



Old Stone Dock Association Winter Newsletter November 2009

Dear Old Stone Dock Association (OSDA) Neighbors and Members

I know the summer exodus from the cape has occurred and the days are getting shorter and colder; but it's hard to believe that winter and the holiday seasons are fast approaching. We are working hard, planning our Holiday Social on December 6, 2009. More on that later (See attached flyer).

It has been a busy year for your OSDA and a lot has occurred since I sent you the summer newsletter in July.

Fresh River Clean-Up Since the great clean-up the river has flourished. It has been the cleanest we have experienced in the last seven plus years. Wild life is flourishing. The river has been flushing with the tide. However, the Town installed a grate at the seaward side of the river to prevent dead sea grass from entering the river through the culvert. This does prevent the sea grass from entering the river; but the grass builds up at the grate and acts like a dam stopping the flow of water into the sea and preventing debris from up-River flowing into the sound. So now we are we are experiencing much higher water levels in the river and the wetlands behind Bywater Court. The DPW solution for this dilemma is to periodically remove the grate to allow the river to flush into the sea. This seems to be working and the DPW folks promised to closely monitor this situation. However, we all need to monitor this situation and place a call to DPW if the culvert is clogged.

Mill Road Project If you had an occasion to use Mill Road you can see the construction currently ongoing. . The south end of the road has been dug up and resurfaced approximately four inches higher with a cant towards the town parking lot to allow the water to drain into a catch area west of the road and eventually into in the parking lot. The current plan is to put the finished surface on and complete the project in the spring. I looked at the road this morning (11/14/09) after the heavy rain we had last night from hurricane Ida and something is working. The road was clear, no flooding.

Police Liaison Program This program continues to work for us and provides a directed link and direct communication to the Falmouth Police Department. Officer Jim Cummings has recently been assigned as our new contact person. A few neighbors have recently reported some items taken from their cars. The entries were not forcible entries as the cars were left unlocked.

Triathlon We worked very closely with the organizers of the triathlon and the police to ease the burden on the neighborhood. About seven OSD volunteers are positioned at key entry points to Surf Drive beach, directing the athletes to designated parking areas and reminding them to be considerate of the neighborhood. OSDA receives a check for \$1000 for our services. We use that money for beautification of the bath house and pedestrian crossing stanchions. Next year we are looking to increase our force by 3-4 more volunteers. At our age, shakier legs and weaker kidneys call for shorter shifts. Think about volunteering next year, its fun interfacing with the athletes and you get a free t-shirt.

Meeting with Beach Superintendent At a recent meeting, we met with Don Hoffer the Falmouth Beach Superintendent. We discussed the life guards, their mission, responsibilities and performance. He thanked us for our involvement with civic activities and beautification efforts around Surf Drive beach. The majority of the discussion centered on the condition of the beaches. We complained about the stones and dead seaweed. Don told us that he has the equipment to rake the beach; but must operate under the orders of condition issued by the Conservation Committee, that only allow him to rake above the mean tide level. It limits the amount of clean-up he can do closer to the water. It should be noted that at the last town meeting, members voted to ban all smoking on all beaches all year. It appears that Don and his life guards will have an additional responsibility, policing smokers. I hope they don't do that at the expense of saving lives.

Fresh River Brush Now that we got the Town to clean-up the southern end of Fresh River several members suggested we investigate cleaning up that portion of the river from Siders Pond to the open area by Surf drive. This area of the river was navigable by canoe. Now, it's overgrown and blocked with fallen limbs and brush. We discussed several courses of action ranging from asking the Town to clean it, to organizing a self help program. In any event, we decided to do nothing without the approval and support of abutters. Twenty three (23) abutters of that area of the River were identified and letters were recently sent asking for their input. When we get replies we will decide what to do.

Dangerous Intersection at Shore Street and Surf Drive Several members raised the issue of the dangerous pedestrian situation at the end of Shore Street. Many of our residents have witnessed near accidents as pedestrians attempt to cross Surf Drive or attempt to turn the corner and walk west on Surf Drive. The OSDA has spent over \$1500 the past few years purchasing pedestrian warning stanchions to alert walkers and drivers. We talked to Falmouth DPW Officials and sent a letter to DPW asking them to look into the situation. We will continue to monitor this situation.

Membership - Communication We have approximately 200 members in the OSDA. About 50% of the members provided e-mail addresses. I sent a test message out and realized we have numerous outdated or wrong e-mail addresses. We need to improve that situation so that we can send newsletters and other correspondence out electronically, saving time and money. Rebecca Bevilacqua our new treasurer will be sending out the dues request for 2010 in January. We will ask for updated information at that time. I need to mention here that Rebecca is replacing our current Treasures, Laura Crocco, who has been our Treasurer since OSDA was established in 1962. That's a long time! Her service to the OSDA and all our community/neighbors has been outstanding and truly appreciated.

Mae Crossen Memorial Scholarship Program This scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating High School senior whose family resides in the OSDA geographical area. Our aim is to foster academic pursuits in our community. Our past recipients are Keane Steiding, presently a senior at Babson College, Bridget Miskell, a junior at American University, Kerianne Ketterer, a sophomore at Boston University, and Matt Campbell a freshman at the University of New Hampshire. Any members interested in this scholarship should contact Jim Crossen (508-548-1579) or Bob McCormick (508-540-5522)

Summer Social If you missed the summer social in August you missed a great time. This year we had approximately 150 neighbors and family at the social. We had to erect a bigger tent this year at the Beach Breeze Inn and are approaching the point of being over subscribed. It was a great opportunity to meet and socialize with you neighbors, to meet Town Officials and to enjoy a great meal. Plan to attend next year.

Holiday Party The Holiday party will be held at ShoreWay Acres Inn on Shore Street 2-4 PM December 6, 2009 after the Falmouth Christmas Parade. The party will be held even if the Falmouth parade is postponed. Last year the parade was postponed due to inclement weather. We postponed the party and we had problems with attendance. The food is good and the kids love the gingerbread house decorating, so please include them in you plans. You can park at ShoreWay Acres, enjoy the parade and join your OSD neighbors for some holiday celebration. (See Attached Flyer).

We will continue to pursue resolution of neighborhood concerns proposed by our membership.

Thanks. Hope to see you at the Holiday Social.

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