



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS 2017-18 TOWARD A STRATEGIC PLAN

ANNUAL MEETING – PLEASE JOIN US!

The Friends' 2018 Annual Meeting will be held at 10 am on Saturday, July 21st, at the Wildlands Trust headquarters, 675 Long Pond Road. Join us as we discuss progress toward revitalizing Ellisville Marsh, restoring water quality at Savery Pond and developing a strategic plan that recognizes the dramatic changes taking place in climate patterns and sea levels. Join with us in planning for the future!

WINTER OF 2018 – WHAT LIES AHEAD?

Question: What's worse than a January nor'easter?

Answer: Nor'easters in January, March and April! This past winter had everything—powerful winds, high seas, rain, snow, bitter cold and coastal erosion. At times it seemed never-ending. But this wasn't an isolated event. The Friends used to maintain the inlet in January when the need existed. Over time we learned that Mother Nature could wipe out that investment with a single swipe so we shifted inlet maintenance into March, requesting and receiving time-of-year waivers from regulatory agencies to do so. This year we made the decision in mid-February to defer maintenance. It may have been a good thing. Three nor'easters pummeled the inlet in March and another landed its punch in early April. The board's decision to invest thousands of dollars in inlet-straightening work has become increasingly risky. A mitigation strategy is needed.



Frozen tidelands after the storm. January 7th, 2018.

BOARD UNDERTAKES STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Friends' board is embarking on a strategic planning effort to address major challenges facing Ellisville Marsh and Savery Pond—changing weather patterns, sea level rise, costly regulatory hurdles and the need to better understand complex environmental interactions. The framework for this planning and risk mitigation initiative will be discussed at this summer's annual meeting.

SAVERY POND INITIATIVE

It was another active year for our Savery Pond Initiative. Project supporters voiced their confidence in progress that's been made and the direction we're taking. The SPI's initial fund raising effort to cover upcoming data collection tasks netted nearly \$9,000 in contributions from generous donors. An active summer of work is planned, including stream flow monitoring, climate change and water-level monitoring, groundwater flows and nutrient loading, and water-quality profiling. Board member and SPI coordinator Peter Schwartzman has put in an incredible effort to make all this happen. We've again partnered up with the Town of Plymouth, this time in seeking a grant that would help us take a giant leap forward toward understanding the root causes of poor water quality at Savery Pond. Volunteers Rose Cain and Roger Janson are assisting with data collection and pond monitoring tasks. This year also saw the creation of an information repository dedicated to the SPI to keep supporters up to date on developments. The new web site can be found at <https://www.saverypond.org/>.

SELECTMEN RESPOND TO FRIENDS' REQUEST

Friends' president Eric Cody appeared before the Plymouth Board of Selectmen at their May 8th meeting to provide a briefing on the challenges facing Ellisville Marsh and requested their help in getting MA Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matthew Beaton to convene a multi-agency task force to work with us and the Town to implement a sustainable, long-term solution to the problem of blockage of the Ellisville inlet. The Selectmen sent a strong letter of support to the Secretary the following week. We continue to work with the Town to seek collaboration with state agencies toward this end.

RENEW 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.