



2018-19: PROGRESS ON MANY FRONTS

INLET REOPENED, PERMITS EXTENDED, SAVERY POND SPINOFF & PROGRESS TOWARD LONG-TERM SOLUTION

2019 ANNUAL MEETING – PLEASE JOIN US!

The Friends' 2019 Annual Meeting will be held at 10 am on Saturday, July 20, at the Wildlands Trust barn, 675 Long Pond Road. We'll be discussing strategic progress toward revitalizing Ellisville Marsh, the birth of the Savery Pond Conservancy and recent permit extensions. Join with us as we learn from the past and plan for the future!

ELLISVILLE INLET REOPENED

It had been four years since the Friends last opened the partially blocked Ellisville Marsh inlet. The barrier spit had grown to nearly 1,000 feet in length and water had become bottled up in the marsh, unable to completely drain before the tide turned and started coming in again. This impacted water quality, vegetation, fisheries and wildlife. All that changed the week of March 25 when we again contracted with GR Richmond Excavating to breach the barrier spit and restore the channel to its approved position as shown on our local, state and federal permits. A massive pile of dug-out sediment was created in the process (the Great Pyramid of Ellisville, according to some observers) to block the existing stream bed and avoid the possibility of dual inlets. Unrestricted tidal flows have been restored.



The "Great Pyramid of Ellisville." Photo by Diane Jordan ©2019.

MASSACHUSETTS DEP PERMITS EXTENDED FOR FIVE YEARS

After discussions in 2018 with key personnel in the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), a strategy was identified that would enable the Friends to request five-year extensions of our Chapter 91 Waterways and 401 Water Quality permits. Without these two permits we would be unable to continue maintaining

SAVERY POND CONSERVANCY IS BORN

A new, Plymouth-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit has been formed to continue and expand scientific study and environmental restoration at Savery Pond, a freshwater contributor to Ellisville Marsh. The Pond has been the focus of significant local and state attention due to current and historically impaired water quality and potentially toxic cyanobacteria outbreaks. Scientific investigation of the pond has been supported by the Friends under our Savery Pond Project, beginning with initial documentation of baseline water quality conditions in 2012. The new nonprofit, called the Savery Pond Conservancy (SPC), builds on seven years of progress and is headed up by outgoing Friends' board member Peter Schwartzman. SPC's official launch comes in July. www.saverypond.org

COMMONWEALTH OF MA GOES OUT TO BID FOR NEXT PHASE OF LONG-TERM SOLUTION FOR ELLISVILLE INLET

The next phase of the project that began in 2016 to identify and implement a sustainable, long-term solution to the problem of blockage at the Ellisville Inlet is about to kick off. The initial phase of the project (Evaluating Inlet Stabilization Alternatives) recommended that the rock jetty on the state park side of the inlet be rebuilt to its original design specifications and elevated at the back. It further recommended that dunes be reconstructed north of the jetty. The intent of upcoming phase of the project is to: (1) advance the preferred conceptual alternative to the preliminary design stage; (2) identify the permits required to construct the preferred alternative; and, (3) develop comprehensive cost estimates and timelines for both permitting and construction based on the preliminary design. We will again be active participants in the study.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30 so now's the time to renew. We accept online payments via PayPal. Or you can mail a check to Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc., PO Box 1728, Sagamore Beach, MA 02562. All methods of payment are described at www.EllisvilleMarsh.org. Donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law.