commission, the Truro Conservation Trust, and the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office. Although the Town of Truro and the

Commonwealth each hold title to portions of the 48 acres, the Truro Conservation Commission, as stated in the deeds and codified by a legal Agreement signed by all parties, is the management and supervision authority responsible for control and maintenance of the property and, thereby, the implementation and maintenance of the Plan.

Several trails were created, benches and picnic tables were placed, and two bronze plaques (created by local artist Joyce Johnson) were installed in stone to commemorate this successful acquisition through multi-agency/organization cooperation.

In the intervening years, plant growth, competing priorities, and even vandalism have resulted in overgrown trails, missing benches, and stolen plaques. Additionally, the Plan was not fully implemented.

Your Trust submitted a revised Plan to the Truro Conservation Commission for review and consideration. The Commission approved the Plan (see Trail Map below) unanimously. The Plan will rebuild and expand the trail system, install six benches, and proposes educational stations for public awareness of the fragility of the site and its variety of plant and wildlife habitat. Your Trust, under the agreement with the Commission, will assume, with its oversight, the Plan's implementation and ongoing maintenance for a "new and improved" High Head Conservation Area. It is anticipated that the Plan design, funding, and implementation will take two years. Public support and volunteers will be solicited during the implementation and maintenance phases.



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

Newsletter

Fall 2021

www.TruroConservationTrust.org

Pilgrim Pond Preserve Adds and Protects Six Additional Acres



On the last day in August, your Trust acquired the 6.42-acre parcel at 4-H Bay View Road (see map) from the Hutchings family. Along with three adjacent lots on Laura's Way, purchased last year, you and your Trust now protect 582' of frontage along the Proprietor's Road and the south shore of Pilgrim Pond as conservation land, in perpetuity. The Pilgrim Pond Preserve now totals 32.16 acres of environmentally and ecologically sensitive land in close proximity to the Pond.

This particular acquisition was made possible by two

very generous and anonymous donations and a \$50K matching grant by your Trust, that was matched by donations from friends and neighbors across Truro and coordinated by a capital campaign of hardworking and passionate supporters in the Pond Village area. We thank each and every one of those who supported this significant acquisition that allowed us to expand the Preserve for enjoyment now and for generations to come. We also thank the Hutchings family for their commitment to protecting this land that has been in their family for several generations.

Truro Conservation Trust Annual Meeting

Thursday, December 16, 2021, 4:00 PM

At the Annual Meeting, we elect new trustees, re-appoint existing trustees, and elect officers. This year's annual meeting will be held virtually on Zoom. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to trustees@truroconservationtrust.org. We'll send you the Zoom information and the link, in advance of the meeting.



Trustees

Fred Gaechter, Chair
Paul Wisotzky, Vice Chair
Eric Bingham, Treasurer
Robert Daglio, Secretary

Brian Boyle
Tom Bow
Valerie Falk
Ave Gaffney
Tony Hodgin
Amanda Reed
Meg Royka
Irma Ruckstuhl
Andrienne Snow

Trustees Emeritus

Robert Bednarek
Betsey Brown
Ansel Chaplin
Charles Davidson
Carol Green
William Worthington

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we exit 2021, with hope for the future, your Trust reports, through the accompanying articles, continuing success in our mission to protect and sustain Truro's sensitive and vulnerable environment, ecosystem, and rural character through the acquisition and stewardship of open space.

Acquisition and stewardship are the two primary components of land conservation. The Hutchings property purchase is, of course, a current and typical example of acquisition.

We conduct stewardship visits to all our properties on a periodic schedule. However, the Union Field and High Head articles report on two specific stewardship projects planned for 2022. Both, one on Trust land and the other on Town and Commonwealth land, are intended to:

- offer and encourage public access via trail systems designed to direct walkers along a specific path to avert damage to sensitive plants and wildlife by random wandering,
- offer a visual display of the natural beauty of our habitat,
- provide an educational experience on the variety and quantity of

species resident in Truro, and

- facilitate the health advantages of peaceful outdoor experiences and exercise for our friends and neighbors.

Stewardship doesn't elicit the public attention or awareness that acquisition does. However, it is equally essential and requires significant financial and human resources, in perpetuity.

