

**Old Stone Dock Association
President's Winter Newsletter
February 15, 2013**

Greetings to All !

As you probably know, your Association stays active all year round. The Board meets monthly, currently on the second Wednesday of the month, at 7:00pm. We have been meeting at the Falmouth Library and all members are welcome to any meeting.

Let me give you some highlights of our activities since the Annual Meeting last August.

Falmouth Executives Forum: We are hosting our traditional gathering of Town officials on **Wednesday, March 20, from 10:00 to 12:00noon at ShoreWay Acres.** This is a unique forum that only our neighborhood association hosts. Please make every effort to attend and bring a neighbor with you! (*More info below and more to follow.*)

Ellen T. Mitchell Bathhouse: We meet with Beach Superintendent Don Hoffer several times a month. He informs us that as soon as the weather improves, he will begin exterior updating. Local labor has already put on new roof shingles and will re-shingle and paint the exterior walls soon. Interior work will include adapting sanitary facilities for handicapped visitors.

Sometime in March or April, Don expects the interior construction to be completed. OSDA has offered to raise a working party to help paint the interior walls (at least as high as we can reach!). If you are willing to help, let us know. We'll know more in the next few months.

Beach Nourishment: Over the winter months, Don has overseen the re-sanding of the Surf Drive Beach on both sides of the Fresh River culvert. Many inches of sand, dredged from harbor outlets, have been overlaid to enrich our beach. Such programs are always subject to weather conditions, but Don and his Assistant Bruce Magardo are committed to upgrading the quality of the sand whenever possible.

Salt Pond Dredging: Town Engineer Peter McConarty informs us that work continues on dredging the outlet of Salt Pond. Surf Drive was inundated and the pavement was lifted after recent storms clogged the culvert and waves overwashed the road.

Executive Forum: OSDA has a tradition of hosting elected town officials to address us and participate in an open dialog with the neighborhood. This year Committee Chairman and Past President Jim Crossen has again gathered officials to give us a perspective on what we can expect in 2013. Scheduled panelists are:

Town Manager, Julian Suso: Plans and budgets for town activities
Police Chief (Acting), Ed Dunne: Public Safety (Policing and crime)
Fire Chief, Mark Sullivan: Public Safety (Fire and EMT)
Town Engineer, Peter McConarty: Streets and construction
Beach Superintendent, Don Hoffer: Beaches and bathhouse

It will be held at **ShoreWay Acre Resort on Wednesday, March 11, at 10:00am.** We expect the session to last until about noon. Light refreshments will be served. Please save the date for a rare opportunity to discuss specifics of our neighborhood.

Community Organization Partnerships: We were approached by the Maravista Improvement, East Falmouth, and Falmouth Heights Associations to explore ways we can work together for the betterment of our beaches and respective neighborhoods. We held a joint meeting in December and expect to do more in the future.

Community Watch: Our recent communications with you have indicated our watchful eye over all residences in the neighborhood. Acting Police Chief Ed Dunne has been very engaged with OSDA and recently spent an hour with Bob McCormick and Jim Crossen discussing the unfortunate robbery early in January. We do not see any trends in the neighborhood that should cause alarm.

Winter Storm “Nemo”: Falmouth was hit with about 10 inches of heavy, wet snow that drifted up to two feet in places. Several limbs were down and electricity was knocked out along Walker Street and parts of Shore Street as well as several other neighborhoods in Falmouth that were without power for 2, 3, or 4 days. Mill Road never lost power. All told, the OSDA area survived well with no reports of property damage or injury.

Senior Center Donation: OSDA Director Anne Prior presented a \$100 donation to the Falmouth Senior Center at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Senior Center. Many OSDA members benefit from the work of the Center.

Fundraising/Gifting: The Board of Directors is contemplating increasing the efforts of the Association to support activities in the town that complement our mission. Several members of the Association have made single monetary gifts (e.g. Evelyn Barrozo family scholarship and Georgia Doyle family flowerboxes) and others have given time to organizations that support the community (e.g Falmouth Associations Concerned with Estuaries and Saltponds (FACES)). A task force has been named to weigh the advantages of the fundraising effort. Your thoughts are welcomed. More information will follow soon.

Website: We are pleased that the number of members that access the website is increasing with many positive responses about its value. Administrator Terry Saunders welcomes your comments and pictures and stories for inclusion. Log on to oldstonedock.com.

Cable Laying to Martha's Vineyard from Mill Road Parking Lot: A public forum will be held at the Gus Cauty Center on Main Street on Thursday, February 21, at 6:30pm. Many OSDA members will be present and more are encouraged to attend. The plan is to work for two months in the Fall and leave no above-ground changes. (*I'll report later.*)

Activity Planning: We are working with Don Filiault, host of our Annual/Summer Meeting at the Beach Breeze Inn, and Dorie Ketterer, host of the Christmas Party at ShoreWay Acres to continue to add value to our gatherings. Both hosts have been very gracious and supportive of our Association activities.

Although we enjoy driving the streets of Falmouth without the creep and crawl of July, we miss the camaraderie of our summer-time members. Please let us know how we can continue to serve the neighborhood better. We appreciate your support. Happy New Year!

Bob McCormick
President