



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

Newsletter

Summer 2023

www.TruroConservationTrust.org

Current Acquisition Projects



Property View Over Eagle Neck Creek (low tide).

Your Trust is actively working on 6 separate projects to acquire a total of 19.1 acres of land for conservation in perpetuity. Such an effort involves lengthy and detailed negotiations with the current property owners and, of course, significant financial considerations. Due to the sensitivity of the negotiations, we cannot, at this time, be specific about the details of all the properties, but here is an overview:

- A donated 3-acre lot in the National Seashore with a house that will become "workforce" housing for a Town employee (highlighted in previous Newsletter). We only await Land Court authorization to be able to move in. A new septic system has replaced the existing cesspool.
- A 6.1-acre parcel, half wetland and half upland on the Pamet River (highlighted in previous Newsletter). This is contracted for acquisition, at well below market value, from a conservation minded seller who has graciously accepted payment over several years.
- A 3.1-acre parcel on Eagle Neck Creek. We are negotiating with an abutter who is considering funding a significant portion of the acquisition cost. Your TCT has committed the remaining funding of \$50K.
- Two parcels in the Meetinghouse Road neighborhood, totaling 3 acres that are adjacent to an existing TCT-owned property. We are negoti-

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Introducing TCT's Summer Intern

Sam Aronow

"My name is Sam Aronow and I'm a rising sophomore at Wesleyan University. I'm studying Math, Physics, and Computer Science and run for the Wesleyan Cross Country and Track and Field teams. I've been coming to Truro my whole life and have come to love the serenity and natural beauty of the town. Going into the summer I knew I wanted to spend it in Truro, but also wanted to find

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Trustees

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

Brian Boyle
Tom Bow
Carl Brotman
Jean Krulic
Meg Royka
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Trustees Emeritus

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Our efforts to achieve our mission generally fall into three categories: acquisition, stewardship, and trails creation/maintenance. Acquisitions, of course, take the preponderance of our financial resources, but stewardship and trail maintenance also have associated costs that are not as visible to the public. Each of these categories has an article in this Newsletter. We want to keep you apprised of our efforts across all three.

Brian Boyle is our stewardship systems and mechanization guru. In an article reporting our first ever Summer Intern, he reports what we expect to accomplish with and for the intern and the TCT during this summer season. Brian will be overseeing Sam's contribution.

The article informing you on the status of the High Head Conservation Area trail system was a team effort by those who were, and continue to be, instrumental in developing this system of trails in a spectacular setting. Andy Snow chairs this effort while Bob Daglio — our overall trails manager — has accomplished great results in clearing the High Head trail system, along with his field team of Carl Brotman and Paul Wisotzky.

I close this letter to you with the good news and the challenging news. The good news is the

constant acquisition opportunities coming our way (see the accompanying report). Conservation-minded residents of Truro are stepping up to protect our environment and wildlife habitats by donating, bequeathing, and bargain-selling vacant land to us, as well as making large donations towards specific acquisitions. The challenging news is, of course, our stressed ability to fund the acquisition of every property that comes our way. We are helped by State and Community Preservation Act Grants and, of course, by your valued support. We often find ourselves having to prioritize our acquisition opportunities and sometimes passing on some — always a difficult and disheartening task.

It's also personally difficult to frequently ask for your financial support, but without you we could not take advantage of all these opportunities to protect our beautiful Truro.

So, once again, I close by thanking you for your past support and looking forward to your continuing support of our critical mission.

Have a great summer!

Fred Gaechter
Chairman,
Truro Conservation Trust

Below: Sunset from a TCT bayfront property.



VISIT HIGH HEAD CONSERVATION AREA TODAY

*Informational
Kiosks*



Your Truro Conservation Trust (TCT), with the help of The Cape Cod Compact of Conservation Trusts, is very excited to report that we have completed the trail system for the High Head Conservation Area. This 48-acre coastal heathland situated between Route 6 and Route 6A (Shore Road) in North Truro is jointly owned by the Town of Truro and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with land management oversight by the Truro Conservation Commission.

