



Common Fence Point Improvement Association
Quarterly Newsletter
January, 2005
WWW.CFPIA.ORG

COMMUNITY HEEDS THE CALL TO SAVE THE HALL

An emergency meeting was held on November 15, 2004 to address the need to bring the Community Hall up to the newly legislated fire code. A Building Committee and a Finance Committee were formed with the sole intent of saving the Hall. Since that date, each Committee has been busy with printing and mailing flyers, locating material donations, and performing the labor needed for this first phase of bring the Hall in line with the fire code.

Building Committee Reports For Duty

On December 11, 2004, almost 20 volunteers, led by **Bill Lund** and **Frank Munro**, showed up at the CFPIA Hall to continue correcting the fire code violations and at the same time improve the appearance of the Hall. What a Great day we had!

The old storage area on the south side was cleaned out, the ceiling framed, and fire rated drywall materials were installed on the walls and ceiling. The lighting was removed and re-installed as well.

The boiler room had the ceilings framed and fire rated drywall materials installed. Lighting and fire alarm materials were removed and re-installed. We still have a little more framing and drywall work to do here, but significant progress was made.

In the main hall area, the perimeter walls were stripped of assorted scotch tape, staples and nails. Holes were plugged and the walls sanded. The walls and trim were then primed and the first coat of Benjamin Moore fire retardant paint was applied to both the walls and trim. **Cass Barrett** chose the color scheme. Kudos!

The openings at the stage area were closed in order to provide a fire rated storage room on the first floor, as requested by the fire department. A second coat of paint was needed, and was completed in another session at held on December 19th. We gathered with about 13 or 14 devoted souls to complete the second coat of fire retardant paint on the main floor as well as continued effort to install fire rated drywall in the boiler room and storage area. Electrical work continued in the stairwells and at the exit doors.

We would like to give credit to all those who participated for a great job, and a lot of hard work which really looks great:

Thank you to the usual suspects, rounded up in no particular order: **Cass Barrett, Dana Sumner, Ron Travers, Tom McHale, Pat McHale, Jack Casey, Sylvia Casey, Paul Barclay de Tolly, Frank Item, John Silva, Mil Kinsella, Dave Gleason, Lydia Bredemeyer and Larry Faryniarz.**

Also, thanks to **Grant Sullivan** and the four young ladies that arrived at a time when us older folks were running out of steam, and went right to town painting the trim and base materials.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you is extended to **Arnold Lumber President, Bruce Charlestown**, and the Bristol Branch Manager for donating all the necessary building materials.

We know we have missed a couple of other persons who arrived in the afternoon to help as well, and we didn't get your names. Thank you!

To all the volunteers who have contributed to the fire code updates so far: We hope you and others will be back – there is so much more to accomplish in order to keep the Hall open for EVERYONE.

The Committee is planning a final push to finish the work on January 15, 2005, meeting at the Hall at 8:00 am. Please come and help us!

IN THIS ISSUE:
MORE ON THE HALL – See Page 2
YES, THERE IS OTHER NEWS!!! – See Page 3

DATES TO REMEMBER:
Every 3rd Monday of the Month CFPIA Meeting 7:15pm **February 5, 2005** 7-9pm Wine & Cheese Social at the Hall

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee has met several times since the Emergency meeting on November 15th, 2004. Although still in infancy and evolving, energy is high and ideas are many! There are several short and long term goals.

The first task for the Committee was to get information on the fire code changes and costs out to the Community, along with an appeal for donations from the residents. That done, the discussion turned to what the future holds for the Hall – is it going to strictly be used as a source of rental income or do we also want it to be a Community Hall, a place where we can gather to hold family, children, and adult activities? How would we ever be able to raise enough money to pay for the fire alarm and sprinklers?

