

Summer
2017

The Chatham Conservation Foundation preserves land for the benefit of the people, plants, animals and ecosystems of Chatham.

“Oonie” Burley will take over as new president

*By Tim Weller
Board of Trustees*

The Foundation has a new leader!

The Board of Trustees elected Eunice “Oonie” Burley president at its July board meeting. She replaces Rachel Barnes, who served as president since 2015.

Oonie was head of the Foundation’s Land Stewardship Management Committee, and was instrumental in finding – and hiring – Matt Cannon, director of land stewardship. She joined the Board of Trustees in 2011.

“I intend to focus on our Board of Trustees and analyze ways to develop committees with policies that will engage our members’ considerable talents,” Oonie said.

Rachel, a full-time teacher, will remain on the board, working to improve the Foundation’s social media presence, updating its technology and making the Foundation more “visible” in the community.

“I have two years left on the board, and have no plans to go anywhere,” Rachel said. “This is an exciting time

of transition and change, and I don’t want to miss a thing.

“Oonie will be a wonderful president,” she continued. “Her knowledge and passion for the environment, coupled with her vast experience, make her the ideal candidate. I could not be more confident that CCF is in the best hands.



Eunice “Oonie” Burley

Oonie said Rachel “has been a driving force, which resulted in creating, approving and beginning to implement a strategic plan. This was a large undertaking, and has helped us to better fulfill our mission.”

She also oversaw improvements to the Mayo House, which was transformed this summer into office space and meeting space.

“I am most proud of the creation and implementation of a strategic plan,” Rachel said. “It has truly helped us to focus our mission to meet the challenges we face in the preservation of Chatham.”



Photo by William Hayes

Spring-into-summer photos on pages 4-5

Annual Meeting

5:30 P.M., Wednesday, August 2nd
The Boathouse at Chatham Bars Inn

Guest Speaker: Jack Clarke, Mass Audubon

See article on page 5

Cape Cod’s oldest private land trust, 1962-2017

President's Message: Strategic Plan Provides Map for Future



Rachel Barnes
President

Summer has finally arrived, and Chatham is looking beautiful and green for all our residents and visitors. The natural wonder we all enjoy is no accident; it has been planned for by previous generations for our benefit. Over 800 of the acres of foliage and fauna enjoyed by our town is cared for by CCF, the oldest land trust on Cape Cod. The vision that our

forefathers had for land protection and preservation is our gift to enjoy, but also our responsibility to maintain so that future generations will benefit in the same way we have. CCF continues to plan for the future, and we are happy to report our progress in achieving the goals set forth in our Strategic Plan.

One of our first goals was to ensure that CCF is an inclusive organization. Our environment is, after all, all of our responsibility - and yours. To that end, the board will request that the membership vote to abolish the voting requirement to accept new members at our upcoming annual meeting. We even entertained the idea of changing our name so the constant confusion between the Foundation and the Chatham Conservation Commission would cease. In the end, we did not want to turn our backs on more than 50 years of history – so we happily remain the “Foundation.” Our website and social media presence has grown thanks to contributions from several members. To ensure our newest residents are aware of where our conservation lands are, we have provided maps to every real estate office in Chatham.

We have also taken a close look at our need for human resources. Anyone who has met our secretary Evelyn Burckhardt or land steward Matt Cannon knows we are fortunate to have their talent and expertise. A closer look will also show that we need to expand our workforce team to help them complete their work. We are expanding our volunteer opportunities, securing AmeriCorps volunteers, and adding members who are not trustees to many of our committees in order to do a better job of meeting the needs of CCF. We will

also be looking for funding to help us expand our paid staff to include our first Executive Director. It is our hope that with this key position, many other goals will become far more manageable to achieve. Finally, as we begin changing our digital files over to Landscape, an innovative land management tool, we will be able to cross-reference all information that impacts our parcels with even greater ease. Once again, human resources are needed to make this vision a reality. If helping with this transition sounds like something you would enjoy doing please let us know. As we said, we are looking for volunteers to help with a variety of jobs, not just ones outdoors (**see related story on page 5**).

