

WOODBIDGE PARK ASSOCIATION INC.

Founded in 1928

Trustee: THE ALICE NEWTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK

Entrance from Meetinghouse Lane

P.O. Box 3883, Woodbridge, CT 06525

www.woodbridgeparks.org

Annual Letter 2014

Dear Friends,

At this time of year when we reflect on all that we have to be thankful for, the W.P.A.'s Alice Newton Street Memorial Park and its other park properties should pop toward the top of our lists! As Woodbridge residents, we can be proud of such pristine protected open space and the refuge it offers us, as well as the flora and fauna that can be found there in abundance. I would like to offer thanks from the board for your visitation to the park properties this year and for your donations to the W.P.A. We are funded entirely through private donations and appreciate your support for our stewardship endeavors! We have had a busy and successful year and would like to share some of the highlights with you.

85th Anniversary Celebration

It was thrilling to have a month long celebration of the Park and other Woodbridge green space at the Woodbridge Town Library during the month of September! For a year we collected photo submissions, by Woodbridge residents, of green spaces in town. These photos were mounted and hung for all to enjoy. The response was extremely positive, with many visitors recognizing familiar sites, as well as making excited discoveries of places they'd never seen before. That was our intent--to bring attention to the boundless opportunities to engage with the great outdoors and to introduce residents to the beauty of nature in Woodbridge, and the W.P.A. properties in particular! Many of the photos are now on display at town hall. It is important to note that all costs associated with this project were absorbed by donations from board members.



85th Anniversary Photo Display



Honored Guest
Brad Street

At our library exhibition reception, we were extremely fortunate to host Brad Street, grandson of Newton Herbert Street, the man who donated the original 82 acres of land to found the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park in memory of his mother. We were able to thank him, as a representative of his family, for the foresight of his grandfather in realizing the value of open space at a time when it was not given much priority. We were also able to honor our most recent land donor, Barbara Hagan Smith, First Selectman Ellen Scalettar, outgoing board member Nan Birdwhistell, Emeritus board members Judy Moore and the contributions of Katie Hubbard.

The land donated by Newton Street was part of the original Newton family grant of 1687. Alice was the great granddaughter of Lieutenant Samuel Newton Street and thus a direct descendant of Reverend Roger Newton (1615-1683). Newton Street's vision for this park came from the New Haven Green, Boston Common, and Hyde

PRESIDENT

✓ LESLIE C. MARTINO

VICE PRESIDENT

✓ RICHARD J. FORSELIUS

SECRETARY

— SUSAN B. MATHESON

TREASURER

✓ FRANK D'OSTILIO, Jr.

SUPERINTENDENT

MICHAEL WALTER

ASST SUPERINTENDENTS

PAUL ACAMPORA

PAUL KONWERSKI, Jr.

DIRECTORS

✓ PAUL ACAMPORA

✓ NATHANIEL CASE

✓ REBECCA DAYMON

✓ CHRISTOPHER R. DICKERSON

✓ KATRENA ENGSTROM

✓ BARBARA FABIANI

DEBRA M. FORSELIUS

CHRIS HUBBARD

TIMOTHY KELLEY

THOMAS KENEFICK

GEORGIA CHAVENT MORGAN

VIRGINIA SCHNEIDER

— CARRIE R. SWIGART

MICHAEL WALTER

✓ SUZANNE WERTH

CATHERINE WICK

EMERITUS

MICHAEL BURT, Esq.

JUDITH MOORE

LOUISE ROWLAND

HONORARY

MARY ELLEN FLEMING

ELLEN SCALETTAR

FIRST SELECTMAN

BRAD M. STREET

BRUCE N. STREET

ROSEANN STREET

LEGAL COUNSEL

DAVID W. SCHNEIDER, Esq.

Park in London, as he recognized the importance of open space. He wanted to preserve the rural character of the land as he had grown up to know it. Further, he wanted an Association made up of people who cared enough about the Park to protect it, so that it would be there in perpetuity for all to use. The Association was incorporated in 1928 and met for the first time in 1929.



