



Preserving, maintaining, protecting and enhancing Quissett Harbor

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

Message From the President

Dear Friends

This annual report is my final task in this office as I turn over the reins to long-time Board member and former Treasurer Paul Hogan. Paul has been terrific to work with, and I am certain he will do a great job leading the QHPT in the coming years.

Paul, along with the other officers and one new board member, was elected at the Board of Directors meeting in June. He will work in partnership with our new Chairman, Dick DeWolfe, who has spent many years as Membership Director. John Sigel remains Secretary/Clerk, and I will take on the role of Treasurer. Our new Board member is Sarah Meigs, who has been adding enthusiastic volunteer support for our Education Program this past year.

Laurie Mannix is stepping down from the Board of Directors. Laurie has been so helpful coordinating membership events and creating our banner for the Fourth of July parade. Thank you, Laurie. We wish you the best.

Over the past three years, I have been honored to work with Chip Morse and Paul Hogan on creating an Oil Spill Response Plan for the Harbor, which has been adopted by the state, and with Kate Davis to begin our Annual Harbor and Beach Clean-up. Under the leadership of Dana Rodin, we have coordinated with Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries to maintain the Knob. Dana also led the projects to restore the coastal bank and vegetation at Eldred Landing and replace the Middle Parking Lot wall. Both Dana and Chip have been assessing water quality and helping us plan how to manage those issues in the future. With Paul Hogan's help, we have embarked on a sound investment strategy that also gives us the opportunity to generate income and preserve value.

I want to thank Directors of the Board for all they have done and will continue to do to serve the Trust. I have learned from you and am grateful for the opportunity. And speaking of grateful... I am deeply indebted to the partnership I've had these past three years with Chairman Chip Morse. Chip had been ready to step down from a leadership role at QHPT in 2006 after serving six years as President. Incoming President Craig Gibson asked Chip to stay on in the capacity of Chairman. In 2010, I made the same request. You can't blame us. Chip has a lot of institutional memory, a commitment to environmental issues and a love of the Harbor and the Knob. We have all benefitted from his mentoring. Thank you, Chip. I could not have done it without you.

Finally, I want to thank all the members of QHPT for your support. You've provided the financial means to do this good work. You've participated in events and helped impress upon the community that the treasure of Quissett Harbor and the Knob must be preserved for future generations.

Weatherly Dorris
Outgoing President



Weatherly and Rick Dorris



Habitat Conservation and Management

Our primary mission is to preserve and protect the Knob. Over the past year, we have taken significant steps toward that goal:

Coastal Scientist Hired to Assess Needs: In the fall we hired Coastal Scientist Jeff Williams to help us look at some of the water-quality issues, including coastal erosion, road runoff and overall water and environmental conditions. Jeff has reviewed the research conducted to date, including the Aubrey Report and the MEP (Massachusetts Estuaries Project). He has also studied the site.

Based on Jeff's report, we are looking at both short-term and long-term issues facing the Knob. In the short term, we are undertaking projects to prevent erosion, such as cutting down dead trees that are detrimental to water flow. In the long term, we are studying possible solutions to road runoff into the Harbor. The latter will require working with the Town of Falmouth.

Maintenance Conducted on Knob: Rethinking armor is an ongoing task, and we did so again in the fall of 2012. We also did some clean-up work, clearing out brush. In the spring, we planted more grasses.

Middle Parking Lot Project Completed: We finished the project of replacing the Middle Parking Lot wall with a cut-stone wall. Additionally, we rebuilt the farmers wall that sits above the cut-stone wall. Between the two walls, we added simple plants.

Our Mission

The Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust is a not-for-profit environmental organization created to preserve, maintain, protect and enhance the natural environment and related ecosystems of the Quissett Harbor area and to take action to recognize and minimize threats to the overall health of the area. For more information, go to www.qhpt.org.

QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST

Chip Morse Steps Aside as Chairman

When Chip Morse tells the story of how he became the first President of the Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust, he remembers his former law partner, the late Henry Wheeler, calling him on the phone and announcing, "Congratulations, you're the new president." It was shortly after the Bush v. Gore election had been decided by the Supreme Court, and Chip jokes, "Since I was reasonably sure the outcome of the United States presidential election had finally been determined, I asked the obvious question: president of what?" Weatherly Dorris, who took on the role of President some years later, remembers that Chip had missed the meeting during which the new organization was being created: "He wasn't there, so he got the job."

