



Brewster Conservation Trust

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

Fall 2022

Looking at Land Strategically

Undeveloped land in Brewster is becoming scarcer. In the past few years prices have skyrocketed. How do we protect our fragile natural resources with our limited financial resources? We call it being strategically opportunistic. The strategy comes in the planning and analyses we do; the opportunity comes – well, you never know exactly when a desired parcel will become available, so we need to be nimble and ready. This is all the more important as the Town, through its proposed Local Comprehensive Plan, focuses on a more strategic approach to identifying land for protection or development.



In its early years, BCT relied on generous landowners to gift their land to BCT or attach a conservation restriction to it. This was successful in protecting many parcels throughout town, but it did so without an overall vision of what was most important.

Over the years BCT has examined parcels according to conservation characteristics such as water resources and habitat. More recently, we've embarked on a more rigorous and detailed evaluation of each project to make sure we are focusing on the most critical.

Cont'd on page 2



Water Dept.
Filtration Building

Conservation for the Community UPDATE ON THE LONG POND PROPERTY

A year ago, BCT kicked off its most ambitious major campaign – Conservation for the Community – in support of the Town of Brewster's acquisition of the former Cape Cod Sea Camp Property on Long Pond. While we still have \$87,000 left to raise to meet our \$1.75 million goal, we were overwhelmed by the response we received. It was evident that the passion and excitement first displayed at the special Town Meeting in September 2021 was still motivating individuals, families, and private foundations to contribute to this campaign.

Add your donation to preserve the Long Pond property.

Donate through our website, brewsterconservationtrust.org or use the donation envelope included. Be part of this beautiful place.



— OUR MISSION —

"To preserve open space, natural resources, and the rural character of Brewster, and to promote a conservation ethic."

Cont'd from page 1

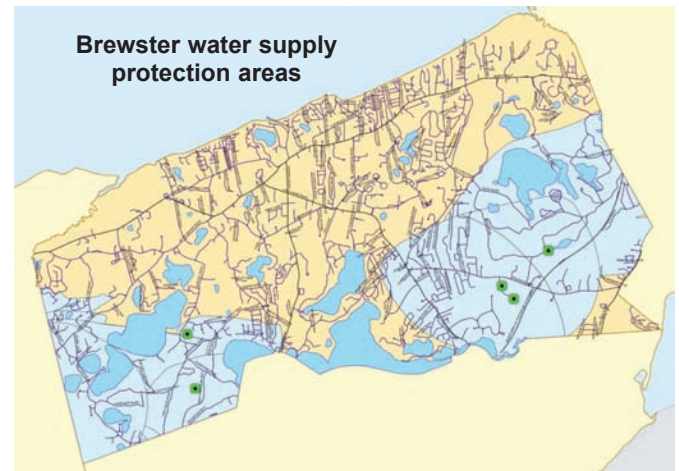
BCT's Parcel Evaluation first identifies the type of project – natural resource protection, recreation, scenic vista preservation, or agricultural preservation. Each of these project types is weighted according to its relationship to our Mission. Within each project type, several possible features are listed. For example, under Natural Resource Protection, features such as the location within a Town drinking water wellhead area, the presence of priority habitat, pond frontage, or a contribution to climate resiliency are all listed. Under Recreation, the potential for a new trail or link to an existing trail are listed. Other factors are listed as well. If a parcel is identified for future affordable housing or will engender special management issues, the parcel receives negative points.

Through a process of looking at online map resources, field visits, and consulting with Town government, BCT's staff evaluate the project. Our Land Preservation Committee then reviews the evaluation score and recommends if and how to proceed. In some cases, this process has given us a firm basis for not moving forward, while in other cases it has provided justification for pursuing the parcel's preservation.

Overall, the process has helped us focus on what is most important. For example, in the past three years BCT has purchased or has supported as a Town purchase 15 parcels.

Of these eight are within the drinking water supply areas, two are pond frontage, and 14 add to existing conservation land.

This past year we have embarked on a comprehensive analysis of our work over the last 40 years and are defining several focus areas. There is still much to be done, and with your help and partnership, we look forward to continuing our strategically opportunistic work to complete the land conservation job we began in 1983. Our goal is to help Brewster preserve and protect its most important natural resources and to provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy our natural environment.