As the meetings continued, we could see three groups forming to address the long-term issues:

1. A Finance Committee, responsible for finding and applying for grant money, deciding how the monies are spent, and reporting back to the CFPIA,
2. A Vision committee, responsible for seeking input from the Community as to how the Hall should be used in the future, and reporting back to the CFPIA
3. An Events Committee, responsible for planning upcoming events at the Hall, some to be fundraisers, and some to be strictly community gatherings.

The Committees are not cast in concrete yet, but it is a start! The applications for two grants have been completed and ready to go. The Wine and Cheese Social has been planned for February 5th (see announcement below). More events are in the planning stages; we hope to have a Spring Celebration for the children in March or April. We have many more ideas to think about: Bingo Night, Casino Night, Game Day on school vacation weeks, a Benefit Concert, and more. Watch for announcements in the Sakonnet Times, the Newsletter, and on the Sign Post in the Entrance Garden!

Donations have been coming and we thank every concerned resident who has made one. We would specifically like to thank the **Sakonnet Sportsman's Club** for their donation of \$500! We hope to erect a "thermometer" sign in front of the Hall, as so many other organizations do, to display the progress being made in terms of fundraising. What we are proposing, though, is a display that shows the milestones we reach, as opposed to the money we have collected.

The Finance Committee consists of: **Jackie Shearman, Barbara Jones, Carlton Johnson, Tabitha Cooney, Allan Branco, Tom and Pat McHale, Sue Travers, Stephanie Mills, Kevin Bongiovanni, Mandie Sullivan, Larry Alofsin, Bill Lund, Cass Barrett, and Nancy Aguiar.** If you would like to join us, we can definitely use your help and expertise. The next meeting will be held on January 25th at 7pm, at Tom and Pat McHale's house, 18 Summit Road. If you are planning to attend, please call The McHale's at 683-4826. If you can't make the meeting, but are interesting in helping, please call Tom or Pat or Jackie Shearman at 683-0916.

Come Meet Your Neighbors and Preview the Hall at the Wine & Cheese Social

A wine and cheese social will be held on Saturday, February 5th from 7pm-9pm at the Hall. The purpose of this event is to allow neighbors to meet and get a look at the work that has been done at the Hall. Take a look around and share ideas for **YOUR** vision of the Hall in our Community. Unsure of your membership status? A membership table will be set up with an up to date listing of members. Wine, cheese and crackers, as well as soft drinks and water will be provided. CFP resident **Glenn Allen**, owner of Allen's Wines and Sprints, has graciously donated wine for the event. But, please feel free to bring your own favorite wine to share. Look for reminders in your front door, at the Lil' Corner Store and in the Entrance Garden.

Back By Popular Demand - The Membership Form!

Please return this form and make your check to payable to CFPIA, PO Box 134, Portsmouth, RI 02871.

Name: _____	Single	\$20.00
Address: _____ _____	Family	\$25.00
	Corporate	\$75.00
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____	Patron	\$75.00
What services can you volunteer for your community? _____ _____	Benefactor	_____
	Seniors over 65, take 10% off!!	
	Add'l Donation	_____

Please indicate if you would like your *additional donation* to be applied specifically to:

Hall Repair/Fire Code _____ Playground Improvement _____ Land Maint and Mgmt _____ General Use _____

Thank you for your support!

Newsletter

Shaw Family Donates Land to CFPIA!

The CFPIA is very grateful to the **Shaw Family** of Newtown, CT, for donating a piece of barrier beach land to us. According to **Mil Kinsella**, it is an important ecological parcel, as it is a gateway to a very busy salt marsh system. The salt ponds allow many migratory birds to rest and the Oystercatchers seem to prefer the spit that extends off of our newly acquired parcel, too. The lot is on plat 2, lot 11. For those of you without a map, take Island Road toward Mount Hope Bay, turn right on the path and follow it until you see the tall orange stakes that mark the property.

As we all know, people are acquiring building permits for lots under 3500 square feet, so the CFPIA applauds the Shaw Family for deciding not to develop the land and to keep it as open space for the benefit of the community! The CFPIA plans to erect a bench and dedication plaque, as soon as we are able to. The lot faces the Mount Hope Bridge and is a lovely spot for sunset watchers.