Additionally, for 2022, we are working on multiple acquisitions, one of a 6-acre upland and wetland parcel on the Pamet River.

We thank you for your support in 2021 and look forward to your continued support in 2022 to help us succeed with these acquisition and stewardship projects on your behalf and for this wonderful place on which we are allowed to enjoy life. We cannot do it without you!

In wishing you Joyous Holidays and a Happy New Year, we hope that 2022 will bring you health, happiness, and success in whatever you strive to achieve.

Chairman, Fred Gaechter

BECAUSE I BELIEVE: Michael Fee

Although we summered on the Outer Cape for nearly thirty years, our experience of its vast natural beauty was always truncated by the rhythms of the high season: tourists, traffic, and the constant buzz of human activity. It was not until we moved to Truro full-time in 2017 that we began to fathom the incredible calm and stillness that is the essence of this place.

We have come to cherish our daily walks, in every season, and are constantly awed by the ever-evolving landscape, plants and animals, and inspirational dune visits. Each day we pass several poles bearing the logo of the Truro Conservation Trust, a child's simple depiction of sea, forest and wildlife that serves as a reminder of the

vital preservation work taken on by a truly dedicated group of volunteers.

As a recovering lawyer, I sometimes catch myself pondering the meaning of words while I stroll, often legal terms, and how they can affect daily life. Last week, as we passed a TCT logo on Mill Pond Road, declaring a vast expanse of tidal flat preserved forever, I thought about what it means to hold something in trust, and the enormous responsibilities of a trustee.

In law, a trustee is someone who holds property or assets for the benefit of another. A trustee is empowered to make decisions about how to manage the property, but must always be guided by the best

interests of the beneficiary. Trustees have a fiduciary obligation, meaning that they must always place the best interest of the beneficiaries above all else, including their own interests.

I am most grateful to the trustees of TCT who so diligently fulfill their duties, acquiring and preserving irreplaceable natural resources for the benefit of Truro's residents and future generations. They should be applauded, encouraged, and supported for this vital work. We should all be trustees of this beautiful place we inhabit, and do what we can each day to ensure its beauty and vitality for the years to come.

Union Field Road Project

Charles Davidson and Robert (Bob) Bednarek were life partners known for their community volunteerism, most notably in the areas of land conservation and environmental protection. Charles was a founding Trustee of our Truro Conservation Trust (TCT), a long-time member and Chairman of the Conservation Commission and Chairman of the Board of the Center for Coastal Studies.

Bob was a TCT Trustee for decades and a member of and Secretary to the Conservation Commission. For many years their primary residence was in Cambridge where Charles was a clinical doctor and medical researcher and Bob was an architect. They purchased 10 Truro acres, in two lots, at 11 and 15 Union Field Road (7.5 and 2.5 acres, respectively – see map) where they built a Bob-designed home that would be part-time initially and, then, full-time upon their retirement in 1957.

When Charles passed, his estate conveyed ownership of both lots to the

TCT. The 11 Union Field Road lot was vacant land and was conveyed clear of any restrictions, while the 15 Union Field Road lot had their house on it. That lot was deeded to the TCT with a life's estate attached that allowed Bob to live in their house until his passing in December of 2019.

Upon Bob's passing, the TCT inspected the house to determine its physical condition, potentially for affordable housing. It was determined not to be a financially or physically viable option and the house was demolished in March of this year. Prior to demolition, Bob's Wisconsin-based family removed items of personal value and, then, friends, neighbors, and the Truro Historical Society were invited to search the remaining

contents for any items of interest. The previous building site has been filled and leveled. Your TCT is planning a publicly-accessible trail within the 10 acres and an appropriate memorial to Charles and Bob for their dedication to Truro and the TCT's mission for many decades.



The Town of Truro Needs Your Input

The Truro Local Comprehensive Planning Committee (LCPC) along with the Walsh Property Community Planning Committee (WPCPC) are conducting a community survey to help inform their work.

The results of the survey will be used to develop a new Local Comprehensive Plan as well as a plan for the use of the 70-acre Walsh Property.

As the work of these communities directly impacts issues important to the TCT and future conservation and open space efforts in Truro, we encourage you to participate.

You can take the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/talktousturo or by scanning this QR code.