We're ready for your visit. Enjoy 1.5 miles of well-marked public walking trails. Experience the quiet of a beach forest with its unique flora, or from the coastal heathland, take in the panoramic view of Cape Cod Bay, Province Lands and East Harbor. Six benches are located throughout the trail system for a respite if so inclined.



Parking and access are provided from the Town of Truro parking area on Route 6A/Shore Road next to the Topmast (brief climb - trail starts below the heathland). The trails can also be accessed from the rest area on Route 6 (flatter terrain - starts above the coastal heathland).



*Three
well-
marked
trails*



TCT's Summer Intern

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a way to keep myself engaged while gaining experience in the things I was interested in. This led me to the Truro Conservation Trust (TCT). For the summer I am interning with the TCT to both give back for the work they have done preserving land here and to learn about the work they do and other technical skills.

"As a runner, I've spent countless hours of my life running through the trails here and have fallen in love with the many trails throughout Truro. My current project for the TCT enabled me to pair this with my interest in computer science in an effort to get all TCT trails into online maps to be more accessible to everyone in Truro. To do this I have been going out and running the trails using my phone's GPS to log my path along the trail in terms of a series of latitude and longitude coordinates. Then I have been able to process these recorded trail map coordinates using software programs I'm writing, and preparing them to be inserted on the map. Over the past few weeks on this, I have been able to learn a lot of tools for mapping software while hopefully providing a service to the town. I've really loved working on this project and the overall work I've done so far with the TCT and I'm excited to keep working and learning over the next two months!"

Now that you've heard Sam describe his first few weeks "on the job" as an intern here at TCT, I'm excited to be mentoring him this summer. We've set some ambitious goals, but by the end of the summer I expect we'll have all of our trails digitized and on a map. Along the way Sam is also scanning all of our paper documents so that we can have all our deeds, reports, etc.,

Current Acquisition Projects

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ating with the estate of a departed friend of conservation who wanted the TCT to acquire these two properties at below market prices and also bequeathed a portion of his estate to the TCT. These acquisitions would provide greenspace within a developed neighborhood. Several neighbors have offered significant contributions to assist the TCT to make this happen. Your TCT has also committed \$100K to this acquisition.

- A 2.9-acre parcel to be placed in a Conservation Restriction (CR) to be held by your TCT. This is to be a sub-division of an existing property with two houses owned by the CR donor family. The CR will include an agricultural easement to the donors.
- A 1.1-acre upland parcel surrounded by wetlands, some of which are a part of the Herring River estuary that extends into Truro. This elevated parcel has spectacular views of Cape Cod Bay to Provincetown. We are negotiating a below-market acquisition with the owner family who has a collective interest in seeing the property protected in perpetuity.

These potential additions to our properties are all representative of our mission to protect our environment, provide wildlife habitat throughout our community, and provide greenspace within all our neighborhoods so we can all live a healthy life in our beautiful Truro. These projects are a lot to take on with a wholly-volunteer organization, but we are motivated by our mission and our past successes, with your help.



Property View to Cape Cod Bay.

all accessible online as part of our TCT Peeps platform. But equally important is I hope that Sam will gain some practical experience of how to use technology to solve

real problems in the field, and that experience will serve him well going forward in college and well beyond. – Brian Boyle

Because I Believe

Eric Martin

It is hard to conceive that only 23 years ago I had the wherewithal to follow an impractical pressure to move out of all the “hustle and bustle” of city life in Provincetown, especially after having spent only 10 years living there year-round. It was as if the call to move to Provincetown all those years ago was still not finished with me in finding a place to call home ... a place to explore freedoms, motivations, nature, and balance suited to me like only the beach grasses are to a shifting sand dune.

Over these past years of owning my first and second homes in Truro, I have deepened my love of our Town each and every day, every storm, every dog walk, every blue sky and especially after every return from a business trip. For those of us lucky enough to call Truro home, or a vacation destination, we know that the endless and variable landscapes of this town are truly awe inspiring. We could spend hours adding to our list of the different magical moments we have witnessed here at any time of the year.

Nights filled with so many stars and so little light that you feel as

if you can reach up and dance with the Milky Way. A plethora of beaches ready and willing to fill your toes with sand, sea, and surf. Hikes through pristine and endless paths that draw folks here from across the globe to catch a glimpse and a breath.

