

**Think Globally
Act Locally
Start with Quincy**

WWW.QENET.ORG

Friends of Wollaston Beach Reservation

by: Maureen Mazrimas

On August 22, 2006, City Councilors Gutro and McNamee facilitated a meeting among residents from across the City to brainstorm about issues affecting Wollaston Beach. Planting, traffic, noise, boating, recreation, jogging, and dog runs/parks were among the topics discussed. The consensus was that there should be a group that could speak to these issues and work with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to **advocate on behalf of beach users**. From this effort, a group called "The Friends of Wollaston Beach Reservation" (FoWBR) was formed.

The Purpose Clause in the By-laws states: "The Friends of Wollaston Beach Reservation is an organization promoting public use of Wollaston Beach, preserving and protecting the fragile ecosystems, and addressing the quality of life issues relating to the Beach. The goal of the Association is to promote the wise use and preservation of the Beach, encouraging volunteerism, alerting others to issues affecting the Beach through educational, cultural, social and civic programs, and advocating on behalf of Beach users."

The following **officers** were elected for '07: President Kristen Awed-Ladas, Vice President Richard Herbert, Treasurer Maureen Mazrimas, and Recording Secretary Robert Verney.

Through the generosity of Councilors Gutro and McNamee, the Wollaston Garden Club and an anonymous donor, the Treasury started out with a hefty \$800 (each donated \$200). Dues were set at \$10 for voting members, and in the few short months since FoWBR was formed, the current balance in the treasury is over \$1,100. FoWBR has already run a beach cleanup and held 3 additional meetings. Another **beach cleanup** is scheduled for Saturday, May 5 at 9:00 am in conjunction with Cleaner-Greener Quincy.

If you would like to join FoWBR, simply send a \$10 check payable to Friends of Wollaston Beach Reservation to Maureen Mazrimas, 49 Bayberry Rd, Quincy, MA 02171. Meetings are open to all. Check the website for the date of the next meeting & other events: www.wollastonbeach.org

Visit some of these local environmental links...

www.marshmadness.org • www.grassrootsfund.org • www.neponset.org • www.massenergy.com
www.foreveriver.org • <http://ci.quincy.ma.us/parksoverview.asp> • www.friendsofthebluehills.org

Know of a site that should be listed here? Contact Steve at 617-877-5975 or email admin@QENet.org to find out how!

Save 271 Sea Street

by: Courtney Perdios

Quincy appears to be on the verge of finally preserving the 3.4 acres of 271 Sea Street. In the words of Mayor Phelan, "the advocacy of the neighborhood is working." The Save 271 Sea Street group held a meeting on March 1 that brought over 60 area residents and local politicians including Mayor Phelan, Councilors Kelly and Keenan, and Senator Michael Morrissey. Wildlife protection, increased traffic, and the stability of the site's MWRA sewer dike are among the issues the group highlighted.

"The developer [of the site, Dan Flynn] has reached out and suggested his interest in negotiating to allow the city to acquire the property," Phelan reported. The moratorium on development in residence B zones, introduced by Councilor Keenan, may play a role in negotiations. Chairperson of the Save 271 Sea Street group, **Ross Edwards**, said "we wouldn't be here today talking about preserving this site if not for the **passage of the CPA** in November." The Mayor pledged his support to help any way he can, but did not guarantee that the site will not be developed.

The Save 271 Sea Street group encourages you to visit their website www.save271seastreet.com and to contact city officials to express your support.

WORD SEARCH

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

WELLNESS	PETITION	RIVERWALK
GLOBALWARMING	CPA	ENVIRONMENT
TREASURES	WOLLASTONBEACH	VOLUNTEER
SQUAWROCK	EARTHDAY	NEIGHBORHOOD



NETWORK NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Quincy Environmental Network

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Maura O'Gara, Cyndy Roche-Cotter,
Courtney Perdios and Ross Edwards



To learn more about the topics in this newsletter, visit:
www.QENet.org

Join our List-Serve!

A great way to keep up with local environmental news and events.

Easy to sign up...
just send a blank e-mail to:
QEN-subscribe@topica.com

Back to 2006, Ahead to 2007

by: Steve Perdios

What a difference a year can make. In March 2006 the leadership of the QEN was just getting over the rejection of the **Community Preservation Act (CPA)** by the Quincy City Council. We then began the petition drive to bypass the Council and place the CPA on the ballot. Now, in March 2007, we are still basking in the election win of November 7th.