Recent Land Donor and Special Guest, Barbara Hagan Smith

Over the years land donations have enlarged the park properties to almost 100 acres. In addition we received donations, between 1986 and 1989, which resulted in the creation of Newton Road Park and in 2012 Barbara Hagan Smith donated almost 4 acres to establish Northrop Road Park. Such generosity benefits all Woodbridge residents as it adds to the cache of open space in town, in particular protected open space that can not be developed. Our properties are left to provide natural habits for the flora and fauna of Woodbridge and the pleasure of nature for human residents!

Park Management – Invasive Plants

Holding land and managing land are two different things. Our work in the park is never complete and is focused on the Park's living legacy of accessible natural space for town residents. We are discovering, as many of us do in our own backyards, that invasive plant species are becoming more prevalent. This year we documented eight key areas, using GPS and photography, where we want to monitor the rate of growth of our invasive plant species populations. Invasive plants are non-native plants that upset the natural balance of multiple systems as they can establish themselves and flourish under a wide range of site conditions. They can easily take over an area, edging out native species which provide habitat for native plants and animals. Beyond environmental impacts, they can have economic and public health consequences. For example, Japanese Barberry provides a wonderful habitat for deer ticks and with its thorny branches displaces native animals. The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group publishes a list of invasives that can be found online at http://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive_plant_list/.



Invasive Winged Burning Bush, which turns brilliant red in fall

While Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies students have identified Garlic Mustard, Japanese Barberry, Oriental Bittersweet, Norway Maple, Winged Burning Bush, Multiflora Rose, Japanese Honeysuckle and Border Privet as species to monitor in the Park, we are most concerned, at this time, with the prevalence of Japanese Barberry, Oriental Bittersweet, Winged Burning Bush and Multiflora Rose. We will be working, with guidance from the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, to develop a plan to both monitor and eradicate, if need be, these invasives on an ongoing basis. Invasives never completely disappear, as seeds will find their way to the park thanks to wind and animals! So, we face a long battle that will be labor intensive and can be expensive. We will keep you posted on our ongoing efforts.

New Bridge on the North Boundary Trail

In the meantime, we are very cognizant of the condition of our manmade structures in the park, which include the boardwalks and bridges. These wonderful wooden structures, many of which were built as Eagle Scout projects, are beginning to age and will need attention in the coming years. This fall we temporarily closed the north boundary trail while we dealt with rot on a 60 foot span of boardwalk/bridge. While wrestling with the best approach to employ, both environmentally, fiscally and time wise, we opted for creating a rustic log boardwalk/bridge with trees that were already downed in the park. This was both a physically and logistically demanding project and was recently completed thanks to the herculean efforts of our own team of Paul Konwerski, Chris Hubbard, and Tom Kenefick under the leadership of Nate Case!



Bridge building on North Boundary Trail

Fall and Spring Clean-Ups

While our Maintenance Committee is monitoring the park conditions on a regular basis and our regular visitors are removing debris from the trails (yes, we notice and appreciate it!), we invite you to join us semi-annually, the fourth Saturday of April and the third Saturday of November, for our seasonal clean-ups. We meet at 9 a.m. in the church parking lot. Thanks to all who have joined us this year in keeping the park safe and in good condition.



One of several volunteer groups at Fall Clean-Up

Harvest Hike



Tim Kelley organizing Harvest Hike participants

Special thanks goes to Tim Kelley, wearing both his director hat and that of PTO President, for coordinating the annual Harvest Hike with Beecher Road School students and their parents. This event is a true celebration of nature. The many directors that assisted with the event relished the awe and wonder of hikers, old and young, as they discovered the beauty of the changing color of the leaves, the shapes and structure of the rock outcroppings and trees and the joy of hearing and seeing running water at the crossing of each stream! We had a tremendous turnout that included faculty and administration from the school and our First Selectman.