Thanks, also, to **Barbara Jones** and **Phil Harter** for working with the Shaw Family to bring this land donation to fruition. The lot was surveyed, courtesy of CFP resident **John Braga** of Braga & Associates. Thanks to John for volunteering his expertise. Please remember John if you decide to survey your own lot! (Everyone should. It is a good way to avoid arguments with your neighbor the next time he inches over onto your land!)

Birding News on CFP from Mil Kinsella

Now that the trees are naked, it's a great time to observe bird nests. I spied what she believes to be a Baltimore Oriole nest in the playground. A few years ago, there was a similar nest in a weeping willow, which overhangs a pond at Montaup Country Club. The Baltimore Oriole seems to like "fresh" water ponds. Look for them next summer. They are a stunning, secretive bird, BRIGHT orange with a black "hood".

Has anyone seen any sharp shinned hawk nests? The "sharpies" are active around here. They are the small (9-11 inches) hawks that dine on more abundant species, like house sparrows. Their nest is huge for such small birds, nearly 2 feet in diameter! It prefers to nest in groves of hemlocks and other conifers or shade trees. Take a look around when you are out on your walk and email preservcfp@aol.com, if you spot one! We have many kingfishers here. I have checked our "cliff sides" for a nest, but have not found one--have you??

The Dirt From the Playground

The Playground Committee Lives! We are still planning to enlarge the playground in order to include equipment for young people 10 and older. We are approaching foundations and charities for grant money to help us purchase new equipment. In applying for grants, we need to show that we are actively pursuing and receiving donations from the Community, so please don't think we will raise all the money we need through grants! Each and every donation counts!

Clement's Market Friends' Fund: We recently received another \$200.00 from **Clement's Market** register receipts. Please keep them coming!! There is an envelope at the Lil' Corner Store to accept them. This easy fund-raiser has given us **\$2,200.00** to date. This money really helps the Playground Project. You do have to eat don't you?

Trash Barrels: The barrels in the playground and at the Attleboro Avenue Salt Marsh restoration area need to be emptied once a week. The same residents have been doing it for years. It would be nice if others in the neighborhood would stop by and empty them on their way to the dump on Saturday mornings. Thank you for helping to make our neighborhood litter free.

Flood Waters Finally Receding On RI Boulevard

Rhode Island Boulevard residents **Conrad Donahue** and **Carlton Johnson** report that work on is completed for now. So far, the changes have proven successful in eliminating the flood-ravaged conditions that have plagued the street for years. The DPW installed an underground drainage system made up of 6 to 8 large storage pipes, with smaller drainage pipes at one end. The road was also lowered about 8 inches to improve drainage. The street has been temporarily paved and will be permanently paved in the Spring.

According to Conrad, Bob Driscoll would not commit to whether the original plan to drain the excess water off into the pond by the playground will ever be implemented. There was some concern with that plan and the negative effect it might have on the Bay. Conrad's only concern with the project so far is that his property is very close to the underground discharge area and suspects it is getting saturated with water. This may lead to the failure of his septic system. In addition, he has a crack in his basement wall, and fears he may find water leaking in. So far, neither has happened, so Conrad remains optimistic, but you can bet he will be keeping a watchful eye on the situation.

Both residents had nothing but praise for the Town and the DPW or finally taking this project on and successfully completing it. Even with the recent snow/freezing rain/rain events, the residents report the drainage has been excellent!

CFPIA
PO Box 134
Portsmouth, RI 02871
Meetings Held 3rd Monday of the Month 7:15 PM

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A WORK IN PROGRESS
ADHERING TO THE NEW FIRE CODE REGULATIONS AT THE HALL
Applying fire-retardant paint to the Hall walls are, from left to right, **Frank Item, Ron Travers and John Silvia.**