Much of what had come to define the QEN (outreach to our schools, trash clean ups, public meetings on many different environmental topics, etc.) was suspended in 2006 to allow us to focus on the CPA. The efforts of 2006 included a very successful fund raiser and **five year anniversary party** at the Neighborhood Club in April, the CPA petition drive to get it on the ballot through the summer, and the campaign to educate voters in the fall. Very little else took place - how could we have fit anything else in?!

Gladly, we are starting to regain our focus as a full ranging environmental advocacy group. We will stay focused on **open space** and advocate for a large percentage of CPA funds to be directed to this important citywide issue. But we are very happy to also be opening up some new areas of interest and re-energizing our efforts toward many of our past projects.

Under the leadership of Mike Cotter, the QEN will be starting a new sub-committee to address the problem of **global warming**. The aim will be to assist Quincy residents and government to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint. Our QEN motto is "**Think Globally, Act Locally, Start with Quincy**". We could hardly state this with a straight face if we ignore the imminent problem caused by human consumption of fossil fuels.

We are working with **NepRWA and the Mayor's office** to build a walkway along the Quincy side of the Neponset River. Imagine a recreational trail from Wollaston Beach, into Marina Bay, out to Squantum Point Park, along Commander Shea Blvd., through State Street, into Milton, crossing into Dorchester at the Granite Street Bridge. It would be a magnificent addition to Quincy's parks.

Further, we are building relationships with teachers at both Quincy and North Quincy High School. We hope to encourage greater environmental education and challenge our youth to play an active role in **environmental advocacy**. Also, the natural world that surrounds us starts with our own body. The QEN will be starting a Wellness sub-committee to focus on our personal environment.

We are **excited**, energized, and looking forward to furthering the environmental movement in Quincy. There is great potential for the upcoming year and we welcome you to join **our volunteer efforts!**

★ **Please see the insert for details on our very important meeting on global warming!** ★

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.

Thanks for Voting YES on #4 for the CPA!

by: Courtney Perdios

In 30 out of 30 precincts, residents of Quincy voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA) on November 7, 2006.

QEN volunteers spent countless hours gathering **4,000 signatures** on a petition that placed the CPA on the November ballot, and then worked just as diligently on the successful campaign that brought the CPA to Quincy. Our thanks again to all those who worked on the campaign and to those who voted yes on #4!

The CPA provides a steady funding source for 3 important community concerns – **preservation of land for open space, restoration of historic sites, and providing affordable housing.**

On November 7, Quincy residents voted to adopt a **less than 1%** property tax increase (\$26.50 for the average household) which will generate approximately \$1.1 million locally. There are **exemptions** for low income residents and seniors that meet certain financial qualifications. In addition, there is a **state CPA fund that matches** this amount annually up to 100%. This year, a full 100% match is expected, bringing the total annual CPA funds up to approximately \$2.2 million!

Now that the CPA has passed and funds are beginning to come in, a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) must be formed to oversee the distribution of the CPA funds. The Mayor's office is currently working on forming this committee which will have representation from the community at large, as well as members from the City Council, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Historical Society, and others. The QEN hopes to have a representative member on the CPC.

The CPC is expected to meet throughout the year and will accept proposals from the community as to how to spend CPA funds.

Precinct-by-Precinct Breakdown

Ward – Precinct	# Yes Votes	# No Votes	Margin
1 – 1	606	466	140
1 – 2	292	193	99
1 – 3	332	195	137
1 – 4	655	578	77
1 – 5	625	548	77
2 – 1	409	326	83
2 – 2	645	447	198
2 – 3	359	273	86
2 – 4	391	300	91
2 – 5	507	419	88
3 – 1	562	403	159
3 – 2	589	329	260
3 – 3	356	327	29
3 – 4	624	460	164
3 – 5	294	247	47
4 – 1	438	389	49
4 – 2	528	442	86
4 – 3	511	501	10
4 – 4	311	248	63
4 – 5	324	313	11
5 – 1	627	367	260
5 – 2	504	328	176
5 – 3	441	317	124
5 – 4	514	367	147
5 – 5	477	427	50
6 – 1	401	263	138
6 – 2	337	283	54
6 – 3	603	440	163
6 – 4	432	349	83
6 – 5	812	581	231
Totals	14,506	11,126	3,380

Neponset RiverWalk Update

by: Maura O'Gara

In 2002, the QEN, Friends of the Neponset Estuary (FNE), and NepRWA developed a conceptual plan for the Neponset RiverWalk, a multi-use trail along the Quincy side of the Neponset Estuary. Inspired by the success of the Neponset Greenway Trail, the proposed RiverWalk would begin near Marina Bay and run along the river to Gulliver's Creek in East Milton. From there, it could easily connect to the Greenway Trail.