Our Land Stewardship committee has been busy meeting our goals through the creation of general policies for all parcels and specific addendums for many other parcels as needed. This work will continue until management plans are in place in all necessary areas. We have expanded our use of AmeriCorps and have reached out to many property abutters to ensure our properties are protected. Regular procedures have been established to follow up on property concerns and issues and we are actively marking boundaries where it has been unclear in the past to help us avoid confusion in the future. Finally, Friday morning “work parties” have done wonders for the appearance and use of so many parcels. Walk the Bob Clem trail at Frostfish Creek to get a glimpse of what dedicated volunteers can do to move the mission of an organization forward.

The Board of Trustees has accomplished many of items in our strategic plan. Our organization and infrastructure goals are being met. Committees are working to help meet our goals. Moving some operations into the Mayo House will help us even more. The future is bright and we have much work to do, moving forward.

It has been an honor to serve as president of this remarkable organization, and I am happy to report that CCF will continue to grow in the capable hands into which it has been entrusted. See you on the trails!

Rachel M Barnes

**New Updated Maps of
Chatham's Conservation Lands
are available for \$20 at the Mayo House or
call 945-4084**

Mayo House transformed into office, meeting space

*By Tim Weller
Board of Trustees*

The Foundation's newly remodeled Mayo House no longer sits vacant nine months a year.

This summer the Foundation transformed the house into office and meeting space. Matt Cannon, Director of Land Stewardship, moved his office there from cramped quarters at the Foundation's office at 104 Crowell Road. Volunteers also will use the house for meetings.

Office manager Evelyn Burckhart will remain at the Crowell Road location.

"I see the move to the Mayo House as a turning point in really focusing on community engagement," Matt said. "It allows us to promote ourselves and our work, while showing the Town of Chatham we are committed to its long-term vitality."

Previously, the historic house was vacant most of the year, open for tours only sporadically in the summer.

The move gives the Foundation a much-needed public presence on Main Street. Many in the community are not aware the Foundation owns the house, which dates from the early 1820s.



Photo by William Hayes

Newly completed renovations to the exterior of the Mayo House and other changes make the house suitable for office and meeting space for the Foundation.

Two years ago, Chatham voters approved granting \$83,166 in Community Preservation Act funds to restore the exterior. Stello Construction finished that work this summer. The Foundation added a new furnace and insulation so staff, trustees and volunteers can use the house all year long. In addition, Gerry Stahl generously volunteered to refinish the interior woodwork.



The wood panelling in the front parlor of the Mayo House was cleaned and refinished by volunteer Gerry Stahl of West Chatham.

Photo by Edie Tuxbury

AmeriCorps volunteer will work with Foundation

*By Tim Weller
Board of Trustees*

The Foundation will host an AmeriCorps volunteer worker one full day a week beginning in October and running through next July.

This volunteer will also work for Harwich Conservation Trust and the Town of Harwich. AmeriCorps awarded this volunteer through its so-called "Individual Placement Program."

The volunteer will work with Matt Cannon, Director of Land Stewardship, to update land management plans, monitor properties and recruit new volunteer

stewards. Additionally, the volunteer will work with the Foundation's recently established Friday morning stewardship group.

"I am very excited to have more help monitoring properties, prioritizing land management tasks and updating our land stewardship records," Matt said. "We are fortunate the program has been funded for 19 years and we hope it continues in the future. Property monitoring is vital to protecting our lands, ensuring our donors' wishes and resolving abutter issues."

Spring Into Summer



Vernal pools are a sure sign of spring as they fill with water which nurtures frogs and salamanders each year. This pool is located on CCF land off Crowell Road adjacent to Monomoy Regional Middle School. Students helped to create the pool in 2016.

Candidate

We are pleased to put forth the names of three candidates for trustees. Trustees are elected by the membership for three year terms and are eligible to serve three consecutive terms. These three nominees come to the Board with skills and experience which will benefit CCF as it goes forward with the goals of the strategic plan.

Tim Willis was born and raised in Albany, NY and moved to Chatham in 1987. He is a graduate of both State University of New York at Cobleskill and Bridgewater State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance and graduated Cum Laude.



Tim Willis

He currently works for Merrill Lynch where he has been for 20 years. He volunteers for youth basketball in Chatham, the Harwich-Chatham Little League and also sits on the board of Monomoy Community Services. Tim lives in East Harwich with his wife Josette, son Brandon and daughter Olivia.

