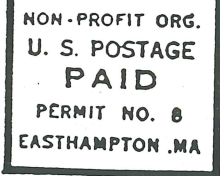




POST OFFICE BOX 806
EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027



NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Saving the Nashawannuck Pond continues to be a major goal of the Pascommuck Conservation Trust. Our coalition with the Town of Easthampton's appointed Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee strengthens our ability and resolve to achieve this goal. During recent deliberations by the Board of Directors of the Trust, there was a consensus that too much energy was being directed toward this one goal. The corporate bylaws call for a diversity of environmental educational efforts and for land preservation pursuits. And, as the Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee is a capable and energetic group of dedicated people who are focused solely on this goal, the Trust is free to pursue other vital concerns as the Steering Committee assumes the central role. We will continue to assist the Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee in saving the Nashawannuck Pond.

Since the last newsletter there have been a few exciting developments. It is pleasing to announce the reorganization of the Research & Education Committee. This committee, chaired by Thomas Clark, will keep the Board of Directors apprised of pertinent developments in a variety of fields through training sessions during monthly meetings. The committee members are compiling data to develop an historical summary of the Trust itself!

It is also pleasing to announce the start-up of a formal Land Acquisition Committee chaired by Debra Davis. In addition to establishing an annual land

inspection policy and conducting a committee level physical walk-through of our properties, the Manhan River Greenbelt project has been rekindled; and, the Old Canal Parcel acquisition is being pursued.

Special acknowledgments are being extended to the following people for recent contributions:

William Canon - Bill is a life member of the trust & is a professional landscape architect conducting his company in the basement of this brother Bob's real estate office on Northampton Street in Easthampton. He volunteered his labors and drafted a landscaping plan for our Lake Street Park property. Stop by the yellow canopy across from the Nashawannuck Pond during the Fall Festival, September 22 & 23. This highly professional plan will be on display for your viewing.

Stella Wiernasz - As Director of Special Projects, Stella is a highly valuable member of the Trust. Most recently, she gets our special thanks for her largely single-handed fund raising effort which more than offset our annual Pond Study program with Arcadia. Thanks Stella.

John Bator & John Watling - Both Directors have combined to become a formidable positive force within our Trust. They created and produced videos and songs to heighten our awareness of the Nashawannuck Pond and our fragile planet during Earthday. They have also been known to keep us weed wackin', trash pickin/ and mowin'. In addition, Mr. Bator as Clerk keeps the meeting minutes, Mr. Watling is also a very influential member of the Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee. To John & John...kudos.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Continued

Edward Dwyer - Our treasurer who also handles the bulk of the administrative duties like daily pick-up of the Trust's mail, writing replies, maintaining membership lists and associated documents, not to mention balancing the books...Ed, our gratitude.

Diana Pinkos - Diana gets the lion share of credit for our newsletter. She is the publisher, editor, writer, mailer, caller, tactician, arbitrator, etc. She also is our Director of Public Relations...our plaudit, Diana.

William Burgart - Director of Membership, Bill involves himself literally in all of the Trust's activities, as his time permits. His visions of what our organization can become in the future are invaluable...Bill, our sincere appreciation.

Ken Larsen, President

LAND MAINTENANCE UPDATE:

- **Lake Street Property Work Party:**
On July 20th we held a work party at our newly acquired property bordering Lake Street and Williston Avenue. This parcel was gratefully deeded to us by B & G Mechanical Contractors, who initiated cleanup earlier in the year by clearing much brush and a few weedy trees.

Thirteen volunteers braved heat, humidity, insects and intermittent showers to clear brush, weeds, tall grass and debris from most of the area visible from the road. A second work party held on the 24th finished the task. John Watling and John Bator trucked the massive piles away to the dump on the following Saturday. Mowing is now being done regularly by Dave Poulin and John Bator to keep the area presentable until major revamping can get started. A small parking lot, a kiosk, benches, trails and landscape plantings are planned according to our architectural design plan created and donated by Bill Canon.

