



# Town of Barnstable

## Land Acquisition and Preservation Committee

[www.town.barnstable.ma.us/Land Acquisition and Preservation Committee](http://www.town.barnstable.ma.us/Land Acquisition and Preservation Committee)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Kristine Clark, Chair
- Phyllis Miller, Vice Chair
- Laura Cronin
- Duncan Gibson
- James Hinkle
- Tom Lee
- Thomas Mullen
- Stephen O'Neil
- VACANT

TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON:

June Daley

STAFF SUPPORT:

- Jo Anne Miller Buntich
- Carol Puckett

### MINUTES

### October 1, 2012

### 5:30 PM

### Selectmen's Conference Room; Barnstable Town Hall

Kris Clark - Chair	Present
Phyllis Miller – Vice Chair	Present
Laura Cronin	Absent
Duncan Gibson	Absent
James Hinkle	Present
Tom Lee	Present
Thomas Mullen	Present
Stephen O'Neil	Absent

Also present were Ian Ives, Jim Kinsella from the Barnstable Enterprise, June Daley – Town Councilor, Ann Canedy – Town Councilor, Ryan Mann, and Carol Puckett – Administrative Assistant.

Kris Clark opens the meeting at 5:38 as there is a quorum. She introduces Ian Ives:

**Guests:**

**Ian Ives, Director of Mass. Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary will give a slide presentation on the establishment and growth of Mass Audubon's Mid and upper Cape Wildlife Sanctuaries in Barnstable including the new Barnstable Great Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Barnstable Village**

Mr. Ives gives a slide presentation entitled "Mass Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuaries in Barnstable and the Mid and Upper Cape" and that his jurisdiction includes Bourne to Barnstable. He then shows the Mass Audubon's Mission statement. He indicates that the land projections department oversees acquisitions and shows the slide entitled

"Mass Audubon Protects Land by:

- Receiving land as gifts and bequests
- Raising money to buy land – often at bargain prices
- Partnering with other conservation organizations and government agencies to protect areas of mutual importance
- Providing technical expertise to other conservation agencies"

On the "Cape Cod Approach" slide he indicates that, here on the Cape, they try to take the statewide strategy into the cape wide strategy. He indicates that there about 420 acres in the Town of

Barnstable and over 34,000 acres across the state protected by Mass Audubon. He then shows a picture of Mass Audubon's mid and upper cape sanctuaries and the Barnstable Great Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary. He indicates that the Great Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary currently consists of 114 acres which is a compilation of many parcels that have been gifted over the years. Next is a map in relation to Long Pasture which consists of 110 acres. As to the history of Long Pasture, Edmund Beck gave approximately 47 acres and Sherman Parker gave approximately 46 acres. Mr. Ives then talks about using animals such as Dexter calves, goats and pigmy goats to maintain the fields versus mowing and experimenting with plants in order to control invasive species.

He then shows a slide of the Bone Hill Farm property for which Mass Audubon administers the management of, and for which the Barnstable Land Trust retains its conservation restriction.

A slide of Ashumet Holly in Falmouth is next, which consists of 49 acres and contains a coastal plain pond which is a rare habitat for dragonflies and which, in Plymouth County, is home to a rare Plymouth Red Belly Cooter turtle. He indicates that the Ashumet Holly property had been a holly farm with over 50 varieties of hollies that still exist there. Another thing they are doing in on this property is to restore and create the vernal pool habitat as they have identified a very rare species of spade foot toad. He indicates that efforts are being made to bring back the species with help from wetland professionals and the WHIP grant to create the habitat.

Next slide is "Skunknet" which consists of 137 acres of fresh water and wooded habitat and no open fields. The wooded habitat consists of Atlantic white cedar which is a rare habitat and indicates that restoring it is important as it would accommodate native swamp plants such as cinnamon fern, sweet pepperbush, sphagnum moss, and red chuckedberry and is an ideal habitat for the Northern Saw-Whet owl and river otters.

Next slide is the Popponesset Spit and Sampson's island which Ian points out on the map. He indicates Sampson's Dead Neck is an excellent habitat for endangered shore birds and local species such as the American Oystercatcher, Piping Plover, Common Tern, Roseate Tern, and Least Tern but that it takes frequent dredging and re-nourishment to maintain the habitat.