Gerry Stahl studied computer science at MIT and the University of Colorado, and became a professor of information science at Drexel University. Later he worked as a community organizer in Philadelphia and ran Community Computerization, a not-for-profit company.

*By Carolyn
Nominating Committee
Board of Trustees*

mer - photos by William Hayes



This is a view from the Bob Clem Trail along Frostfish Creek. There is a CCF sign on Rt. 28 indicating the entrance and off-road parking. Bob Clem was a well-known bird artist and this was one of his favorite places for viewing waterbirds of all sorts.

s for Trustee

*rol Odell
ommittee Chair
f Trustees*

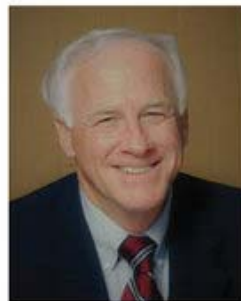


Gerry Stahl

Gerry and his wife, Carol, have retired to Chatham and built a house on George Ryder Road South. His favorite aspect of life on Cape Cod is access to unspoiled nature.

Gerry has already given generously to CCF - he cleaned and refinished the wood paneling in the Mayo House this spring.

Peter O'Neil brings a distinguished background



Peter O'Neil

in school administration. For twenty years, he was Head of School for Garrison Forest School near Baltimore. He is a founding partner of Hillcrest Associates which guides private schools through leadership transitions.

Peter and his wife, Peggy, are not-quite-retired to Chatham, but can work from their home in North Chatham. Peter

would be interested in assisting CCF with finance, fundraising and governance.

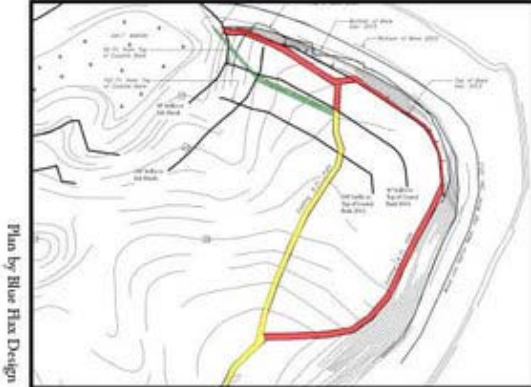
New Strong Island Trail Finished

*By Carol Odell
Board of Trustees*

The yellow and green sections of the map indicate the new trail that was created last year to replace the old trail shown in red. The photo is from the old trail at the east end of the island where barriers have been erected due to severe erosion of the bank.



Photo by Carol Odell



Map by Blue Flux Design

Strong Island, CCF's largest property, is worth the trip! CCF encourages visitors to Strong Island to explore the woodlands and the beaches, but also offers some warnings:

First: Getting there can be tricky because it is an island after all. Boaters must be careful of the currents that rush between the mainland and the island. If your craft is a kayak, canoe or other small boat, be extra careful - check the tides, be mindful of the winds, do not go alone and wear your life jacket. The dock on the island is private, so you must land on a beach.

Second: There are residents on the island. Please stay on the trails and respect the privacy and property of the occupants. Strong Island is their summer home.

Third: Summer is greenhead and deer fly season

beginning in late June and running through mid-August. Dress accordingly and bring along some insect repellent. There is poison ivy and ticks as well. Tread carefully and check for ticks before leaving the island. These are important reasons for staying on the well-maintained trails.

Lastly: The eastern end of the island has suffered extreme erosion and the Foundation had to build a new trail last year. Stay on the marked trail and away from the eroded bank.

The beach on the north shore is delightful for swimming; the views from the trail to the south and east of the harbor, North Beach and the ocean are stunning and the woodlands and marshes are quintessential Cape Cod. Be safe and enjoy!

Help wanted! We're (still) looking for volunteers

*By Tim Weller
Board of Trustees*

Several year-round and seasonal residents are volunteering their considerable talents to the Foundation – but we are always looking for more!

We could use your skills in several areas as the Foundation continues to grow:

Land management and monitoring: The Foundation controls more than 800 acres – and virtually all of it needs to be monitored. That responsibility falls to Matt Cannon, the Foundation's director of land stewardship. Matt created a small group of volunteers to help him monitor the parcels, but he's hoping to expand.