THE PAST IS YOUR LESSON. THE PRESENT IS YOUR GIFT. Annual Meeting Speaker: Paul Anderson

“Of all the water on this earth, 96.5% is salt water, only 3.5% is fresh; and 2000 billion gallons of that fresh water is in the Cape Cod aquifer. But that is all there is. After several years of little rain to recharge the aquifer, a situation made worse by drought conditions in the summer of 2022, emergency measures were called for. Citizens were asked to turn off outdoor watering systems and to be cautious with other water use. It reminded all of us of the importance of Brewster water.



At the August annual meeting of the Brewster Conservation Trust, Paul Anderson, Superintendent, explained the work of the Water Department and the importance of the water protection districts that are primarily in the southeast and southwest of the town.

Brewster's five wells are located within these districts, but even in these most sensitive areas, Brewster has conservation protection on only 40% of its Zone II property. Zone II is that area of an aquifer which contributes water to a well that will function under the most severe pumping conditions. That is usually considered to be 180 days of pumping at safe yield with no recharge from precipitation.



President's Letter

At this time last year, we were launching Conservation for the Community - the most ambitious capital campaign in BCT's history - where we pledged to raise \$1,750,000 to protect the unique conservation values of the former Sea Camps' Long Pond parcel. The year since has been marked by an exceptionally gratifying response from our friends. We're nearly there and with your continuing help, we'll meet that goal. As we look back to 1983, BCT's founding, and ahead to 2023, our 40th anniversary, I want to emphasize a common theme in our work together: water and the purity of the water of our seashore, marshes, ponds, vernal pools and kitchen taps. In this regard, the Long Pond parcel satisfies all the criteria in BCT's policies for the strategic protection of open space. We know that half is within the Town's Zone II wellfield recharge area and the other half drains into Long Pond.

So, this lovely property is important for maintaining habitat and biological diversity and for trail and pond access, but it is also crucial for maintaining quality in our drinking and pond water.

The water quality theme continued through this year's Brewster Conservation Day in July, where – together with our partners, the Town's Natural Resources Department, Brewster Ponds Coalition, and the Brewster Historical Society – we sponsored more than 35 interactive exhibits on the theme of “Our Water Resources: We are all Part of the Solution.” Then, at our annual meeting in August the featured speaker, Paul Anderson, Superintendent of the Town's Water Department, explained the importance of open space in protecting the quality of Brewster's award-winning drinking water. Indeed, BCT's land preservation strategy favors protecting our drinking water supply. This matches the Town's strategy, as drafted in the Local Comprehensive Plan, to protect our water resources through land preservation and other regulatory means. As BCT starts its fifth decade we look forward to joining with our friends and neighbors to meet the ongoing challenges facing our Town's environment.

Tino Kamarck, *Brewster Conservation Trust President*

... THE FUTURE IS YOUR MOTIVATION. Superintendent, Brewster Water Department

Since even Brewster's water needs some management, the Water Department also has four treatment facilities. Together with 135 miles of water mains, two storage tanks, 7200 service connections and 1188 fire hydrants, the hard-working water department crew is kept busy. Using the latest scientific methods to assure excellent water quality, they work hard under conditions that are frequently difficult and sometimes dangerous.

Hazards to the workers might be chemical, electrical, confinement in tight spaces or trenches. There are also hazards to the water itself.

Hazards to the water are mostly due to us, but we can be the cure as well. The way to preserve Brewster's water quality is to be conscientious about what we put into the ground. Natural lawns and native plants can reduce the need for fertilizer. Pesticides and poisons should be eliminated if possible and disposed of on hazardous waste days. Septic systems should be upgraded and pumped regularly. Run-off from driveways can be eliminated with permeable pavement or with rain gardens which add beauty to your property.

The best way to keep the water clean, of course, is to purchase land in critical areas. That's what Paul Anderson and the Water Department recommend. That's what you and BCT are trying to do.



DOING NOTHING IS **NOT** GOOD STEWARDSHIP

In 1983, a group of determined and hopeful citizens who were tired of seeing the land they loved swallowed up by development came together and decided to do something about it. With help from many dedicated volunteers, BCT has since protected over 1,450 acres throughout Brewster. Although protected from development, our natural areas today are at serious risk from a host of other threats and sitting back and letting nature take its course is no longer good stewardship.

