

## Conservation Commission Corner (Updated June 2018)

The Gloucester Conservation Commission is preparing to embark on the summer session of its maintenance/clean-up efforts. The spring session was highlighted by the “First Annual Earth Day Celebration Clean-Up”. Roughly fifty volunteers of all ages diligently worked picking up roadside trash along 11 planned routes. The group was able to keep five trucks busy collecting the trash bags. It was a terrific start to what is planned to be an annual event.

This summer will see the Commission continue its maintenance/clean-up efforts at the Historic Town Pound on Route 102 next to the Police Station; the Cutler Brook Restoration Area at the intersection of Route 44 and Farnum Road; and the massive project at the Wilder Family Historic Cemetery on Joe Sarle Road. Another historic cemetery or two are also planned to be addressed.

The following is the Commission’s next scheduled maintenance/clean-up effort:

Saturday, July 14 9:00 AM to Noon – Continuing our efforts at the Wilder Family Historic Cemetery Clean-Up on Joe Sarle Road. **VOLUNTEERS TAKE NOTE** This is by far the most challenging project that the Commission has undertaken. Your assistance will be most appreciated.

Dates and times will be published here as soon as they have been determined. The Commission welcomes the help of all volunteers. The Commission is also pleased to co-sponsor additional clean-ups with other neighborhood groups or simply groups of neighbors. If you have a project in mind that could be publicized in this column, feel free to contact Mike Ahnrud, Chair at [mahnrud@hotmail.com](mailto:mahnrud@hotmail.com) or by phone at 568-4196.

This past spring was also highlighted by 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Seedling Program held at the lovely new Pavillion at Kent Field. Approximately 1000 Old Fashioned Lilac, White Flowering Dogwood, and Spicebush seedlings were distributed free of charge to Gloucester residents.

Looking ahead a number of Gloucester lakes will be monitored over the summer and into the fall by volunteers as part of the University of Rhode Island’s Watershed Watch Program. The Town has been a participant in this Program for many, many years. It has been described as the single best long-term source of freshwater quality data by both State and Federal government agencies. The volunteers take weekly measurements and periodically bring water samples down to URI for technical analysis.

This summer will also see the Commission distribute “whiskey barrel planters” donated by FM Global to various public locations in Town such as parks and schools. The Commission will fill the planters with soil and plantings, but would appreciate the cooperation of the public body with respect to the long-term maintenance of the planter. Interested parties should again contact Mike Ahnrud.

The Conservation Commission would be most pleased to hear from you. Our regularly scheduled meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

Environmentally yours,

Mike Ahnrud, Chair Albert Aubin, Vice-Chair Roy Najecki, Secretary  
Jim & Kathy Houghton, Matt Varatta, Tom Yanni, Steve Clifford  
The Gloucester Conservation Commission