- **Border Marking:**

This past summer Bill Carroll and John Bator marked the approximate borders of the town parcel. This fall they will do a more precise job and go on to eventually

mark all the parcels we hold. Hopefully there will be a couple of scheduled walks of all our properties this fall, to which the public is invited.

- **EAST STREET PROPERTY:**

Several volunteers have been keeping this property mowed all season. John Bator, Director of Trail Maintenance is indeed grateful for their help.

FUNDRAISING--THE ONGOING PROCESS

Every nonprofit organization has the repeated problem of raising funds to meet the operating expenses. In addition, many nonprofit organizations also have a commitment to community projects. The Pascommuck Conservation Trust is one of these organizations. Every year the Trust sponsors a visit to Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary for 4th grade students in the local schools. For the first time, 4th grade students from NDIC School were invited to share in this educational experience.

Trips such as the one just mentioned are not carried out without expense. Our students are fortunate to have the services of a well trained staff provided by the Audubon Society and serve all who take advantage of courses offered by the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. The Director of Science Studies at Arcadia briefs the teachers, as well as the students, in their classrooms. This is then followed by the trip to Arcadia. Talking to teachers and students, all agreed that the experience was educational and rewarding and many look forward to returning to Arcadia.

The largest expense of this program is busing almost 200 youngsters to and from Arcadia. To help meet this annual expense, the Trust looked to local industries to help raise the money. One local industry came up with a plan in which, the children themselves could participate on a voluntary basis. We had a choice of several articles all under \$5.00 which they could sell to their parents, friends and relatives, with 45% of total sales going to the Trust.

Following approval of this plan with school administrators, a letter was sent home with each child. It is interesting to note that approximately 75 youngsters who had their parents approval raised over \$2300

**A History of the
Pascommuck Conservation Trust,
Part I (1981-1983):**

In 1971 a town "Master Plan" was compiled for Easthampton. In it came the recommendation that 2,000 acres of passive recreation land be set aside for recreation and conservation.

By 1981 still only a small group of people were interested in forming an environmental protection organization here. Finally, late that year, the impetus was provided for forming just such a "trust" when a two-parcel, five-acre tract of land bounded by East Street, River Street and the Manhan River became available for purchase. The land lay at the west end of the original 1600s Easthampton settlement of Pascommuck, and adjoined the Daughters of the American Revolution historical marker, the Pascommuck boulder.

William C. Carroll, then chairman of the recycling committee and the historical commission, said a non-profit tax-exempt environmental trust was being formed, an organization that would acquire land to be protected for "conservation, wildlife, and historical preservation."

The Connecticut River Watershed Council took an option on the property in order to hold it for the evolving land trust. Any money raised would be held in a special escrow account by the Council until the Trust could purchase the parcel.

On January 11, 1982, an organizational meeting of the original eight members of the Trust was held in the town hall. The goals of the trust were announced: "to acquire - through gift or purchase - land for conservation and wildlife protection, and property of historic or archeological interest." The Trust would also consider the long-term leasing of land for conservation purposes, aquifer protection, farmland protection, and Manhan River greenbelt protection. The Trust would aim also to educate the public as to the importance of conserving land, plants and wildlife, and of curbing air and water pollution.

With the aid of local attorney John Moriarty, land trust organizers began setting up a non-profit corporation. By their second meeting, the group -- the Pascommuck Conservation Trust -- had drawn up bylaws, established member-

ship fees, and had begun planning "a serious fundraising drive."

The Trust's founding board of directors and officers were: David Kennedy, president; Frank Galat, vice president; Michael Tautznik, treasurer; Charles Connor, clerk; and directors William Carroll, William Burgart, Thomas Connor, Paul Kuzeja, and John Moriarty.

In December, 1982 the Trust won tax-exempt status.

In 1983 the Trust called on the Frank Stanley Beveridge Foundation in Westfield for assistance in purchasing the Connecticut River Watershed Council parcel. The Trust would be granted half the funding needed, with the stipulation that the land trust organization come up with matching funds.

