

Old Stone Dock Association Summer Newsletter
July 2009

Dear Old Stone Dock Association (OSDA) Neighbors and Members:

It's summer, finally!!! After all the rain the sun is shining on good old Falmouth. This had to be to be one of the wettest springs we have experienced in a long time.

We are busy planning our annual membership meeting and summer cookout at the Beach Breeze Inn on Sunday, August 2, 2009. (See attached flyer). If you missed last year's cookout you missed a great event. It was a great party, a great meal and an excellent opportunity to meet and socialize with OSDA neighbors. Many thanks to Don Filiault, the owner and manager of the Beach Breeze Inn, for his hard work, hospitality and contributions in making this event the outstanding success that it was. Last year we were almost over subscribed, so don't miss this party and please request your tickets early.

The OSDA Directors, Committee Chairs and any interested member meet every month. In the past year we discussed, debated and planned such projects as: Increased OSDA membership, Christmas socials, Summer socials, neighborhood watch programs, beautification projects, civic projects, safety, police liaison techniques, the Town wastewater management plan (sewering), scholarship program, general politics and at times the general status of our beloved Patriots and Red Sox. We have had Town engineers and policemen, the wastewater superintendent and members of conservation groups attend our meetings to brief and inform us. Following are more specific accomplishments and activities:

Membership Currently our membership is approximately 200 families/housholds which represent about 30% of the families and /or households eligible for membership. We would like to improve that and increase our membership. We are slowly emerging into the computer world, having developed a computer generated (excel) membership list. Not bad for a bunch of computer illiterate "hunt and peck" retirees. We also obtained an updated computer generated list of all OSDA eligible households. Hopefully, we will get to the point we can communicate and send newsletters out via e-mail and even have our own web site. If anyone can help us in this area please let me know.

Surf Drive Bath House We work very closely with Don Hoffer, The Falmouth Beach Superintendent, on many matters concerning Surf Drive Beach. OSDA again provided the very colorful window planters and flowers for the bath house. Fourteen flower boxes are up and in place. All that was coordinated paid for and planted by OSDA members. In addition, new fluorescent yellow pedestrian crossing signs at the crosswalks were bought and paid for by your OSDA.

Triathlon Again this year we are working with Time Out Productions, the organizers of the triathlon on what is known as the OSDA Athlete "Ambassador" Program. Working with the race organizers, we have engineered a smooth race day athlete parking and noise

reduction plan. Volunteers from OSDA are positioned at key entry points to Surf Drive Beach directing the athletes to designated parking areas and reminding the athletes to be considerate of the neighborhood. Time Out Productions donates a sizable amount to the OSDA treasury for our efforts.

Mill Road Project If you drive down Mill Road you will note that not much has been done to improve that situation. The south end of the road was scheduled for re-pavement last fall, but the Town had a few additional conservation issues to clear up. Several OSDA members attended the conservation committee hearing to voice our strong support for this project. I am now told by town engineers that the project is all set and ready to begin; however they do not want to start construction during the summer months. We may see some side road activity; but the majority of the work will not take place until fall. I know.... We heard that story before, but we will keep pushing.

Fresh River Clean-Up A big success story here! After years of meetings with Town Officials they finally contracted and teamed with Schultz Engineering and cleaned up the river. The project required total neighborhood cooperation as heavy crane equipment needed to be placed in several of the abutters' property. A 50 ft crane was positioned on the Hanley property on Surf Drive and using a cable system, a heavy dredge rake was used to pull the decaying eel grass toward Surf Drive. Tons of decaying waste was removed. The river is much clearer and cleaner, it flows and flushes better, fish are flourishing, a family of swans have returned and canoes can use the river. The stench is gone. Conservation wins, the neighborhood wins. The Falmouth Department of Public Works and all the Town Engineers did a very professional job and we, on behalf of the OSDA thanked them.

Police Liaison Program As I reported in the last newsletter we have a Falmouth Police Detective assigned to the OSDA to act as a direct liaison with the Chief of Police. He meets with us periodically and has been very helpful resolving safety, traffic control, noise abatement and security problems, just to name a few. If you have any issues, please let us know. The Chief is very high on Neighborhood Watch Programs (Falmouth Enterprise, June 23, 2009). While we do not have a formal watch program many of us report anomalies as we walk through the neighborhood.

Mae Crossen Memorial Scholarship This scholarship is awarded yearly to a graduating High School Senior whose family resides in the OSDA geographical area. Last year recipient was Kerianne Ketterer, who will be a sophomore at Boston University. The Scholarship Committee is presently reviewing several candidates. We recently voted to award two scholarships this year. This year's recipients will be announced at the Annual meeting. Any member interested in this scholarship should contact Jim Crossen 508-548-1579.

I hope this newsletter gives you some appreciation of what The Old Stone Dock Association is all about. We are just one of numerous associations in the Town working with Town Officials to improve our neighborhoods and Town.

We will continue to pursue the resolution of areas of concern proposed by our membership.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks. Hope to see you at the OSDA Annual Summer Cookout.

Jim Blase
Old Stone Dock Association
PO Box 835
Falmouth, MA 02540
Tel (508) 457-7598
blasejw@aol.com