



Common Fence Point Improvement Association

Quarterly Newsletter

July, 2004

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CFPIA & Aquidneck Island Land Trust?



Ted Clement Addresses CFPIA

Early in 2004, a concerned CFPIA member contacted the Aquidneck Island Land Trust. Having witnessed multiple abuses of CFP land, this member was hoping the AILT would be interested in partnering with CFPIA to help us protect our land. A subsequent meeting was held with the concerned parties and at the next CFPIA meeting, members voted to invite the AILT to speak to us

On May 10th, 2004, Ted Clement spoke to CFPIA members. There are several options open to private landowners and non-profit organizations, such as ours. The option that would work in the best interest of CFP would be a "conservation easement" donation to AILT. Ted explained that a conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust organization. The easement permanently limits the uses of the land so that it can be properly conserved. It is not a real estate transfer to the land trust organization. The landowner continues to be the landowner. However, the easement provides another layer of organization, dedicated to land conservation and proper use.

At the CFPIA monthly meeting on May 17th, members agreed that CFPIA should move forward with exploring this agreement. The members also agreed that the Trustees, in their capacity as Trustees of the land, should meet and decide if the conversation easement should be pursued. If the Trustees decide in favor of the easement, there are several steps that would need to happen before we could donate the conservation easement. The most important step requires that a specific percentage of CFP residents approve the easement.

There will be more information upcoming on this issue. If you have questions or concerns, please come to the next monthly meeting scheduled on the third Monday of the month, at 7:15pm.

It's Summer Time and Time to Review the Bonfire Policy

The official CFPIA policy regarding bonfires was drawn up in response to complaints from both the Portsmouth Fire Department and the Coastal Resource Management Council. Each cited the piling of debris and burning of said debris without permits and within close proximity to the shoreline. CFPIA adopted the following resolution regarding bonfires at its quarterly meeting June 15, 1999:

"Bonfires are allowed on Common Fence Point Improvement Association (CFPIA) property by permit only for the 4th of July holiday only. Permits to be let by the Portsmouth Fire Department no earlier than 7 days prior to the burn. Permit holder will be responsible for monitoring the build of the pile, for monitoring the actual burn start to finish, and for the cleanup of the remains. Removal of any remains is to be performed within 7 days of burn.

Bonfires shall consist of untreated wood only.

The Portsmouth Fire Department may issue permits to CFPIA Trustees only at other times of the year for ground maintenance."

Trustees of Record: **Scott Boyd, Patricia Freeborn, Thomas McHale, Sara Farina, and John Silva**

Implied in this policy statement is that piles cannot be constructed any sooner than 7 days before the 4th of July. Explicit in this policy statement is that someone must take full responsibility for all aspects of a bonfire, including getting the permit. Burning without a permit from the Fire Department is a punishable offense. Piling debris on a coastal resource is a punishable offense. Tradition does not excuse any of us from responsibility. You **can** have a bonfire, just do it the right way and have a safe 4th of July!

CFPIA Clam Boil

Plans are in the works for a Clam Boil in July at the Sportsman's Club. The date and cost have not yet been determined. **Larry Alofsin**, CFPIA President is heading up this event. A limited amount of tickets will be sold and Larry says they will go fast! If you are interested in attending, email Larry at lalofsin@cox.net with a head count. Those who do not have access to a computer can reach Larry via his pager, 401-763-7775.

Dates to Remember:

**Every 3rd Monday of the Month at
7:15pm - CFPIA Monthly Meetings**

July TBA	CFPIA Clam Boil
August 19th	CFP 5 Mile/3 Mile Road Race
September 18th	Get the Drift and Bag It

A Letter to the Editor:

Forty Bags of Filth in Four Feverish Hours (aka, Earth Day, 2004)

Thanks to a group of industrious and caring volunteers, Common Fence Point looked much cleaner after the Earth Day cleanup. Volunteers filled more than 40 bags with roadside and coastal trash. Considering that the bags are nearly 4 feet tall, that is a lot of litter! Thanks to my co-coordinator, **Brenda Whalen Munro** for the great PR work!