That fall the Trust, by then some 100 members strong, would become linked in people's minds with the Nashawannuck Pond, at that time owned by the J.P. Stevens Company. At the 1983 Fall Festival, the Trust sponsored a popular boat ride on the Pond. Trust member Michael Tautznik, formerly a Conservation Commission member, encouraged Easthampton officials to purchase the pond, "one of the most vital natural resources" in the town. "The Nashawannuck Pond may die," he warned, "if the advanced weed growth is not taken care of."

In order to pay for weed control, funding through grants would be needed. That could only be achieved if Easthampton were the owner of the pond. In time, the pond, once a recreational mecca for Easthampton's residents, would become town property, and an effort to clean up the pond, through grants and public fundraisers, would go into full swing.

From the Fall Festival pond tours would emerge the "Save the Pond" effort.

From its first attainment, the purchase of a 5-acre riverbank parcel, the Trust would be on its way to establishing a Manhan River "greenbelt".

From these and other accomplishments of the Pascommuck Conservation Trust, awareness of the need to protect the earth's natural resources would grow in Easthampton, Massachusetts.

Stay tuned. There'll be more on the history of the Trust in future newsletters...

THE GREENBELT PROJECT

The Trust is continuing its activity around acquiring more Greenbelt properties as we would like to eventually establish a footpath along the Manhan River that will serve as a natural corridor for wildlife and provide nature appreciation for people. We will be contacting people who live along the river, requesting that they put a Conservation Restriction on their property. This arrangement allows the owner to maintain ownership of the property, at the same time that the Restriction guarantees its preservation as a natural site, forever. The Trust already has a number of properties along the river, some of which are being beautifully maintained by the owners, others that the Trust maintains.

Footpath establishment is a long-term goal for the Trust. We envision that, someday, there will be a natural walk-way along the river where both animals and humans will benefit from its preservation. It will be a true asset to the community and to the environment in our area. We think that everyone will benefit in some way. We will continue to contact owners who live along the Manhan River and we welcome any suggestions from our membership, if you know of anyone who might especially like to be approached about allowing an easement on their property, as part of the eventual greenbelt.

OLDIES DANCE - The Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee is sponsoring a

"Save the Pond Oldies Dance" fundraiser on Saturday, October 6th at Pulaski Club, Maple Street, Easthampton from 8 to 12 pm. The evening will feature Mike Perrier, DJ, as well as a Taste of Easthampton with donations by most of the towns eating establishments. Tickets can be purchased at the E'ton Chamber office, Cottage Street Deli and Pulaski Club.

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

The Board of Directors has recently voted to support the nomination of the Connecticut River Floodplain as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). After thoughtful discussion we felt that the benefits of such a designation far outweigh the costs, in the long run, taking into account the many interests that are involved in this. ACEC designation by the state would provide an extra layer of protection for the endangered plants and animals that inhabit the Floodplain area. It would also protect citizens from increased flooding and storm damage due to land practices that could be detrimental. The Trust's trail off of East Street would be endangered by inappropriate development practices. ACEC designation may result in some modification of site plans but, we believe, would ultimately offer greater protection to the environment and its inhabitants, animals as well as humans.

There will be a public meeting in Easthampton Town Hall on October 1st in the evening, to provide further information on the ACEC. A hearing by the state will take place on October 15th at the Little Theater in Northampton High School. This also is open to the public.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I/we want to support preservation of the areas natural and historical heritage, and hereby make a tax-deductible contribution for membership in the PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

P.O. Box 806
Easthampton, MA 01027

NEW RENEWAL

VOTING MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

LIMITED INCOME	----	\$6.00	PATRON	----	60.00
INDIVIDUAL	----	10.00	CORPORATE	----	100.00
FAMILY	----	18.00	SPONSOR	----	150.00
CONTRIBUTING	----	25.00	LIFE	----	1000.00

NAME _____ Date _____

ADDRESS _____ Phone _____