

Wind Anyone?

In September, a private developer, **Jay Cashman**, contacted the QEN. He's hoping to install a **wind mill at the Fore River Ship Yard**. It will be about the size of the Hull2 wind mill and will produce a little more electricity than his office building at the Ship Yard will use. He was asking for the QEN's endorsement. It's a private development with little benefit to the public. But it's a renewable energy supply.

>> Should the QEN endorse a private development such as this? Please email us your thoughts at: admin@QENet.org

Bright Idea at Sidewalk Sale

Thanks to the efforts of some dedicated QEN members and friends, 120 **compact florescent lightbulbs (CFLs)** and information about **green energy** were distributed at the City's Sidewalk Sale on Saturday, July 21st.

Green activist Peter Kelly Detwiler provided the QEN with the CFLs at cost, which was why we were able to distribute them for only \$1 each. Thanks to Larry Chretien of **MassEnergy** for his participation and support, and also to Beth Strollo and Melissa Alexander of **QCAP** who donated their tent space to us.

This was the first year that QEN participated in the Sidewalk Sale. It proved to be valuable for public visibility and connecting with other local agencies.

If you'd like to get involved with future events of the QEN's **Climate Action subcommittee**, please contact Mike and Cyndy Cotter at 617-471-4663 or postisland@verizon.net

WORD SEARCH

P A B E L E C T I O N E N R L
 O N M N R A S A L O P E S S E
 I R T V Z V L Q U E A L E M T
 A T W I N D M I L L T O U S I
 T B S R L E I J U L D S S L C
 P A E O L N Y O T S U E S W E
 O R F N R T H A Z E L T I N E
 P E R M K D T R S Y D T R W L
 E Y T E S C R S A X L A I L X
 N R E N O T S E L B B O C S V
 S C I T E M S O C N U H F D O
 P E P L K O C W S M E G L H G
 A T W C A N D I D A T E S A R
 C S S L M R Y O P S A H R Z U
 E T A B G E E N V O T I N G A

CANDIDATES	CFLs	ELECTION
ENVIRONMENT	HAZELTINE	GREEN
COBBLESTONE	COSMETICS	VOTING
WINDMILL	ISSUES	OPENSACE

Get Involved Calendar

Tues. 10/9, 7 pm:
QEN Candidates Night #1 - Mayor & City Council candidates
 Sons of Italy. www.QENet.org

Fri. 10/12, 11:30 am – 5 pm (also 10/19):
Quincy Farmers' Market
 Parking lot across from Court House. 617-479-1601.

Mon. 10/15, 6:45 – 8 pm (also 10/29):
Kripalu Yoga with certified instructor Christine Way-Cotter
 \$12 drop in. Wollaston Congregational, 48 Winthrop Ave.

Wed. 10/17:
"Moving Together" Bicycle & Pedestrian Conference
 Marriott Boston Courtyard Hotel. www.baystateroads.org/mt

Sat. 10/20, 5:30 pm (raindate Sun. 10/21, 5:30 pm):
BNAN's 6th Annual Pumpkin Float at Pope John Paul II Park
 Register by calling 617-542-7696.

Wed. 10/24, 7 – 8:30 pm:
Free Natural Health Seminar at Healing Tree Yoga
 Preregistration is required - www.healingtreeyoga.com

Thurs. 10/25, 7 pm:
QEN Candidates Night #2 - Councillors at Large & State Delegation
 Beechwood on the Bay. www.QENet.org

Sat. 10/27, 1 – 2:30 pm:
Environmental Treasures: History of Bunker Hill Quarry Hike
 Preregistration required - 617-472-0799.

Sat. 10/27, 2 – 4 pm:
"Pilates Principles" with Kim Preveza at Healing Tree Yoga
www.healingtreeyoga.com

Thurs. 11/1, 7 pm:
QEN's Climate Action subcommittee presents
"Greening Up Your Home/Condo/Apartment"
 Free. Thomas Crane Library, Q.Ctr. branch. www.QENet.org

Sun. 11/4, 9 am:
Skyline Hike at Blue Hills Reservation
 Rugged 8 mile hike. Pre-registration required: 617-698-1802.

Sun. 11/18:
6th MCAN Global Warming Action Conference
 Held at MIT. www.massclimateaction.org

Visit www.QENet.org for a full list of upcoming environmental events!



NETWORK NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Quincy Environmental Network

P.O. Box 690814, Quincy, MA 02169 • 617-877-5975 • admin@QENet.org • www.QENet.org

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Steve Perdios (spokesman),
 Maureen Mazrimas, Mike Cotter,
 Maura O'Gara, Cyndy Roche-Cotter,
 Courtney Perdios and Ross Edwards



To learn more about the topics in this newsletter, visit:

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QEN-subscribe@topica.com

Sometimes You're the Windshield...

... and sometimes you're the bug. In 2000 things were feeling a bit buggy. At the time a **building was being constructed in Marina Bay on wetlands**. A scrappy group of citizens from all areas of the city and beyond worked diligently to prevent this. After five hard years the developer collected the last of the permits needed and broke ground. This event turned six acres of the Bird Sanctuary from the last large wooded stand in Marina Bay to pavement and one of the most architecturally boring structures in the area. Thousands of dollars had been raised to cover the impressive legal fees to fight the developer. A non-binding question went on the Quincy ballot asking if people supported protecting the sties. **Seventy-eight percent of the voting public was in favor of protection** and there was still no movement from City Hall. It was a sad time in Quincy to be an environmentalist.