I have come to learn and know, over these past couple of decades here, that one of the greatest driving forces to maintain Truro and all her rural beauty comes from the Trustees of the Truro Conservation Trust (TCT) in honoring its mission. To walk all areas of Truro and come across one of the many signs on land that has been saved by the TCT brings a smile to my face every time. Having around 350 acres protected for conservation in perpetuity allows one and all of us to know the beauty and fragility of such an area steeped in the varying environments of Truro.

We can all be so grateful that there are public servants such as the Trustees of the TCT working diligently and from the heart of their love of Truro to protect this unique landscape for all to experience for endless seasons, generations, and lifetimes — a mission akin to that of JFK so many years ago. Without their efforts and the donations of many others I could never have been so lucky to

have landed in Truro and to call it my home for all these years.

A home where I find all my freedoms, motivations, and, most of all, my balance. May you also find this in our Truro.

Trustee Profile

Eric Bingham

I've been coming to Truro my entire life and while much has changed from my earliest memories in the mid-1960's, Truro remains a unique and special place.

My parents, Betty and Walter Bingham, were long-time Truro residents who were very active in the Town. When they decided to move to an independent senior living community in 2015, my wife Catherine and I purchased their home here. In 2019, we became year-round residents and don't regret that decision for a second. We raised our children outside NYC and they spent their summers coming to Truro. Now, as adults, Truro is an anchor in their lives as well.

I spent the bulk of my career in finance and operations roles at media and technology companies. After leaving New York, I started my own registered investment advisory firm.

Catherine and I actively support environmental and wildlife habitat protection — the Truro Conservation Trust's (TCT) mission. Shortly after joining the board of the TCT, the Treasurer's role needed to be filled. I was happy to take responsibility for the Trust's finances and that has given me an even greater appreciation for the breadth and generosity of our donors. The Trustees are a dedicated and hardworking team, but without your continued support we would not be able to fulfill our mission. Thank you!



Where Edward Hopper sat — overlooking TCT-protected open space.

Bunker House Renovations

Renovations of the historic Bunker Cottage at 42 Corn Hill Road in Truro are nearing completion. The cottage and surrounding 1.3-acre parcel of land were acquired by your Truro Conservation Trust (TCT) in 2020. The TCT has and continues to work collaboratively on this property with the Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill ("Castle Hill"). The Trust owns the entire waterfront property and leases the cottage to Castle Hill who uses it seasonally for artist housing. The TCT maintains a public walking trail and a scenic bench perched on the edge of a dune overlooking Cape Cod Bay.

Castle Hill has annually made improvements to the cottage also known as the Boathouse. This year, with support from the Truro Community Preservation Committee (CPC), a crumbling, listing chimney and non-working fireplace were removed and the interior and exterior areas were rebuilt and refortified around the removal site. In addition, a small deck on the rear of the Boathouse was removed and replaced. A new Rinnai heater was installed and while the Boathouse remains



Fireplace Removed.

unwinterized, the addition of the heater extends the use of the cottage from earlier spring to later fall. The TCT partnered with Castle Hill on the application to the CPC for funds to conduct these important renovations. Since the Trust acquired the property, prior renovations undertaken by Castle Hill included an electrical system upgrade and the replacing all of the windows. Prior to acquisition by the TCT, the sellers – the Bunker family – replaced the septic system with a state-of-the-art I/A

system while offering this environmentally significant property and historic house to the TCT below market value.

The cottage is used by artists who are taking classes at Castle Hill and in the shoulder seasons it will be used to expand Castle Hill's Artist Residency Program. Cherie Mittenthal, the organization's Executive Artistic Director, said, "everyone who stays in this magical cottage, loves staying there, they appreciate the historic nature of the building, its natural setting, and how we have kept it up for future generations." She added, "we love preserving this special building and we are grateful to the Truro Conservation Trust and the Bunker Family for trusting us with this special historic building! We also thank the Truro CPC for providing CPA grant funds for the removal of the chimney and for their support over the years."

This continues to be an example of how multiple non-profits and the Town of Truro can successfully collaborate to preserve the environment and the history of Truro while also providing seasonal artist housing.



New Deck.