

Riverbay Association Newsletter
Winter 2015

Dr. Duncanson Presents at Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Riverbay Association took place on Saturday, October 18 at the Chatham Community Center. The guest speaker was Robert A. Duncanson, Ph.D., Director of Health and Environment for the Town of Chatham. Dr. Duncanson spoke extensively regarding the Muddy Creek restoration project, water quality, and the sewer plans. Highlights from his lecture include the following:

- He presented data regarding the water quality in the Muddy Creek. Water at a given temperature and salinity produces a certain amount of oxygen. High quality water will have 6mg/liter of oxygen. If it is as low as 3 mg/liter the organisms are stressed. At 2 mg/liter the organisms die off. Pleasant Bay is in good shape with improvements in the water quality since the break in 2007. Muddy Creek had no impact from the break because of the narrow culverts. The upper portion of Muddy Creek, near Old Queen Ann Rd., registers close to 1mg/liter. The water quality in Muddy Creek seems to be getting worse and can change from year to year depending on temperature and rainfall. There is not a lot of water movement at the culverts under Rt. 28. This has been studied for several years working with the Pleasant Bay Alliance and the Town of Harwich. The 2 towns and the PBA came to an agreement and approached Mass Highway, which controls Rt. 28, regarding the installation of a pre-fabricated 90 foot single span bridge. Government grants and the towns of Harwich and Chatham will assume all the cost of the project. Mass Highways approval was necessary as they will be maintaining the bridge and the requirements of all state regulations.
- The bridge will be wider (23 ft.) than the roads at each end. There will be 2 – 11 ft. travel lanes and 5 ft sidewalk on the Pleasant Bay side and a 2 ft area with a guard rail on the Muddy Creek side. The sidewalk will extend between the 2 beaches.
- Surveyors are out looking at all properties in relation to the Muddy Creek. Those property owners who might be affected will be contacted.
- Vegetation will change and the water level will move in. Storm will occur once every 10 years with a major flood every 35 years. Some trees abutting the river will probably die once the water rises. Not sure how this will be dealt with at this point.
- Schedule of Project:
 - July 10, 2015: Contractor mobilization
 - September 30, 2015: Construction starts
 - October 5, 2015: Rt. 28 closed
 - December 25, 2015: Rt. 28 opened
 - April, 2016: Completion of the project

- Sewer Project: The water quality in Muddy Creek may impact sewer project. At present, it appears that all of Riverbay will eventually get sewer. If the Muddy Creek project works, the Riverbay sewer schedule may move out in time. There is a proposal that the Harwich sewer communities close to the conversation area will empty into the Chatham Sewer treatment plant.

Discussed with Dr. Duncanson following the presentation:

- Cannot dive off the bridge, water too shallow.
- No motor boats on Muddy Creek.
- No plans to repair the road to Jackknife Beach.
- Mass DOT not contributing to the project. Funding: \$3.3 million dollars from Hurricane Sandy restoration; \$ 1 million from the Fish and Wildlife service; remainder, town of Chatham. Total cost of the project: 5.4 million dollars.
- No underground utilities – Too expensive



Photo Courtesy Dr. Andrew McClennen

Submitted Ann Hesketh, Secretary

First Annual Tree Lighting



Thirty Six residents gathered at the Park Avenue entranceway December 4, 2014 for Hot Chocolate, Seasonal Carols, and good cheer. The project was initiated by board member Carolyn Otis and brought to fruition by the efforts of Mike Berg, beautification chair, who provided the extension cords and tree lights. Thanks are extended to resident Margaret Herrmann from whom we obtained the electricity. All present felt this should be an annual event.

Changes on Riverbay Board

Three outgoing members of the Riverbay Association Board were given tokens of appreciation at the annual Meeting. Audrey Gray stepped down after six years of hard work as Treasurer. Her excellent service and pleasant demeanor will be missed. Dr. Andrew McClennen and Ann Reydel also departed after six years of service to the group. Both have made significant contributions during their tenure.

After the election, joining the board was Barbara Geagan who is filling Audrey’s shoes as treasurer. Dale Eckerman, who organized the Riverbay contingent that represented us excellently in the July 4 parade, will join and help with the web site maintenance and expansion. Finally, Terry Sullivan joins and will help with any structural organization of the group. He was instrumental in helping the organization obtain insurance coverage at a reasonable cost for the organization’s activities

Riverbay Events of 2014 with THANKS to All!



Beautification Committee at work!



Bob, Marie, Dale and Paula on way to beach!



Yard Sale – Roy and Ann manned the gates!



Parade



Riverbay is more than a place, it's a neighborhood

Riverbay was well represented in July 4 Parade!



Saturday Social at Hook Fisherman's Association



Social at Chatham Marconi Maritime Center

Survey results

Survey was attached to the renewal forms. Thank you for your responses which helped the board in its decisions:

1. Luncheon for Annual Meeting Yes 21 **No 55**
2. Switch to electronic mailing **Yes 57** No 41
3. Return to picnic Yes 18 **No 63**
4. Fall & Spring Yard Sale **Yes 57** No 22
5. Publish Electronic Directory **Yes 59** No 16
6. Publish Paper Directory **Yes 49** No 10
7. Secure Section on Website **Yes 63** No 16

The board anticipates keeping the annual meeting as is, continuing with paper mailings while sending emails as well, having two yard sales with better publicity, publishing a directory, and investigating a secure section for members only on the web site.

Tentative Schedule for 2015

Feb 28	Social @ CCCFA
Apr 25	Social @ CCCFA
May 30	Spring Yard Sale
Jun 27	Social TBA
Aug 22	Social @ Marconi
Sep 12	Fall Yard Sale
Oct 17	Annual Meeting @ Community Center
Dec 2	Tree Lighting @ Park Ave

Meet the Board Members

Barb Geagan – Joshua Jethro Rd. As part-time residents of Riverbay, we've finally made it our permanent home and are eager to give back to our new community of neighbors and friends. My background includes 20 years as assistant to Chief of Gastroenterology at Boston City Hospital and then Boston University as secretary to Chief of Surgery until our daughter was born. I returned after few years as assistant to Dept. Chair in Physiology at the medical school. As our daughter grew I moved closer to our Acton home, in Marketing and Sales positions at medical instrumentation and engineering companies. The the last 7 years I've spent volunteering at Emerson Hospital in Concord. My husband, a former science teacher and assistant principal at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High, is semi-retired from his consulting company and continuing to enjoy his antique car hobbies here.

Dale Eckerman - Riverview Drive

My wife, Paula Carroll, and I love Riverbay - for nearly 25 years. Before retiring, we also lived in Sherborn, MA. I grew up in Scarsdale, NY, graduated from Boston University and The American University (MBA). My working years included the Air Force, several large corporations (e.g. IBM) and running my own business. I am most proud of earning my Eagle Scout. We truly love living full time on Cape Cod.

Riverbay Association
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