Publicity: The Foundation continues to increase its public profile. Right now, we publish this bulletin twice a year. We also maintain a website (www.chathamconservationfoundation.org) and have a Facebook page. We also write and distribute news releases, and communicate with our membership through letters and e-mails. Our goal is to do more – and do it more frequently.

So, get in touch! We can use you!

You can reach Matt Cannon at ccflandsteward@gmail.com, or call him at (401) 575-6661.

You may reach Tim Weller about publicity at timweller@comcast.net or by calling (508) 945-1896.

Guest speaker will address future environmental challenges

[Editor's note: Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations for Mass Audubon, will be our featured speaker at the Foundation's Annual Meeting on Aug. 2. His theme will be, "Where do we go from here? The environmental challenges ahead."]

The Cape Cod National Seashore hired Jack Clarke when he was in high school, and he worked as a ranger for 10 years, earning their Outstanding Achievement Award. He later worked as a liaison between the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office and what is now the Cape Cod Commission, where he established and managed Barnstable County's first Historic Preservation Program.

Following that, Clarke served thirteen years and three governors, both Republican and Democrat, in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the last five of which he was Assistant Director for Coastal Zone Management.

In that capacity, he served as acting Assistant Secretary, held a gubernatorial appointment as the Commonwealth's representative to the Interior Department's oil and gas Outer Continental Shelf Advisory Committee, helped draft and pass legislation

to establish Cape Cod's regional regulatory planning agency, oversaw the state's National Estuary Programs for Massachusetts and Buzzards Bays, supervised the Massachusetts Harbor Management Program, held a gubernatorial appointment as the state's voting representative on the Martha's Vineyard Commission, and was on the staff of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. He also negotiated and wrote the state and nation's first comprehensive Guidelines for Barrier Beach Management.

Mr. Clarke helped draft and pass the Massachusetts' Rivers Protection Act; Community Preservation Act; first-in-the-nation comprehensive ocean management law; and four environmental bonds, the last of which was \$2.2 billion.

He has also worked internationally on a variety of environmental matters including in Northern Ireland and Israel.



Jack Clarke

Pleasant Bay's Sipson's Island is for sale

A magnificent island in Pleasant Bay is for sale - Sipson's Island, named for John Sipson, the last Nauset tribal sachem/ chief. At 24-plus acres, Sipson's is the largest unprotected island in the bay, falling entirely within the Pleasant Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Sipson's Island is important from a conservation standpoint because it provides storm protection for Little Pleasant Bay in summer and Big Bay in winter. The Commonwealth designated the island a "Noteworthy Scenic Landscape" in 1981. It contains coastal beach and coastal bank and acts as a wildlife habitat for resting shorebirds and waterfowl.

This highly visible landscape in Pleasant Bay is well-known to recreational boaters, fishermen, and shell fishers. Hiking trails with views of North Beach and

*By Carol Odell
Board of Trustees*

the mainland already exist. Habitat is a combination of beach, bank, open field, maritime thicket and mixed woodland.

A group of conservation-related organizations formed the "The Sipson Island Protection Collaborative" in January 2017. Its mission is to improve communications, planning and outreach efforts that could lead to the protection of the island's significant resources. The goal of the collaborative is to explore all conservation and protection options, and to identify all public and private funding sources.

The Foundation signed on as a collaborator in March, joining the Friends of Pleasant Bay, Orleans Conservation Trust, and Brewster Conservation Trust along with the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, which will provide technical expertise and overall project management.



CHATHAM CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, Inc.
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www.chathamconservationfoundation.org



WE'VE MADE IT EASY!



If you haven't already made your annual membership contribution, you can do so online. Just go to the CCF website and click the DONATE NOW button.

We are grateful for the financial support our members have given to protect over 800 acres of open space in Chatham.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 - 1:00

104 Crowell Rd.

Chatham, MA 02633

508 945-4084

ccfinc@comcast.net

OPEN SPACE PROTECTED TO DATE

Parcels	Classification	Acres
146	Gifts	359.59
41	Purchases	243.11
45	Easements & Restrictions	214.42
<hr/>		
232	TOTALS	817.12

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

-Aldo Leopold



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