No matter how seemingly accidental (at least on Chip's part) his leadership role began, the work he's done has taken the organization from its early days focused on preventing long-term destruction of the Knob to today when QHPT is a key player in issues such as water quality, oil spill response, and environmental education. After 13 years of service, the last seven as Chairman, Chip is stepping aside, turning over the chairmanship to Dick DeWolfe.

"It's been a fantastic experience," Chip said. "This is a great group of people to work with, and many of them have been involved from the beginning," he said, referring to the Board of Directors and the

membership who have committed themselves to preserving and protecting the Knob. He remembers the early days when Dana Rodin was working to get the permits to begin the repair work. "I didn't know much about rebuilding rock armor or planting grasses, but I did know we were going to need a lot of money to accomplish this. I said to Dana, 'You get the permits, and I'll put together a group of people and get the money.'"

And get the money they did. The resulting committee raised \$1.5 million. Working in partnership with the Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc., which owns the land, QHPT has preserved the Knob for future generations.

Craig Gibson, who followed Chip as President in 2006, refers to Chip's role in QHPT as "one of those exceptionally graced moments when just the right person, with an amazing range of talents for the job, comes along at the right time to lead the group forward with a clear vision and a strong sense of teamwork."

"I don't know about that," Chip said. "But I do know, when I watch my four grandchildren playing on the beach in Quissett Harbor with the beautiful Knob in the background, I'm glad they will be able to have the same experience with their grandchildren."



Financial Update

(June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013)

The results for the year were driven by three factors. First, investment results showed a \$40,740 increase in the portfolio. Second, we had an active year in terms of restoration projects on the Knob and around the Harbor, which led to an increase in program spending, raising total expenses by \$11,870 (from \$31,500 to \$43,370). Third, there was a decline in contributions, mainly due to the later mailing of our annual dues reminder. The preliminary financial results for the year ended May 31, 2013, follow.

Ordinary Income and Expenses

Contributions were \$16,630, a decline of \$14,220 from the prior year. We believe that the change in our dues-reminder mailing date accounts for most of this decline, and, based on June receipts, we are hopeful we will recover this in the early part of the 2014 fiscal year.

Expenses totaled \$43,370, up from \$31,500 the previous year. They included Program Expenses of \$27,490 for restoration around the Harbor as well as \$1,350 for the Wheeler Lecture. Other expenses included Communications, Printing and Website Development, \$4,860; Administrative Expenses, \$5,920; and Annual Meeting, \$3,700. A generous grant from a Director again funded food and drink for the Annual Meeting.

Operating Income as a result of the decrease in contributions and increased expense was a negative \$26,740.

Investment Results

Total investment returns were \$40,740, including \$37,000 in unrealized gains.

Net Income Net Income was \$14,000.

Finances 2012-2013

Assets as of June 1, 2013:	\$559,000
Contributions:	\$16,630
Investment Returns:	\$40,740
Expenses:	\$43,370
• Program Expense (including restoration):	\$27,490
• Communications:	\$4,860
• Wheeler Lecture:	\$1,350
• Annual Meeting:	\$3,700
• Administration:	\$5,920
Operating Income:	-\$26,740
Net Income:	\$14,000
Assets as of May 31, 2013:	\$573,000

Education Mission

The Board of Directors has recommitted to QHPT's mission of education, and over the past year we have strengthened our efforts in this area:

Presentations Covered Oil Spills and Local Birds: The Wheeler Lecture highlighted the oil-spill issue. "Oil Spill Crises: Scientists Leave the Ivory Tower" featured Christopher M. Reddy, Senior Scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. This was the second year Craig Gibson spoke about birds. "Birds in Our Backyard

highlighted local breeding birds, winter visitors and a variety of migrating birds that pass through Falmouth.

Beach Cleanup Was Both Educational and Practical: In June 2012, the second annual cleanup brought 40 people, ages 8 to 90, to help clear trash and debris from the public areas of the Harbor. The group covered Eldred Landing, the Inner Harbor and the Knob.

Family Fun Walks Created: Family Fun Walks, which will begin the summer of 2013, will be led by Naturalist Kim Torres of Chatham and will provide an education in flora, fauna, marine life and the Knob's and Quissett's history.

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