Next slide is the Barnstable Great Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary consisting of 14 acres which is located at 2444 Main Street, Barnstable. Ryan Mann asks if they are going to do any un-development of the hunting cabin. Mr. Ives indicates that the cabin was deemed to have historical significance but because of vandalism, is no longer a safe structure. Mr. Ives indicates that Old King's Highway denied the request to tear it down and since that determination, they have given thought to restoring and utilizing it if a gift was received to do so. He indicates that some possible uses for the cabin would be for a banding station or a seasonal program structure for school children but that the problem is the capacity to maintain it. He indicates that the vast majority of this property is open salt marsh and only 1/3 is upland. He points out an area known as *Mudhole* which was given by the Chase family back in the 70's and indicates that the first gift of the Great Marsh area was given in 1978 by the Ferguson family. Additionally, ten acres was given as a gift and another most recent gift of eight acres was given by George Ferguson which was made possible by the Greeley family. He indicates that the latter gift of land was important as it made it possible to open up the sanctuary to the public. He indicates that it will be a wonderful site for the students at Barnstable/West Barnstable and lots of opportunities for science education.

For more information or to receive a newsletter, contact Ian Ives at [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org), Long Pasture or [iives@massaudubon.org](mailto:iives@massaudubon.org)

Ann Canedy asks if Mass Audubon would ever consider, because of money issues, selling those smaller contiguous parcels, that do not make sense to their mission, to a land trust or another conservancy.

Mr. Ives is not sure but believes that the Board of Trustees might be resistant to that idea.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **▪ Minutes from LAP meeting of August 13th and September 10, 2012**

Kris Clark indicates that since Jim Hinkle and Tom Mullen were not present at the previous meetings, the August and September minutes will be tabled for the next meeting.

### **Updates**

#### **▪ Santuit Preserve Update: Phyllis Miller**

Phyllis has nothing to report.

### **Pathways: Farley Lewis & Tom Mullen**

#### **▪ Cape Cod Walking Weekend: October 5-8**

#### **▪ Barnstable Village walk**

Tom Mullen says they are all set to go for the walk which will start at Old Jail Lane and that the trails are cleared. Kris Clark notes that the information is on Cape Cod Commission's website, Town of Barnstable's homepage and LAPC's webpage. The walk will begin at the parking lot at Old Jail Lane which will be led by Farley Lewis, volunteer for Cape Cod Pathways. Also in attendance will be Tom Mullen.

#### **▪ Looking for Volunteers**

Tom Mullen indicates that they are always looking for volunteers to maintain the trails and perform tasks such as pruning.

### **Community Preservation Committee update**

#### **▪ October 22nd: Laura Cronin**

#### **▪ November 26th: Kris Clark**

Kris indicates that Laura will attend the October meeting and that she will attend the November meeting.

Kris asks Tom Lee to update the members as to what transpired at the last CPC meeting. Tom Lee indicates that the meeting was short, they moved three applications, and they talked about updating the CPC handbook.

### **Old Business**

#### **Chair's report: Kris Clark**

#### **▪ Open Space and Recreation Plan's implementation strategy**

- **Update on meetings with Barnstable Fire District**

Kris indicates that she has had no update on the meeting with the Barnstable Fire District. Ann Canedy indicates that she brought it up at the last Town Council meeting. She recalls that the Prudential Committee decided unanimously to send a letter in March to LAPC's chair, Kris Clark. However, it was decided that it needed to be sent to the Town Manager which they did in May. She indicates that the letter requested that the Town move three parcels (Flint Rock, Breeds Hill and the McManus properties) from municipal use to conservation use. To date, they have not received a response from the Town Manager. She did, however, send an email today to the Town Manager attaching those two letters. She believes that the Flint Rock property is being considered for a solar array.

Kris Clark indicates that, in regards to the Hyannis Water District, she has not had any communication from them but believes that there is an executive session issue which in turn delays their ability to approach LAPC as of yet. They discuss. Kris indicates that she will defer to the Prudential Committee which is to meet tomorrow to see how they want to handle this and asks Ann to comment on it at the next LAPC meeting.

- **Update regarding vacancy**

Kris Clark asks Councilor June Daley for an update. Ms. Daley indicates that three people have shown interest in the vacancy.

- **2013 meeting schedule**

Carol to resend the 2013 schedule and put in next months packages for the members.

### **New Business**

#### **Announcements**

- Next Meeting: November 5, 2012 at 5:30pm

**Guest Speaker: Charlie Genatossio, Tree Warden for the Town of Barnstable: Pathways condition and signage in the West Barnstable Conservation Area (Pathway from the Sandwich border)**

#### **Correspondence**

Kris indicates that, as of today, she received a message from Mike Sawyers regarding the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) which has been re-issued again and refers people to the website. She reads part of the email. The application deadline is October 12<sup>th</sup> and is specifically designed for private land owners and can be found LAPC's webpage also.

### **Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair**

#### **Public Comment**

#### **Other**

Motion is made by Phyllis Miller and seconded by Tom Lee to adjourn.

Vote:

All in favor.