Although there has been **much support for the plan**, making the Riverwalk a reality has been difficult. One challenge is that Quincy is heavily developed along the river and many businesses would need to forfeit land to allow for the trail. The QEN, FNE, and NepRWA have had some success overcoming this problem by enforcing Massachusetts General Law Chapter 91, "the Commonwealth's primary tool for protection and promotion of public use of its tidelands and other waterways." Their efforts have helped secure a large section of the trail between Commander Shea Blvd. and Hancock St. The businesses along this section

recognize the **importance of public access** as well as the economic benefits of the RiverWalk.

Despite the support of these businesses, progress was undermined last year when the Quincy Conservation Commission largely opposed the plans by one of them to build a 1000' section of the trail. The setback spurred Mayor Phelan to create a **taskforce** to address the concerns of all interested parties, finalize a route for the RiverWalk, and set the trail's standards.

The taskforce recently **received a grant** from the Commonwealth's Riverways Program. With this grant, Jeff Collins of Mass Audubon's Ecological Extension Services will do a scope and limitations report on a large section of the proposed trail that addresses issues such as size, placement, and building materials. The QEN is pleased with the taskforce's progress and the city's commitment to creating the RiverWalk. We will continue to actively participate in the process to **ensure that Quincy's Neponset RiverWalk becomes a reality.**

Visit our Calendar link for a full listing of environmental events!

www.QENet.org

Healthy Lifestyles, Healthy Planet

by: Courtney Perdios

You might be asking yourself, why would the Quincy Environmental Network be kicking off a Wellness sub-committee? What does wellness of the body, mind, and spirit have to do with a healthier environment? Well, **healing the planet does indeed start with healing yourself.** Eating healthier organic foods means less toxins in our environment, and staying active allows us to enjoy being out in nature. We feel that being healthy and active is just another take on the environment.

Our hope is that throughout the year, the Wellness sub-committee will host outdoor activities like canoe trips along the Neponset, hikes through Blue Hills and Quincy's open space sites, walks through Squantum Point Park and along Wollaston Beach, bike rides, as well as indoor events like yoga nights, healthy cooking demonstrations, and a variety of speakers.

The Wellness sub-committee will be hosting its kick off event, a **Wellness Expo**, that is **free to the public** on **Saturday, May 19th** from 9 am to 1 pm at the Wollaston Congregational Church. This event will bring together people, organizations, and businesses in Quincy that cater to healthy living. Representatives from area health food markets, restaurants, yoga studios, fitness centers, organic landscaping companies, and many, many more will be on hand to offer information and refreshments. Come see how easy it is to be healthy! There will be door prizes (which you will not need to be present to win) along with the opportunity to meet a bunch of like-minded friends! **We hope to see you there!**

Photos taken during
December's
Environmental Treasures
program at Squaw Rock.
Photos submitted by
Maureen Mazrimas.



GET INVOLVED!

Wed. 3/21 (also 4/4, 4/18), 7:30 pm:
Conservation Commission Meeting

Wed. 3/21, 7 – 9 pm:
BNAN's Planning the Urban Garden
BNAN office, 62 Summer Street, Boston

Sat. 3/24, 10 am:
FBH & AMC's 7 mile Houghton Section Hike
Houghton's Pond pkg lot. Call 781-326-6585 for info.

Sun. 3/25, 1:30 pm:
An Inconvenient Truth & global warming discussion
Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy Center branch.

Thurs. 3/29, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm:
EPA's Urban Rivers Conference
\$10/person. Federal Reserve Bank, 600 Atlantic Ave., Boston. Call 617-287-5570 for info.

Sat. 3/31, 10 am – 1 pm:
FBH's 2.5 mile Indian Quarry Walk
\$5 donation. Call David 781-326-0079 for info.

Sat. 3/31, 11 am – 5 pm:
32nd Annual BNAN Gardeners Gathering
Northeastern Univ. joann@bostonnatural.org for info.

Sat. 3/31, 6 – 10 pm:
Blue Hills Trilside Museum Spring Auction
Lantana. \$75/person. Call 617-333-0690 for info.

Sat. 4/14, 1 pm (Raindate: 4/15, 1 pm):
Environmental Treasures Program: "Life in a Vernal Pool" with Jonathan Twining
Meet at the Shea Rink parking lot on Williard Street.

Sun. 4/22, all day:
EARTH DAY!
Get outside today and do something for our planet!
Ideas: hike, bike, garden, walk, pick up trash...

Sat. 5/5, 9 am – 12 noon:
Cleaner Greener Quincy & Appreciation Cookout
City-wide. Call 617-376-1254 for more info.