Members of **Cub Scout Pack #50**, led by **Marissa Botelho**, deserve a round of applause for scouring a Sakonnet River beach area, near the Swing Bridge. Volunteers **Barbara** and **Tony Weatherford** helped gather discarded items and then trooped the trash up three flights of stairs, That collection point yielded 13 trash bags containing a lot of marine related lumber and rusty metal. Thanks to the Portsmouth DPW for supporting the Earth Day cleanup again this year, by picking up all the trash on Monday!

Volunteer team, **Jackie Shearman** and **John Tingstaad** raked and cleaned around the playground and beyond. It took a young family a long time to pick up the cigarette butts in a concentrated area next to the Community Hall, but they were dogged in their efforts. Attention smokers! You may leave, but your butts NEVER go away. A four by 4 foot "stand" of Rosa Rugosa on Common Fence Boulevard had become a "good" place for a lazy person to dump. The bush was headed to an early grave until a volunteer relieved it of 9 bags of debris.

Earth Day is about saving trees and making things green and healthy again! Thanks to **Jessica Kaufman**, **Carolyn Husher**, the **McNeely** and **Dooley** families and **Sarah Leary** (see below) who spent hours bending and stooping. **Nancy Rutter** and **Maureen Mills** worked hard on the CFP entrance, so we could all feel proud driving in and out of our neighborhood each day, instead of cringing at the litter.

Mil Kinsella-Sullivan
Coordinator Earth Day Cleanup



Sarah Leary Gathering One of the Famous Forty Bags of Filth!

First Annual Common Fence Point 5 Miler and 3 Mile Fun Race!!

On **Sunday, August 15, 2004** a road race will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the CFPIA Community Hall. The race is sponsored by the Portsmouth High School Music Booster organization. All proceeds will benefit that group. Entrance fees are as follows:

	<u>18 and under</u>	<u>19 – 69</u>	<u>70+</u>
Before 8/1/2004	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$5.00
<i>After 8/1/2004</i>	<i>13.00</i>	<i>18.00</i>	<i>8.00</i>

Make checks payable to CFP 5 Miler and mail to 181 King Philip St., Portsmouth, RI 02871. Volunteers are needed to time the racers, distribute water and help with refreshments at the post race party at the Community Hall.

Watch your local newspapers this summer for further information.

CFPIA MEETING MINUTES, April 19th , 2004 and May 17th , 2004

Prior Meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Said motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurers Report:

4/27	For March 2004:	Disbursements: \$3,847.89,	Receipts: \$1,050.00	Ending Balance: \$11,341.35
2/17	For April, 2004	Disbursements: \$827.03 ,	Receipts: \$895.00	Ending Balance: \$11,409.32

Property Donation

4/19 An appraisal is to be made for the Shaw family to verify the tax value of their land donation. A commemorative plaque will be purchased noting the Shaw's donation and located on the beach area.

Flood Plain

4/29 We have co-signed with the Town on an application with CRMC for the work on RI Blvd and Anthony Rd. The Town has met all of the requirements from CFPIA and they are in control of the process of the work.

5/17 David Keough at DPW would be the contact to ask regarding the status of the work

Building Committee

4/29 We have not yet received quotations from LJF regarding the fire alarm. If anyone has any contact with an electrical firm, we should contact them for pricing. In order to apply for the Champlin grants, we need a written proposal. It was previously discussed that a candy sale could be used as a fund raiser.

5/17 No response has been received from LJF regarding the Fire Alarm work. Maureen Miller has indicated that she would call LJF and/or other Electrical contractors to try to get proposals regarding the Code Upgrades. The Electrical Service Upgrade has been completed. Other items that should be looked at from the electrical side are light fixture replacements, and a new lighting contactor control panel.

Playground Committee

4/29 The Playground Committee is looking for volunteers. The Committee is applying for grants. The Playground "House" should be glued together.

5/17 The Playground Committee has applied for a grant. The "House" will be glued.

Common Fence Point Sign

4/29 Rob Maloney has the posts for the sign. The installation needs to be coordinated.

Common Fence Point Hall Rentals

3/16 Common Fence Music Series Rentals: A motion was made and approved that CFM was to provide CFPIA with an insurance certificate as well as an indemnification agreement.

4/19 Larry was to send a letter as neither a returned contract nor indemnification agreement has been received.

