

# RIVERBAY

## Riverbay Association Minutes of Annual Meeting

October 22, 2016

- The Riverbay Association Annual Meeting, held at the Chatham Community Center, was called to order by President Sally Davol who introduced the current board members.
- Sally then introduced guest speaker, Matt Cannon, Land Steward, of the Chatham Conservation Foundation (CCF). He began his “Preserving Muddy Creek” talk with a video entitled “The 17 Acre Muddy Creek Headwaters Project to Protect Pleasant Bay” since protecting Muddy Creek continues to be a collaborative effort with Harwich. He reported that fund raising for the land acquisition had been successfully completed, but that additional funds would be needed to preserve the area. He further explained the purpose of the Chatham Conservation Foundation, the second largest land owner in Chatham, is a non-profit land trust to protect their over-800 acres while the Chatham Conservation Commission is charged with the enforcement of conservation laws and wetland protection regulations. After Mr. Cannon outlined the various Chatham Walking Trails featured in the CCF brochure, he went into detail concerning Muddy Creek:
  - The projected water level changes due to the bridge project have greatly affected parcel #13 owned by the CCF which has a vested and legal interest in this property. At high tide, half of the property is now under water. The goal is to document the vegetation changes and track these changes over time. As the CCF has an obligation to the land donors, the land must be preserved in perpetuity; thus, any cutting or storage on the parcel must be monitored.
  - The three access paths along Riverview Drive to Muddy Creek are now town owned and serve merely as drainage accesses since they are so overgrown.
  - The question concerning kayak access and the clearing of the paths would be a town issue and the CCF would not be involved.
  - During the past summer, ten boundary markers were inserted along the Riverview lot lines bordering the Muddy Creek property. More permanent boundary work is planned.
  - Nitrogen testing continues as a way to monitor the water quality of Pleasant Bay after the Muddy Creek Project.
  - The death of plants and trees along Muddy Creek due to the rising water levels is a natural transition so removal of the dead materials is not deemed necessary.

- There is hope that continued success with the project will help with shellfish restoration.
- Plans are being made for a walking trail along the 17 acre parcel recently acquired at the headwaters of Muddy Creek.
- The minutes from the 2015 Riverbay Association Annual Meeting were read and approved.
- Barbara Geagan gave the Treasurer's Report: The checkbook balance is \$10,939 with more dues still to be counted. Operating costs for the past year were \$9,071.33. A detailed report was provided to members explaining the added costs of refurbishing the Riverbay gold-leaf signs, the Yard Sale reusable sign costs, and printing expense increases. The Treasurer's Report was approved.
- The Beautification Committee Report: Mike Berg was pleased to announce the addition of Ann Reydel to the beautification staff as Christie Turner's expertise is still being missed. He discussed the Park Avenue strip pruning and pesticide work, the Riverbay sign refurbishment, and asked for volunteers to help maintain the corner gardens.
- Membership Report: Rosemarie Fischer cited an increase in membership up from 192 in 2015 to the present 228 members. She hopes, with assistance, to have a new Riverbay directory out by Spring because she received 178 requests for a new directory.
- Web Site: Dale Eckerman reported he continues to be pleased with the free website and email support provided by Cape Cod Computer Company in Harwich. He thanked Jeff Lanctot and Jan Whittaker for their assistance. E-mailing information is the preferred method of communication with members, along with the Association's website: [riverbay.org](http://riverbay.org). He encouraged members to provide any additional e-mail addresses with their membership information, if they so desired.
- Yard Sale: Since there was such positive response to the May Yard Sale, Dale has scheduled the next one for May 27, 2017. It was decided that an additional sale in the Fall was not needed. Dale recognized Tom Geagan, Bob Sholz, and Cindy Knight for their assistance with the 2016 spring yard sale.
- Socials: Sally reported that our Riverbay Saturday Socials have continued to be well attended, often with over 60 households represented. The "Neighbors and Notes" Social in August, organized by Bernie Pfeifer, featured Philip Liston-Kraft and Rene LaPierre (thank you) playing the piano at the intersection of Monomessat and Deer Meadow. There is interest in similar events in the future.

- Annual Tree Lighting: The Park Street Entrance tree lighting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.
- Real Estate Update: Outgoing Board Member Carolyn Otis reported that the word on the street is Riverbay is a “hot real estate market”. She updated us with the following information as of 10/21/2016:
  - Four active listings ranging from \$494,000 to \$1,075,000;
  - Five homes under agreement ranging from \$399,000 to \$799,000 and a lot at \$239,000;
  - Year to date, 21 homes sold (up from 9 sales to July 6<sup>th</sup>) at prices ranging from \$336,000 to \$1,200,000 with an average price of \$552,000 (up from \$533,000 in July);
  - Current list to sale price ranges from 61% to 102% with an average sale of 91.85%;
  - Cumulative days on market range from 7 to 712 days with an average of 136 days.
- President Sally Davol presented outgoing Board Member Carolyn Otis with a gift and thanked her for her service and for her efforts to reinstitute the tree lighting tradition with the generous help of neighbors.
- Election of new Board Members and Proposed Officers for 2016-2017: Sally introduced the proposed new board members, Bob Moss, Rick Pike, and Shirwin Pockwinse; and Ann Reydel as Beautification Board Member. She then presented the entire slate as follows:
  - President: Sally Davol
  - Vice President: Edward Boyce
  - Secretary: Linda Ford
  - Treasurer: Barbara Geagan
  - Membership: Rosemarie Fischer
  - Beautification: Mike Berg
  - Beautification: Ann Reydel
  - Webmaster: Dale Eckerman
  - Member at Large: Bob Moss
  - Member at Large: Shirwin Pockwinse
  - Member at Large: Rick Pike
  - Past President: Bernie Pfeifer
- The proposed new slate for 2016-2017 was voted and accepted to serve the Riverbay Association.

- New Business and Questions:
  - Sally was asked whether the flag at the Park Street Entrance should be lowered for appropriate observances. The consensus was Riverbay is not a government agency, but a committee to handle flag matters would be very beneficial.
  - A concern was raised about speeding in our residential area and the need for more stop signs at various intersections. Chris Ebel met with the town safety committee in September, and he will continue to raise our concerns.
  - Sally thanked Riverbay residents, Richard and Michelle Crean, owners of the Chatham Café and Bakery, for providing the refreshments at cost for our meeting.
  
- The 2016 Riverbay Association Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda D. Ford, Secretary

Riverbay Association

November 16, 2016