



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FRIENDS OF ELLISVILLE MARSH 2015-16

NEW CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMIT

We are pleased to report that after a lengthy delay the Friends finally received its new Massachusetts General Permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers in March. We're pleased to report we did not use an outside consultant this time. The new permit won't expire until 2020. The lateness of the permit precluded us from reopening the partially blocked inlet before the maintenance window closed March 31st. However, a subsequent storm greatly reduced the extent of the barrier spit that had formed back in February, giving us breathing room until next winter.

FRIENDS PARTNER WITH TOWN OF PLYMOUTH IN PURSUIT OF GRANT

The Town of Plymouth, spearheaded by the Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs, submitted in June a grant application under the Commonwealth's Coastal Resilience Grant Program, proposing to investigate a wide range of alternatives for maintaining the Ellisville inlet. If the application is successful, we'll be working closely with the Town and its outside consultant on this strategic initiative. A decision should be known by the time of our annual meeting on July 16th.

NEW PAGE ON WEB SITE: THE BIRDS OF ELLISVILLE

Did you know that Ellisville Harbor is one of a few sites in the Commonwealth designated by Mass Audubon as an Important Bird Area (IBA)? A new page has been added to the Friends' web site to feature the diverse population of birds that come here. Links to eBird are included so you can see what species have been reported recently or add sightings yourself! Here's the shortcut:

<http://tinyurl.com/Ellisville-Birds>



Least Tern on Ellisville Beach. Photo courtesy of Ted Bradford. © 2010. All rights reserved.

ANNUAL MEETING IS JULY 16TH

Don't forget to join us at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 16th for the Friends' 2016 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the Cedarville Fire Station. See you there!



Putting up protective fencing for Piping Plover nests in March was a team effort between the Friends, Wildlands Trust and a Cape Cod-based home school group.

SAVERY POND A CONTINUING FOCUS

Savery Pond lies at the headwaters of Ellisville Marsh, to which it supplies freshwater via its outflow stream. The pond is a significant ecological resource; however, it suffers from recurrent blue-green algae blooms due to high concentrations of nutrients and low discharge to the stream. FEM began scientific sampling studies in 2012 to establish baseline conditions and identify potential causes of impaired water quality. Data collection continues this summer with the Town's placement of instrumentation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHANGES

Do you have financial or accounting background? We're searching for a new Treasurer. If you are interested in being considered, please email us at board@EllisvilleMarsh.org. Frank Doyle, our current Treasurer, and Becky Harris, director-at-large, have decided to retire from the board as of the start of the 2016-17 membership year in July. Our sincere appreciation to both for their years of dedicated service!

REVIEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Our membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th so now's the time to renew. We accept online payments via PayPal, a secure and (for us) cost-efficient means of accepting payments. 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.