4/19 YMCA Rentals: Sue was to check with the 'Y' to discuss other programs that might be available so they could be listed in the Newsletter. Yoga was definitely an activity that should be requested.

Land Policies and Enforcement

3/16 North Water Street: The Variance is unacceptable. The land is for sale.

4/19 Anthony Road/ Mt. View: Larry was to send a letter regarding the bocce court relocation.

4/19 Establishment of "No Mow" areas: Sign layout/graphics was presented and all agreed that we should acquire several. Posts will be needed also. One area discussed for their use was along Common Fence Blvd.

4/19 Common Fence Blvd. Map 4, Lot 36 – The variance has been denied and appealed last week with a pre-hearing scheduled for May 21st and hearing on June 1, 2 and 3rd.

4/19 Abutters using CFPIA Property: With respect to Map 1 Lot 14, CFPIA has a large tree on our property that has been threatened by the contractor/owner. The Portsmouth Tree Warden installed an orange fence to protect the tree from further damage. There was a hearing with the Zoning Board, however CFPIA did not receive the notice in a timely manor. CFPIA was to write to the Zoning Board, requiring the tree be inspected. We question whether the tree should be pruned by the Tree Warden or ask "Master Gardeners" to assist.

Other Business:

4/19 Salt Marsh Restoration: Mil reported that CRMC indicated that the material could be placed on the south side of the channel and would not require relocation. Joel Camara might be able to do it when he has an opportunity.

4/19 CFPIA Land Transfer: A meeting took place with representatives from the Aquidneck Island Land Trust (AILT) and they seemed interested in discussing further the issue of land transfer or conservation easement. They will be invited back to discuss with CFPIA on a Monday or Wednesday evening. It was questioned if the rights in our deed could be maintained.

4/19 Speeding on Anthony Rd.: A review of the use of additional stop signs should be done. Marking the intersection of Rhode Island Boulevard and Anthony Road a four-way stop is a possibility. Stop lines should be painted by the Town.

5/17 Speeding on Anthony Rd.: Jay Miller was to investigate a four-way stop at Anthony Rd. and Rhode Island Boulevard. We also discussed the possibility of putting a banner at the entrance bridge, reminding people about the speed limit and how we should monitor same. Mil was to check on the costs for such a sign.

5/17 Burn Policy: The official "burn policy" was to be listed in the Newsletter.

5/17 Portsmouth Art Guild: Dave Bredemeyer, of the Portsmouth Art Guild, asked if the Guild could install wall panels (pegboard) with fluorescent lighting, to display art work for sale during the Music Series performances. The Art Guild was asked to submit a proposal to CFM and CFPIA for their review and comment

5/17 VFW Land Sale: A discussion took place regarding the parcels of land across from the VFW on Anthony Rd. The VFW is trying to raise money to do their Fire Code upgrades and the sale of the land is one option for them. It was suggested that they contact the Portsmouth Open Space Committee as a possible option, if they are interested.

Next meeting will be held June, 21st 2004 at 7:15 p.m.

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

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Coming Soon to a Location Near YOU!

You will soon be seeing the above sign in strategic locations on CFP, as a reminder that cutting and dumping on CFPIA land is **not** allowed. Many of the CFP homeowners, whose property is adjacent to waterfront lands held in Trust, take it upon themselves to maintain the common property, mainly by cutting the grass. Over time, cutting has become more aggressive, which aggravates coastal land flooding. Through this Newsletter, we have communicated that no one is allowed to cut grass on CFPIA property. For the most part, this directive has gone unheeded. Therefore, our next step is to place signs along the waterfront. Neighbors are encouraged to take photographs of those grass cutters while the action is taking place. Please note that there are exceptions to the rule; i.e., along CFP Boulevard and Attleboro Avenue where the Town may own a portion of the grassed area, the "setback", or where there is an access way to the waterfront for all

Thanks to **Brenda Whalen Munro**, who secured an Earth Day grant from DEM, which was used to purchase the signs, and to **Frank Canario**, who attached the signs to posts. Brenda could use help getting these signs in the ground. 5 holes need to be dug. If you can help, please call Brenda at 682-2627 or email cfpia@aol.com or preservcfp@aol.com. Thanks!