Hail and Farewell

So much of what we are able to accomplish is attributable to the dedication and energy of those who serve on the WPA board. It is always sad to see those who contribute so much transition off the board. We heartily thank outgoing board members Nan Birdwhistell and Jim Urbano for their service. Additionally, we were greatly saddened this year by the passing of Emeritus board member Katherine Hubbard. Katie provided enormous service to the W.P.A. through her interest in conservation and open space protection, always aware of the need to keep the various habitats within the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park viable for the birds and animals that live there. She also served the town of Woodbridge for many years on the Inland Wetlands Commission. In partnership with her husband and 40 year tenured Park Superintendent, Win Hubbard, they kept a close eye on the park from the 1970s until the 2000s.

Continuing the Hubbard legacy, Chris Hubbard recently joined the board, along with Katrena Engstrom and Thomas Kenefick. Upon joining the board, Chris immediately began focusing his energies on park maintenance issues. Having grown up in the park his transition to the team was seamless. A frequent walker of town trails with her dog, Kit, who is an attorney specializing in civil rights and employment law, is eager to capitalize on her love of nature and birds to work on park issues and concerns. It was wonderful to have both Kit and Tom join us for this year's Harvest Hike. Tom, an outdoor enthusiast when not working for Hartford Insurance Company or volunteering as a member of the Woodbridge Fire Department and the Conservation Commission, has already been involved in maintenance projects in the park. We extend a hearty welcome to these three new board members!

Your Invitation

We invite you to find the peace and joy that nature can bring by walking the trails of the Woodbridge Park Association! You can find trail maps on our website, www.woodbridgeparks.org. Explore and enjoy! You are also invited to join our spring and fall park clean-ups. And, of course you are always welcome to help through financial donations. We do need your help! Our budget, based entirely on private donations, dictates the work we can accomplish on an annual basis. Please consider making a donation today, using the enclosed envelope.

See you on the trails,

Leslie Martino, President, Woodbridge Park Association

Special thanks to contributions to this newsletter by Richard Forselius and Susan Matheson

Contributors to the Woodbridge Park Association in the past year - Thank you.

Benefactor: \$500 or more

The Werth Family Foundation

Sponsor: \$250 to \$499

Paulette & Lawrence Fox
Leslie & Gary Martino
Susan B. Matheson & J.J. Pollitt
Mr. & Mrs. K.S. Narendra
The Rothberg Family

Patron: \$100 to \$249

Anthony Anastasio & Lisa Oak
The Brash-Palmatier Family
Elizabeth Brett
Elizabeth Brochin
Joseph & Virginia Calistro
Roslyn Chosak, M.D. & Aaron Allinson
Diana Davison
Sarah Davison & George Karsanow
Williams & McAllister Dixon
Walter Foery & Ransom Wilson
Richard & Deb Forselius
William & Judy Foster
Grey & Marcie Freeman
Andrew & Elizabeth Graham
Lauretta Grau & Phillip Pierce
Marguerite & Ira Grudberg
Scott & Kathy Hunter
Susan Jacobs & Stephen Skowronek
The Jensen Family
Carole & Wilson Kinnach
Alan & Joan Kliger
Dori Laub & Johanna Bodenstab
Dieter Lindskog & Carrie Swigart
Amey & John Marrella
Harriet Meiss
Georgia & Jim Morgan
In Memory of Jane Percy
James Phillips & Wendy Stewart
The Protopapas Family
Irene & Les Rosenbaum
Jeanne & Paul Russ
Ellen & Robert Scalettar
Robert Shields & Susan Kelley
Mary Evelyn Tucker & John Grim
The Urbano Family
Cathy Wick & Robert McLean

Patron: \$25 to \$99

John & Cindy Abeling
Robert Alvine & Joann Thompson
Cynthia Anger
Dr. Philip Arnold
Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
James & Cathy Austin
Robert & Irma Bachman
Bill & Pat Bakke
Pero & Jane Baljevic
Jonathan Beauchamp
Banksy Berganross
Beverly Bettencourt

