

Wellfleet Seasonal Residents Association

Promoting community involvement and communication



Summer Newsletter 2024

Marta Reese Flanagan

STATE OF THE TOWN meeting is AUGUST 15, 7 PM

We will have our annual meeting with the Town Administrator and members of the Selectboard. Come with your concerns and questions! This is your chance for them to hear you.

The meeting will take place at the ADULT COMMUNITY CENTER (A/K/A COA) AND HYBRID.

Click here to be connected:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86561458334?pwd=aW1wZExoQINqUE11Tks3bG1iYS9JQT09>



UPDATE ON MAURICE'S CAMPGROUND; FACILITATED

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON AUGUST 1.

The town continues the process of planning for the future reuse of Maurice's Campground. The town purchased the 21.5 acre property in 2022 in order to address the shortage of affordable housing, especially year-round and seasonal worker housing. The town has hired a team of consultants to create a master plan for the property.

One of the firms involved in the planning has been facilitating community engagement events to enable seasonal and year-round residents to help shape the neighborhood(s) that will eventually be built on the property. Members of the town-appointed planning committee have also been organizing focus group discussions. There have been three for members of the WSRA.

On August 1st at 6:30 pm the consultants will lead a community conversation about the project at the Adult Community Center. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. They will provide pizza and drinks.

You can keep abreast of the planning at the Wellfleet Housing website, <https://www.wellfleethousing.org/>,



Walking and Conservation

The Wellfleet Conservation Trust's Sixteenth Annual Guided Walk will take place on Saturday morning, September 7th. The walk will focus on and around Griffin Island in the Cape Cod National Seashore. For more detailed information, please consult the WCT web page <https://wellfleetconservationtrust.org> or the WCT Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WellfleetConservation). Registration is required for the walk.

And for more walking. The Wellfleet Conservation Trust is the

guardian of numerous lands and trails all around town. You've probably seen their signs - for example at Blackfish Creek on Route 6. There are now 7 trails, open to the public, giving access into some very special places such as the Herring River Overlook. (See: www.wellfleetconservationtrust.org).

The Trust is currently selecting a Ranger (or pair of Rangers) to monitor each individual trail, with the Rangers doing a walkthrough of their trails every month or so. When the Ranger discovers an issue (e.g., downed trees or branches, overgrowing vegetation, inadequate signage), the Trust will organize a work party to remedy that problem. The Trust is looking to engage seasonal residents in their work. If you're interested, contact Michael Fisher (Michael.Fisher@oberlin.edu).

Water, Water, Water and Why It Matters

You may have wondered why we had yet another meeting on the water/sewer/septic issues in Wellfleet this summer, but the rules are changing. We want to make sure you are up to date and can plan accordingly.

Over 50 people attended the WSRA July 18 presentation on preserving Wellfleet waters. Heith Martinez, Health Agent, spoke on the status of the town's developing plan to meet new state wastewater requirements. According to Heith, though Title 5 systems were until now the standard homeowners needed to adhere to, soon all those Title 5 systems will be out of compliance and will eventually need to be replaced. The goal is to make sure the groundwater and harbor water are clean enough and that harmful nitrogen levels fall. All cesspools are already out of compliance. In nearby Truro all cesspools have been replaced.

How quickly will this transformation of septic systems need to happen? When will individual homeowners need to act? According to Heith, some areas of town are proposed to be sewerred. (downtown, Maurice's , Lawrence Road). In other areas, homeowners who sell, undertake significant renovation, or those whose systems fail will need to upgrade to the new standards now under consideration. [delete paragraph break here]There will be financial assistance for year rounders. It's not clear yet if there will be financial assistance for seasonal homeowners.

Also at this meeting, Herb Gstalter of a newly formed pond association requested that the WSRA advocate for funding support for seasonal and year rounders alike, both to support the goal of having clean water and to assist homeowners. The WSRA board informally supported this idea at its July board meeting and will be actively monitoring this issue. Stay tuned for more information on this topic in the fall. We know this is important to all of us.

If you missed the meeting, there are some really helpful maps and information in the presentation. You can watch the meeting from the town's Media page:

(<https://reflect-townofwellfleet.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=1>) – search for “seasonal residents”).



Saltmarsh Information

If you want to know more about what is happening with the Herring River restoration and the issues at Duck Harbor, there is a symposium called “Saltmarsh Science in Action,” on Thursday, August 1, 4-7 pm at the Orleans-Eastman Elks Lodge, 10 McKoy Road in Eastham. Everyone is welcome to learn and discuss they promise.



Keeping Up with Government in Wellfleet

The Wellfleet Selectboard meetings are in person and hybrid, usually on Tuesday nights at the ACC at 6:00 or 7:00. You can get the zoom link from the town's website. The agenda is usually posted 48 hours before the meeting. In the public comments at the beginning of the meeting, you can speak for about 3 minutes on an issue even if the board will not respond directly. This is a good place to get your concerns heard on a regular basis. If you go to the link for Wellfleet Town Media on the town website, you can watch the meeting after it is over.

The *Provincetown Independent* also covers major developments in town government, but there is nothing like watching it in real or recorded time to know what is going on.

The fall town meeting, where we can speak but cannot vote, will probably be sometime in late October, in-person only. We will send you the warrant for the meeting when it becomes available.

Here are some the ongoing issues we are monitoring:

- What is happening to the dredging of the harbor?
- Where are we with the deadlines for the Lawrence Hill housing project?
- What is happening with the relationship between town committees and town employees since we have lost our entire harbormaster staff?
- Will the new septic systems we will all eventually have to put in deal with phosphates as well as nitrates? How do we make sure there is equity in the funding of both septic and sewers for all of the town residents: full time and seasonal?

- Seasonal residents can serve on many of the town's boards and committees. See the information on each one of them for openings on the town website.



Update on Our Website

We are very close to completing the transition to our new website! Visit us at <https://wellfleetsra.org>. There's a new look and feel and added functionality. We apologize that it has taken so long, but we are novices. Avid learners but still novices.



Join us!

Dues and Individual donations are WSRA's only sources of funding. If you haven't already paid your 2024 membership dues, please go to <https://wellfleetsra.org>

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