



Preserving, maintaining, protecting and enhancing Quissett Harbor

NEWSLETTER-FALL 2016

Message from Paul and Dick

Dear Friends,

It has been a sunny, beach-weather summer, showcasing the beauty of this place we call home. We hope you have enjoyed every moment and will continue to take advantage of the Quissett area throughout the fall.

The summer was jam-packed with activities, including the **Beach Cleanup, Annual Meeting of Members, Wheeler Lecture** and all the work surrounding the **Updated Management Plan** for the Knob. While most of the activity has been positive, we were disappointed to learn that we were not chosen to receive a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Coastal Resilience Grant Program. The program funds local efforts to prepare for and reduce the impacts from coastal storms and climate change. The application process was highly competitive, with communities up and down the Massachusetts coast vying for the grants.

As we discussed in our presentations, we have the capacity to complete the work we plan over the next two-or-three years even without the grant. However, we now have a greater sense of urgency to raise the funds that the Board has targeted in order to be well capitalized for the future. If you have not renewed your membership for 2016, please go to our website and renew online or print a membership form. An envelope is enclosed in the print version of this newsletter as well.

Also, we hope you will consider an additional tax-deductible donation to support the work of our Action Plan. If you attended the Annual Meeting or the Wheeler Lecture, you will have seen a slideshow detailing the plan. (For a copy, contact Nancy McDonald at info@QHPT.org.) Our goal is to maintain our annual member contributions at \$35,000. We have also set a new capital fundraising target of \$300,000.

We've made great progress this summer in fulfilling our mission of preserving, maintaining, protecting and enhancing Quissett Harbor. Still, much work lies ahead: permitting has just begun, to be followed by contracting and actually executing the plan. With your help, we will continue this important work.

Sincerely,

Paul Hogan, President

Dick DeWolfe, Chairman

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY!

- Go to our website, qhpt.org;
- You may **pay online** through PayPal or a credit card. *Note: You will see on our site that you do not need to have a PayPal account in order to make a donation with PayPal;*
- You may also **download a printable** membership form;
- **You do not have to become a member** in order to support the Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust;
- Your **contribution is tax-deductible** to the extent provided by law.

MEMBERS GATHER FOR 18TH ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting of Members took place on June 30, 2016. We were delighted to welcome 77 attendees. Highlights include:

- **Chairman Dick DeWolfe** noted that it was the 18th meeting of the Trust, and it had been 15 years since the beginning of the reconstruction of the armored revetment at the Knob. He expressed his appreciation for the continued good partnership between QHPT and Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries in working together on the Action Plan for the Knob. Dick also introduced new Board Member Todd Bourell;
- **Dana Rodin** and **Paul Hogan** presented the Knob Report, prepared by the Woods Hole Group, and the Action Plan approved by the Board;
- **Laura Morse** previewed the Wheeler Lecture, and Kate Davis recapped the Beach Cleanup. See this newsletter for details about those events;
- **Weatherly Dorris, Treasurer**, gave a financial update and noted that recent donations had been strong;
- Paul and Dick summarized the cost of operating the Trust in the past four years and noted that maintenance expense would need to increase in future years. The target is \$300,000 for capital fundraising and \$1 million in reserves.
- Members expressed concerns about the level of traffic on the Knob and the resulting illegal parking in the surrounding neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY COMES OUT FOR BEACH CLEANUP

On June 25, members of the Quissett community once again showed their commitment to maintaining Quissett Harbor as they came out for our **Sixth Annual Harbor and Beach Cleanup**. This year, the volunteers were joined by a group of local middle-school children who are involved with the **Skip the Straw** campaign. Started by **Ocean Conservancy**, which is headquartered in Washington D.C., Skip the Straw encourages people to pledge not to use plastic straws, thus keeping that debris out of our oceans. **"It's always exciting to see young people getting involved," said Kate Davis, Chair of the Harbor and Beach Cleanup. "We were very happy to have their support in our continuing endeavor to protect our fragile environment."**

The group collected the usual debris of food packaging, cigarette butts and dog waste. Our thanks to Cavossa Disposal for their ongoing support, as the company has donated the dumpster for many years.

QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST

WHEELER LECTURE HIGHLIGHTS ACTION PLAN AND RISING SEA LEVELS

A record 78 attendees joined us for the Wheeler Lecture on July 17. The meeting had two parts: a review of the Action Plan for the Knob and a presentation by Coastal Ecologist Juliet Simpson from the MIT Sea Grant Program.



Tropical Storm Hermine pounds the bay side of the Causeway leading to the Knob.

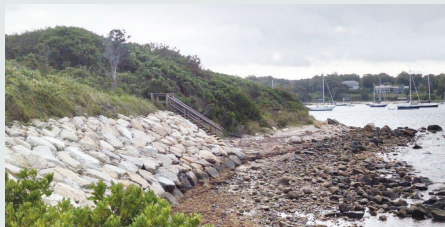
Updated Management Plan for the Knob

During 2016, Woods Hole Group has been working with officers of Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries and QHPT to prepare in great detail an Updated Management Plan for the Knob.

- The plan addresses erosion of the coastal bank and shores, including the armored revetment and the need to deal with erosion from the increase in human traffic on the Knob;
- There are more than 40 recommendations to consider, with a time horizon of 20 years;
- The boards of Salt Pond and QHPT are focused on recommendations for the next two-to-three years. These include the obtaining of a comprehensive permit for routine maintenance activities; re-chinking of the revetment, which will necessitate equipment access to the Knob; and erosion management at some of the most challenged locations.

Adapting to Rising Sea Levels and Climate Change—Julie Simpson

As a Coastal Ecologist from the MIT Sea Grant Program, Juliet Simpson studies the effects of climate change, sea-level rise and impaired water quality on salt marshes, sea-grass meadows and coastal cities and towns. Highlights of her presentation include:



Looking from the Causeway, the sea wall on the harbor side shows no damage from Tropical Storm Hermine.

- Current causes of sea-level rise include melting glaciers (Greenland, Antarctica), thermal expansion of oceans and land subsidence;
- Climate change includes increases in heavy precipitation and therefore in flooding, runoff and erosion;
- Some solutions include creation of rain gardens, protection of open space, vegetation replanting, beach nourishment, sand fencing and breakwaters.

If any member wishes to have a copy of the Woods Hole Group report or presentation slides from the summer meetings, please contact Nancy McDonald at info@QHPT.org.



The Inner Harbor beach was unscathed by Tropical Storm Hermine.

Welcome New Board Member, Todd Bourell

We are happy to welcome **Todd Bourell** as the newest member of the **QHPT Board of Directors**.

Todd started coming to Woods Hole in the eighties to see a high-school friend who lived here. He continued to visit later with his wife, Brooke, whom he met when they were both students at Harvard College. Finally, in 2004, Todd and Brooke, along with Todd's father, Roy, bought a summer house in Quissett. "The house was an easy walk to the Knob," Todd said. "We became visitors to the Knob even before we were aware of how important it is to preserve it."

It was around that time that Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries and QHPT were repairing the Knob's rock armor. The Bourells watched as the giant boulders were moved. "Even though we didn't know who was doing the work, it was clear someone was putting a lot of effort into it," Todd said.

Today, Todd and Brooke have a home on Little Harbor in Woods Hole, which they share with their three children. Todd's dad still lives in the original Quissett house. During the school year, the family lives in Westwood, but in the summer, Brooke and the kids are in Woods Hole full time. Todd, an investment manager, splits his time in the summer months between Westwood and the Cape.

When Dick DeWolfe asked him to serve on the QHPT Board, Todd remembered the care and attention the group had given to the Knob during those early days. "I could appreciate all the work that goes on behind the scenes," he said. "Also, I've been involved in other nonprofits, and I know things don't run themselves. Organizations need engaged people to do good work and keep things going. So I was happy to commit to the Board."

Todd said since he joined the board, he has learned much about the ongoing role of the Trust in supporting the upkeep of the Knob and also about the longer-term plan to make sure the Knob is sustainable for the next 25 years. "Quissett Harbor is a beautiful spot. I'm happy to be part of the effort to preserve it in the years to come."

"We became visitors to the Knob even before we were aware of how important it is to preserve it."