Samuel Bobrow
Jim & Mollie Bouldin
Tina & Sam Bridgers
The Brocklehurst Family
Dick & Tina Brogadir
Henry & Laura Cabin
Guido & Anne Calabresi
Frederick Caminear
Salvatore Cantalupo
Pat & Mica Cardozo
The Chaffkin Family
Thomas & Suzanne Chaplik
Malvin & Dale Chodos
Sally Connolly & Semeon Tsalbins
Harriet Cooper
Clark Crolius & Victoria Nolan
Susan & Alan Davidson
Paul and Judith DeCoster
Lisa DeLizio
J. & Jean DeMayo
Walden & Marguerite Dillaway
Shirley Dion & Jerry Clupper
Edwin Doernberger
Marie & Ray Dube
Teri Eblen & Stuart Green
Jody Ellant & Howard Reiter
Frank & Ellen Estes
Barbara Fabiani
Jack & Harriet Fast
Betty & Dick Fearon
Elizabeth Ford
Jerry & Bayle Forman
Jane & David Gelertner
Marcia & John Gell
Myron & Phyllis Genel
Velma & Stuart Grodd
Arvind & Suman Gupta
Barbara Hagan-Smith
William & Susan Hildebrand
Carol & Gil Hogan
Natalie & John Hollander
Katherine Hubbard
Carolyn Hunihan
Roy Ivins
Kenneth Johnson
William Jones
The Katz Family
Diane & David King
Ken & Robin Kramer
Evelyn Krevolin
Gloria Kurek
Parris & Susan Lampropoulos
Elaine & Jack Lawson
Gerilyn & Robert Lehman
Peter & Suzanna Lengyel
Becca Levy & Andrew Bedford
The Lilley Family
Cheryl & Allen Lipson
Harvey & Edee Lockyer
Karen & Bill Longa
Tamara Lovett
Adolph & Alison Luciani
Michael Lustick & Barbara Rickler
Michael Luther
Dorothy Martino
Jim & Betty McVeety
Melvin Mezooff

David & Beth Aura Miller
Judith Moore
Girin Munshi & Joyce Narden
Marcie & Fred Naftolin
Minot & Alycyn Nettleton
Dena & David Novick
Michele & Sean O'Brien
Dr. & Mrs. Dan Oren
Joe & Jessey Palumbo
Hap & Stacey Perkins
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gift
Kathryn & Paul Philp
David Podell
Nancy Polk & Jack Hasegawa
Paul & Rita Portnoy
Madeline & Arnold Potash
Lynn Piasczyk
Michael Regan
Lou & Diane Ritucci
Khalid & Elizabeth Roberts
Robert Rosasco & Sarah Steenbergen
Mike & Carol Rosen
Susan & Daniel Rosner
Linda Roth
Jane & Mal Rudner
Sheila Saltzman
Dr. Arthur & Reena Seltzer
Diane Shannon
Barbara Simpson
Judy & David Skolnick
Susan & David Skolnick
Drs. Andy & Thera Stack
Sandra Stein
Harry & Kathryn Tuttle
United Technologies Matching Gift
Mark Usdavin
Kalman Watsky & Deborah Fried
Vivien & John Weinberg
Peter & Wendy Wells
William & Patricia Williams
Tracy Wittreich & Jeff Gee
Sandra Wolin & Carl Hashimoto
Judy Young & Jim Miranda
Stan & Pat Youngberg
Igor & Cindy Zakoworotny
Dick & Pauli Zambarano
The Zaniewski Family
Michael & Linda Zeller
Joanne & Richard Zitser
Ron Zlotoff

Contributor: Less than \$25

Joseph Hellauer
Patricia Massey
A Stephen Morse
Martin Platt
Edwin Rice
Don & Kathleen Sorensen
Robert & Jane Stern
Bruce & Jean Webber