Things started to change slowly. In 2003 the City used the **Hotel/Motel tax fund** to preserve 11-acres of what remained the last potentially buildable land of the Bird Sanctuary. Unfortunately in doing so, this funding source was drained for the next 20 years with only 22% of the fund going towards the protection of land for open space.

Then in 2005 the QEN took up the challenge of bringing the **Community Preservation Act (CPA)** to Quincy. Last November this law was enacted with **57% voter support** and winning every Ward and all 30 precincts in the city. This funding source is almost twice the size of the hotel/motel tax. A committee called the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) was appointed in April and began to look at spending alternatives for this year. In year one alone, the CPA generated **\$2.2 M**.

Upon the recommendation of the CPC, the Mayor sent to the City Council a proposal to spend **67% of this year's money on the purchase and protection of open space**. Further, the CPC recommended bonding (for only five years) to get a larger pool of money. The CPC set as a goal to protect three critical sites around the city. For the second time in just a few years the City will be making a substantial investment in protecting some beautiful natural areas from development. It's nice to feel like the windshield.

To learn more about the three sites we hope will be protected, please continue reading the inside pages.

~ Steve Perdios

★ Please see insert for details on our **Candidates' Nights** and other upcoming events! ★

Mission Statement:

The Quincy Environmental Network strives to coordinate and encourage the efforts of those who are concerned about, or have a responsibility to the environment, in order to advocate for its protection and restoration.

The QEN is a public volunteer organization that encourages open participation by all.

Show Me The Money!

So last fall you voted YES on #4 to approve the Community Preservation Act, which resulted in a less than 1% tax increase to you and pulled in matching state funds to spend on affordable housing, historic site renovation, and preservation of land for open space. Wondering where your money has gone? The committee nominated to oversee allocation of these CPA funds met weekly over a series of months, and deliberated proposals from the public on how best to spend the money. In Quincy Point, the Souther Tide Mill and Fore River Clubhouse will see some funds for much needed renovations. Neighborhood Housing of the South Shore will receive some funds for an affordable housing project in North Quincy. New parks will be constructed in Houghs Neck and Gemantown. Three parcels of land will be preserved as open space – below are more details on these sites. Final negotiations are taking place to complete the transaction of these properties from their current owners to the City of Quincy. We encourage you to visit these sites and see what good the CPA has done for us so far...all of these positive steps forward have occurred as a direct result of the CPA passing here in Quincy.

Cobblestone Parcel 271 Sea Street • 3.5 acres

This 3.5 acre site has a short frontage on Sea St across from Algonquin Rd. The parcel becomes wider as you move back from Sea Street and is covered by growth ranging from scrub trees to mature hardwoods, and a thick undergrowth of shrubs and briars. Wildlife on the site includes foxes, rabbits and a variety of birds like the peregrine falcon. Further off Sea St, the site turns into wetland marshes backing up into the 80-acre City owned **Broad Meadows Marsh**. This site also has the **MWRA's main sewer transmission line** running on it.



This site was zoned open space in June 2001 but a development proposal by Dan Flynn predates that declaration and was therefore grandfathered. The proposal called for **single and multi-family units** on the site and had all necessary permits needed to move forward. The proposal would have exacerbated an already **dangerous traffic situation** in a bend in Sea St near Grumpy Whites and was **strongly opposed** by the neighborhood.



On Monday, September 24th, the **City Council voted to preserve this critical parcel of land**. \$1.2 million will come from CPA money to prevent the development.



Joyce Parcel West Quincy • 1.4 acres



This small but critical parcel links the neighborhood to **Cunningham Park**. Few areas of the city have seen as much loss of open space over the years as this neighborhood. Residents claim to regularly see deer and wild turkeys roam this site. It is nestled behind homes on Forest Ave., Grove St., Emerald St., and Ferriter St. in West Quincy. The owner had proposed to build **five single family homes** that would have changed the very nature of the neighborhood. This almost acre and a half included a new roadway which has always existed in old city plans as a "paper street". The new roadway called Holliston St. would have provided access off Forest St., ironically eliminating much of the area's forests. An **extensive drainage basin** would have also been an unwanted addition to the neighborhood.



A small band of neighbors fought to keep this development out of their backyards, but with few wetlands on the site, the **state's Wetlands Protection Act** was little help. In the end, the owner collected his permits and was ready to move forward with construction.

This was before the CPA passed last November. Now the City is working with the property owner to agree on a reasonable price for the site. We are hopeful that an agreement can be reached and the property purchased before the first of the year.



Hazeltine Parcel Falls Boulevard • 14 acres

The Hazeltine parcel boasts **14 acres of beautiful forest, a stream, wetlands, and lake**, and is sandwiched between Faxon Park's 60+ acres and 50+ acres of protected open space in Braintree. Preserving this site creates approximately **150 acres of green space**, providing a **corridor for wildlife** to navigate and allowing for plentiful **hiking trails** connecting Quincy and Braintree. The current owners of this site, Avalon Bay Properties, had planned to construct **146 new housing units** on this property, which would have had major environmental, blasting, and traffic impacts to the area. Many community meetings were held during which it was evident that **residents in this area were not in favor of this development** moving forward. Documented on the site are deer, fox, coyote, turkey, heron, and other small urban mammals. The City is currently negotiating a price for the sale of the property from Avalon Bay Developers to the City of Quincy.

The purchase of this site by the City will constitute the single largest open space site protected in Quincy in the last 20 years.

