

WNRTA eLETTER May 2016



Shadblow in bloom
Photo by Phyllis Bretholtz

It was a mild winter on the Outer Cape, especially compared to last year, but spring was slow in coming. Town Meeting was held at the very end of April. By then, things were beginning to stir in Wellfleet. In early May, Daniel Hoort was named to succeed Harry Terkanian as Town Administrator. The new inn in town—The Wagner at Duck Creek, formerly the Inn at Duck Creeke, opened for business. Read on for details.

Summer Programs

In July, WNRTA will sponsor two programs on the Changing Nature of Wellfleet. Both will be held at the Council on Aging from 7:30 – 9:00

July 1

Life and death in Cape Cod Bay

Dennis Murphy, Chairman, Board of Selectmen, on health of Wellfleet harbor
[Curt Felix](#) on the restoration of Wellfleet's oyster beds and saltmarshes

July 28

Wellfleet's Changing Backshore

[Dr. Heather Goldstone](#), Science Editor at WCAI, on the impact climate change is having on "our ocean"

John Chisholm, Marine Fisheries Scientist from the [Atlantic White Shark Conservancy](#) in Orleans

Suzanne Grout Thomas, Beach Administrator, on the state of Wellfleet's beaches



South Wellfleet
Photo by Ellen Rothman

August 11 State of the Town, and P'Town Tax Issues

We will hold our annual meeting at **Preservation Hall from 7:30 – 9:00**. There will be an election of officers and members of the Board of Directors and a report on the State of the Town. Assistant Town Administrator Brian Carlson and newly appointed Town Administrator Daniel Hoort will review the financial and environmental challenges facing Wellfleet. Steve Fossella, chair of the Provincetown Non-resident Taxpayer's Association, will join us to share P'town's experience.

Town Meeting

Wellfleet's 2016 Town Meeting was held on April 25 and 26, 2016. *The Banner* reported that at the first session on Monday night, Selectman Dennis Murphy "opened the budget discussion by warning that municipal spending had to be brought under control. He explained that the town had reached the tax limits imposed by state law. 'Down the road,' he said, 'we're going to have to find new revenue streams or else start cutting services.'"

The longest debate of the night was over authorizing the selectmen to borrow \$95,000 for engineering plans to expand the municipal water system down Briar Lane and across Route 6 to serve Outer Cape Health Services.



Jim Hood, director of the OCHS Wellfleet clinic and a member of the board of water commissioners, told the meeting that the clinic's current well does not meet the requirements for a public water supply. Other potential well sites on the property are being tested but OCHS will not have the results until after July 1. Although there was support for postponing the article, Town Administrator Harry Terkanian urged voters to take what he described as "a measured approach, authorizing the selectmen to borrow money only for design and construction documents." After more than an hour of discussion, the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of borrowing the \$95,000.

Voters also approved hiring a 13th police officer at a cost of \$60,000 (an additional \$13.44 on the average property tax bill). Terkanian argued that the additional officer was necessary to avoid having shifts with just one policeman on duty and backup far away.

Three projects were approved for funding from the Community Preservation Act: \$190,000 for work on the Adams Masonic Lodge; \$80,000 for completing the restoration of the Pond Hill School; and \$300,000 for restoring the Wellfleet Historical Society's property at 262 Main St. Voters also agreed to contribute \$100,000 in CPA funds to the construction of Cape Cod Village in Orleans, a home for adults with autism.

New Town Administrator Daniel Hoort

After interviewing 11 candidates and holding public interviews of the finalists for the job of Wellfleet Town Administrator, on Friday, May 6, the selection committee announced that it had chosen Daniel Hoort, Provincetown's director of municipal finance since 2010. A Certified Public Accountant, Hoort has a degree in accounting from Michigan State University. He will assume the job before Harry Terkanian retires on June 30, 2016.



Daniel Hoort

New Eats and Digs in Town

Over the winter, Erica Chapman and Leo Wagner, who bought the Inn at Duck Creeke in January, transformed the historic inn into the Wagner at Duck Creek, a 27-room boutique hotel. On Memorial Day weekend, the Tavern Room, closed for several years, will reopen as “The Well.” Future plans call for reopening the former Sweet Seasons restaurant.



This month local entrepreneur and environmentalist Curt Felix will open a new commissary kitchen and food court at the long-empty Angry Tomato on Route 6. Felix says he has firm commitments from at least two food trucks—Joey Rugo, , whose truck was located at Baker’s Field last summer, and Julia Nadler and Benjamin Trusiak, owners of the new Shuck Food Truck, which they hope to operate as a “rolling raw bar” serving fresh local shellfish. Felix also plans to have one affordable rental unit in the former restaurant ready by June.

Local Comprehensive Plan

It’s not too late to have in-put into the new Local Comprehensive Plan being written for Wellfleet. As it begins updating the Local Comprehensive Plan, a committee is conducting a survey of residents, second-home owners, and visitors.

The plan provides a framework for the allocation of capital funding and the prioritization of town projects; it provides access to planning-related grants, documents existing conditions, and guides changes in zoning bylaws.

The current Local Comprehensive Plan <http://www.wellfleet-ma.gov/reports-documents/pages/wellfleet-local-comprehensive-plan> was written in 2008.

It's important for non-resident taxpayers to participate in this process. Please take five minutes to complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/932QMWN>



Spring on Main Street
Photo by Phyllis Bretholtz

Tick Testing

The Barnstable County Cooperative Extension Service has received a grant to have up to 1,000 ticks tested for Lyme disease, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis and relapsing fever—all diseases carried by deer ticks on the Cape.

Ticks should be tested after they have bitten someone. Use a tweezers to remove the tick from the skin, *intact*, numb it with alcohol, and put it in a sealable plastic bag. When you fill out the

reporting form at www.TickReport.com, you will get an order number and instructions. Test results take about five business days.

While Lyme disease has long been associated with Cape Cod deer ticks, other diseases are on the rise, including Babesiosis, a parasite that attacks red blood cells leading to fever, headaches, joint pain, chills and other symptoms. Cases have more than doubled since 2010 and Plymouth, Barnstable and Nantucket counties are the hot spots.



Dues and donations, please

WNRTA dues are modest—\$25 for an individual, \$35 for a family—but they are what keep us afloat. To pay on line, please go to <http://wnrta.org/join/>. If you prefer, you may send a check to

WNRTA
PO Box 1323
Wellfleet, MA 02667-1323

Contributions are always welcome.