Invasive plant species are expanding into our protected areas, outcompeting native vegetation that local wildlife depends on. These aggressive invaders change a thriving habitat into ecologically dead monocultures that change soil chemistry, inhibit forest growth, diminish water quality, and provide nothing to prevent wildfire. The result is a drastic reduction in the biodiversity that makes ecosystems resilient to stressors like drought. The less resilient a system is the less likely it can continue to clean our air and drinking water.



Although these threats cannot be addressed on all our properties, we are working to restore resiliency to areas where it will count the most. At the Eddy Sisters property, the BCT is working with Keith Johnson of Billingsgate Land Management to remove two acres of invasive plants along the wetland and meadow border. At the Dowling property next to the Lower Road Cemetery, AmeriCorps Cape Cod removed a few thousand square feet of invasive vines along the road as part of plan to establish a native meadow. The invasive plants at these properties will be replaced with high-value, and keystone species that support declining insect and bird populations. At the Hay Conservation Center the Trust developed a 10-year management plan for the surrounding 60-acres. The work outlined in the plan will enhance the health of the woodlands for the future while creating habitat like snags and brush piles for critters. These projects will help restore the natural resilience of these areas.



The impacts of climate change are here. More severe weather, droughts, and new invasive pests will place more stress on our protected lands. Nature has been knocked off course. Sitting back and letting it happen is not an option. Active management of key properties will ensure the integrity of our lands in uncertain and changing climate.

GET OUR e-NEWS! Sign up to receive BCT's e-newsletter and see our latest news on upcoming walks, talks, and special events! Sign up on our website: brewsterconservationtrust.org

— And follow us on Facebook and Instagram —

2022 BREWSTER CONSERVATION DAY



Saturday, July 9 Drummer Boy Park

Sponsored by
Brewster Conservation Trust,
Town of Brewster Natural
Resources Department,
Brewster Ponds Coalition,
and Brewster Historical Society



Business Donors

Brewster Oyster Growers,
Cafe Alfresco, Cobies, Dunkin',
Joey's Pizza, Kate's Seafood,
Kitchen Café, Ocean Edge,
Pepsico, Snowy Owl,
Star and Shaw's Market,
Stop and Shop, Trader Joes'

CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE FUTURE

“We need to save our environment from ourselves.”

Coco, grade 5

Have you wondered why you have seen few Twilight Moths or Little Brown Bats? The students at the Lighthouse Charter School explained using their endangered species display at Brewster Conservation Day. Teachers Debbie Greenwood and Donna Finacchio helped the students research Massachusetts endangered species, Potter Steve Kemp and apprentice Alejandra Cuadra worked with students, and all was funded by the Orleans Cultural Council.

The people at Brewster Conservation Day learned something about endangered species, but what did the students learn? “I learned that the environment is fragile and beautiful,” wrote Ari K. “I learned that art can be a way of teaching others about the problems in the world,” explained Willow M.

And what’s better than that?



CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR PETER SOULE

A professional surveyor, and founding member of BCT in 1983, Peter has surveyed new properties and searched for boundary markers in older ones; and as treasurer for over 25 years he modernized the accounting system. Peter advocated for solar panels on the Hay house and donated his own solar credits. He has honored BCT with his skill, his dedication, his generosity, and his humor for nearly 40 years. He is our outstanding conservationist of many years.

BCT – BREWSTER GARDEN CLUB

Gavin Ellis, a freshman at the University of Rhode Island Environmental Engineering program is the 2022 recipient of the scholarship given annually by the Brewster Conservation Trust and the Garden Club of Brewster. Growing up, Gavin worked with his father, an environmental scientist, on ecologically friendly seawalls and septic systems. He plans that his degree in civil engineering will allow him to continue this important work.

Congratulations, Gavin. Your work in environmental science is appreciated by us all.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR BETH EMANUELSON

When Beth was driving through Brewster she saw BCT volunteers working on conservation land She knew she wanted to be part of it. Only a year after moving to Cape Cod, she has become a regular member of the work crew. Working with Jon Bruce and the other crew members, she says she learns something every time: what invasive plants to remove, what tree is best for her yard, how to build a split-rail fence.

She is monitor of two conservation properties and volunteers with the Brewster Ponds Coalition. Our Volunteer of the Year has already made Brewster a better place.

