



2016 Annual President's Report
December 21, 2016

This report summarizes the activities of Friends of Barnstable Harbor in 2016.

Directors & By-Laws:

There were no changes to our By Laws in 2016. Directors and By-Laws remain the same but for the resignation of Max Kumin, Director.

General Activity:

Water Resource Advisory Committee:

As per Ann Canedy's recommendation, I attended monthly meetings of the newly formed town committee, the Water Resource Advisory Committee. This committee is the Town of Barnstable's response to the Cape Cod Commission's 208 Plan that mandated that each town on Cape Cod form a committee to address compliance with the Clean Water Act of 1978 and to craft a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) for their town.

The committee is composed of members of like-minded organizations such as Barnstable Land Trust, Orenda Land Trust, Three Bays Preservation and Mass. Estuaries Project, as well as liaisons from Cape Cod Commission, Town Council members including Town Councilor John Flores, and Town of Barnstable DPW officials.

Attending these meetings has not only provided an extensive education on wastewater management, it has also afforded me the opportunity to get to know some of the most influential persons involved with wastewater planning for our town.

In the face of learning about the impacts of the "Rust Tide" algae blooms on the Cape's south side estuaries, I now have firsthand contact with Mass. Estuaries Project liaison Ed Eichner and Dr. Ruth Sade of the Town of Barnstable DPW. Both Mr. Eichner and Dr. Sade await the ongoing water quality study that has

been 3+ years overdue for Barnstable Harbor. Word is that we should see that study completed by June 2017 and that Barnstable Harbor, thanks to its enormous tides and currents, is predicted to have a 0 or negative nitrogen loads. Further good news is that the data gained will be more current than that from other estuaries, the bad news is that the delay in the study is an indication of the town's choice to largely ignore Barnstable Harbor.

The upshot of all of this is that Friends of Barnstable Harbor must take an active role in ensuring the well being of both our harbor water and of our groundwater. In that vein here are two ideas for two future projects:

- Water Resources Education Center: A Cape-wide Collaborative Project
- County Complex Parking Lot Eco-Friendly Redesign

Harbor Management Plan & Youth Education Project YEP!:

Both the Harbor Management Plan & Youth Education Project YEP! remained dormant this past year. The Town Council's search to fill and then transition into a new school superintendent has made it difficult to get any traction for YEP!. YEP! is our number one priority for 2017.

Promotional Items:

Last year's meeting we discussed replacing the FBH mugs with different promotional items such as tee shirts and hats. After taking some time to explore purchasing such items and offering them as membership premiums or simply selling them on our website or at events, it was concluded that the combination of cost, effort and people power limited our choices.

Although there remains a possibility to select some "great" items and promote them on our website, that will have to come at a later date, and until that time we will simply include a FBH sticker with every donation no matter how large or small.

Carl Wirtanen:

Those of you who knew him are aware that Carl Wirtanen passed away this past winter. It was a pleasant surprise to learn not only of his love of Barnstable Harbor, but also that his obituary read "in lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Friends of Barnstable Harbor".

As mentioned in the treasury report, we received 13 donations amounting to \$1715 in Carl's name. I contacted a relative of Carl and asked if he felt that the

YEP! program would be a suitable place to spend these funds. It was agreed that he thought that Carl would have liked that plan. Therefore, we do have funds in the amount of \$1715 designated for YEP!.

Conclusion:

Once again I attended at the *4th Annual Cape Coastal Conference*. This conference offers a great deal of information on issues that impact all of Cape Cod and attendees include other non-profits, town employees as well as the general public.

This year's panel discussion "Putting Sediment Management into Action" was excellent. A brief report from Mark Borrelli* of *Provincetown's Center for Coastal Studies* on "Sediment Budgets" explained how sand is moving from the canal through Barnstable and onward to and from Dennis. The graph for this is amazing because all along this coast there is a red line representing sediment erosion, but for a spot in Barnstable that is tall and green marking sediment/sand accretion. We would all recognize this as the growing "Little Neck" behind Sandy Neck. I have invited Mark to do a presentation for us on this situation.

If you haven't done so before, please consider attending next year's conference.

New Business:

Monthly Meetings:

Beginning Saturday, January 14th @ 9am we will hold monthly meetings, on alternating Saturdays and Thursdays. The schedule will be posted to the website and announced in advance by email.

The meetings will be will be forums for:

- Discussion of harbor topics/issues
- Implementation of initiatives: YEP! and Harbor Management Plan.

Please plan to attend and participate.

30-minute directors' meetings will precede monthly meetings.

Upcoming Events:

- “Sediment Budgets”: *Mark Borrelli, Coastal Geologist @ *the Center for Coastal Studies* (see 4th Annual Coastal Conference above for details)
- Other ideas TBD

Creek Clean-ups:

Keep your eye out for another “creek clean-up” in the village. If the weather cooperates, we hope to schedule a clean-up for late winter.

Thank you to all that are Friends of Barnstable Harbor!

May we continue in the upcoming year with continued success in protecting the harbor we love!

Submitted by: Avery Revere, President

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