



The Committee for the Great Salt Pond

B L O C K I S L A N D , R I

Member Newsletter | Fall 2017

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IMPORTANT DATES

July 28, 2018

The Great Salt Pond Swim-4
Andy's Way at 11:00 am



The Great Salt Pond Swim

4

Register today.

www.CGSPBlockIsland.com
Go to 2018 Swim

September 9, 2018

Annual CGSP Meeting
4:00 pm

The Harbor Management Plan

The Harbor Management Plan (HMP) is a comprehensive document covering both Old Harbor and New Harbor, which includes many topics from aquaculture to riparian rights to mooring fields and even regulations about swimming off your boat! The Plan currently in force is outdated; and the HarborMaster and the Harbors Committee have been working diligently to bring it up to date. Many organizations, including the CGSP, have been engaged in the process.

The issues are complex, including the need to conform to state law while keeping in mind our Pond's unique needs and vulnerabilities. While a draft is nearing completion for the Town Council to review and approve before it goes on to the State, we would still invite you to share your views with Sven Risom or Tricia Foley as the process continues.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to thank you for your on-going support of the Committee for the Great Salt Pond. 2017 has been a very rewarding year in which we saw investments pay off, conducted fantastic pond-based events and began to provide input into the Town of New Shoreham's proposed Harbors Management Plan revision.

The walkovers on Corn Neck Road were a great success. Beach-goers used the stairs rather than trampling the dunes, and the beach grass planted by Kim Gaffett and the BI School students really took hold. Now we are working with the Beachhead to build a fourth walkover directly across from the restaurant. Signs are routinely ignored as tourists continue to mount the dunes there for photo opportunities.

Swim the Pond – 3 was another great success this year, allowing us to celebrate the clean water and beauty of the Pond. Despite the high winds and waves, more than 70 swimmers took part. Thanks go to Cheryl Moore for her leadership and to all the volunteers who make the event run like clockwork.

The legal battle with Champlins' marina continues although there is virtually nothing new to report. The judge has yet to make a final ruling. So while the case is technically open and we actively monitor the situation, it is clear that for the time being the expansion is not moving ahead.

We are now working with the Harbor Department to review and make recommendations regarding the new Harbor Management Plan a document that can significantly impact the Pond. We want to help ensure that the revisions respect the balance between the environmental, commercial and recreational needs of the island.

During the summer Bob Greenlee and I conducted water quality monitoring on the Pond and its tributaries. We hope to expand the process earlier in the spring and later into the fall to better understand the science of the pond. The data is critical and we thank URI and Watershed Watch for their partnership.

I would also like to welcome Dan Barker to our Board of Directors, a highly dedicated group of volunteers. And thanks to all of you for your support, generosity and dedication to protecting Block Island's #1 asset: The Great Salt Pond!

Sven Risom, President CGSP



Front

Back

The CGSP Guardian Hat

The Committee for the Great Salt Pond is now offering the Guardian (as in, I am a Guardian of the Great Salt Pond) hat in tan or navy blue. For the price of \$125 you will renew your membership to the CGSP as well as receive one of our classy-looking and great-fitting caps with the map of Block Island on the front and CGSP Guardian embroidered on the back. It's a great gift idea as well. Just fill out the enclosed order card and return it with your check.

Great Salt Pond Swim-3

The third annual Great Salt Pond Swim, held on Saturday, July 29th, was a great success, despite bleak weather conditions and the strong storm blowing in from the northeast. Swimmers are a hardy bunch, and neither wind nor driving rain will keep them out of the water. Seventy-two swimmers entered the water that day!

Due to the extreme windy conditions close to Beane Point, the course was shortened a bit to 7/10ths of a mile for the safety of the swimmers, our primary concern. On-the-water kayaks, motor boats and surfboards patrolled for additional safety. This event would not exist without the incredible generosity of our sponsors, swimmers, and volunteers. Their support makes it possible to protect the Great Salt Pond by providing additional water testing in the recreational swim area, along with increasing the awareness of this great resource. Think for a moment what Block Island would be like without this magnificent Pond. Hard to imagine, indeed!

People are already signing up for 2018. We hope to see you, and some of your friends on July 28, 2018, for The Great Salt Pond Swim-4!



OUR MISSION

To protect and enhance the environmental quality of the Great Salt Pond, including its shorelines and wetlands, and to promote appropriate and productive uses of the Pond's resources by residents, visitors and local businesses.

OUR WEBSITE

www.cgspliblockisland.org

Visit our website where you can catch up on activities for the coming season, pay your annual dues or make a donation. There is a page dedicated to the 4th Swim the Pond event on July 28, 2018. You will be able to read all the details about the event, including registration for the swim.

FUNDING

Individual contributions, membership dues, special events, program grants. IRS 501(c)3 non-profit.

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Committee for the Great Salt Pond

PO Box 1092, Block Island, RI 02807 • www.CGSPBlockIsland.org

ABOUT US

Directors

Sven Risom, President
Cheryl Moore, Vice President
Jean Taber, Treasurer
Betsy Pyne, Secretary
Daniel Barker
Henry duPont
Tricia Foley
Bob Greenlee
Bruce Johnson
Carl Kaufmann
Cindy Pappas
Diane Robina
Lara Andrea Taber

Members

Approximately 450

Governance

Up to 16 Directors