How will you leave your legacy? The Brewster Conservation Trust achieves its mission because of individuals, like you, who share a love for Brewster and want to see the natural and rural characteristic of the town preserved forever.

A gift of land makes sure that future generations will enjoy what you love about a special property. Any donation of cash or securities will be put toward the preservation of open space that will further protect water quality and habitat. Gifts from your IRA can count toward your required minimum distribution.

Consider including Brewster Conservation Trust in your estate plan. Gifts of any size will help BCT carry on its mission and ensure those same valued assets for the next generation. Making a bequest to BCT in your Will can have many advantages – you can reduce the taxable amount of your estate and avoid paying taxes and capital gains. Consult your professional advisor for further information and guidance. BCT can accept gifts of cash or securities.



MEMORIALS & BEQUESTS

Contributions to BCT honor the memory of a loved one; consider a donation to the Brewster Conservation Trust “in lieu of flowers”. Send donations to: 36 Red Top Road, Brewster, MA 02631. For guidance on planning a bequest or gift, contact Amy Henderson at: amy@brewsterconservationtrust.org.



In Memory of

Barb & Phill Balasa
Charles Frazier

Sara Booth
Gene Smith

Alan Stuart Campbell
Angelique Viamari

Thomas H. Christmas
David & Maureen Christmas

Marian "Mackie" Chase Dalgarn

Louise Brady
James & Linda Doane
Andrea Illig
Peter & Ellie Johnson
Jenny Masur
Joann Otto
William & Bonnie Palmer & Family
Michael & Linda Reveruzzi
Warren, Alice, Karin, Diane & Levi Smith

Gregg Felice
Gail Felice

Raymond Girard
Patricia Girard

Deborah Haddad-Holmes
Robert Holmes

Tim Hammond
Lorraine Hammond

Elsie Herrmann
Christopher Owens & Jeannette Herrmann

Marie & Fred Jones
Deborah Jones

Shirley Lindstrom
Elizabeth Dixon

Carrie Magin
Ann & Curt Gunsalas

Ian Mickle
Rich Mickle

Conor O'Brien
Stephen & Nancy Whitehurst

Phil O'Connell
Richard & Elizabeth Cronin

Don Schall
Beth Finch
Erin Hilley
Pamela & Christopher Polloni

Jean L. Sempier
Burt Sempier

Hilda Sheehan
Margaret Sheehan

Paul J. Tivnan
Patricia & John Testarmata

Elbert C. Ulshoeffer
Beth Finch
Peter & Eleanor Johnson
Patricia O'Brien

Agnes Van Antwerp
Dirkie Van Antwerp & Peter Zacchilli

In Honor of

All caregivers
Olga Sherry

Paul D. Cale
Lisa & Damon Harrell

Diane Epstein
Patricia Madigan

Lorraine Glover
Joan & Timothy Hogan

Colleen Heaney
Robert Heaney

Peter & Ellie Johnson
Karen Young

Alexander & Sylvia Singer
Chris Singer



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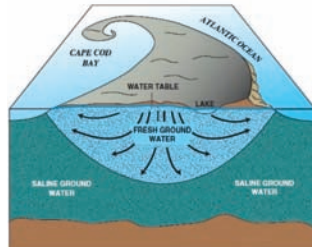
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Zoe's Suggestions for Protecting the Aquifer



- Use non-toxic household cleaners
- Use non-toxic toothpaste, soaps, shampoo
- Do not use fertilizers or pesticides on your lawn
- Plant native plants: they use less water & fertilizer
- Properly dispose of chemicals such as paint or motor oil
- Only wash full loads of laundry
- Only run your dishwasher when it is full!
- Fix leaking faucets
- Take shorter showers
- Water the plants during the coolest parts of the day
- Recycle
- Learn more about our aquifer and get involved:

www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/sole-source-aquifer/
www.poccapepod.org/
www.capecodgroundwater.org/
www.brewsterponds.org/

Zoe Simmons
 Nauset Regional Middle School 7th grader

Thank you to these businesses that support BCT

CONSERVATION HEROES



Marion Hobbs, Attorney



CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Brewster Ace Hardware, Troy Wall Associates

Learn about our Business Partnership Program!

Contact Amy Henderson at
amy@brewsterconservationtrust.org