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The Committee for the Great Salt Pond  
PO Box 1092 • Block Island, RI 02807



The Committee for the Great Salt Pond

BLOCK ISLAND, RI

Member Newsletter | Summer 2021

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**CHAMPLIN'S MARINA EXPANSION UPDATE.** In spite of the denial from the RI Supreme Court in a decision dated March 26, Champlin's is still holding out for a marina expansion approval from the CRMC.

One would think that when the RI Supreme Court dismissed the Champlin's / CRMC joint motion, requesting the court to accept a CRMC approval for a marina expansion plan as a settlement to the case, they would have quit pursuing expansion plans. Instead Champlin's attorney has filed a statement with the court which says that since Champlin's and the CRMC have already reached an agreement and approval for an alternate marina expansion plan, the case might be disposed of in a more expedited fashion. It is unusual that Champlin's is providing an argument that the court specifically rejected in denying the Champlin's/CRMC joint motion; but it signals that they are far from giving up.

The next checkpoint took place on May 10<sup>th</sup> when the Superior Court heard motions from the Town and the other parties including RI Attorney General Neronha, which argued that it was improper for the CRMC to enter negotiations with Champlin's for an expansion deal while the case was on appeal before the Supreme Court.

Hopefully the Superior Court will agree and order that the "settlement" and CRMC's approval for an alternate marina expansion plan was unlawful.

All of this has directed attention to other recent CRMC marina expansion approvals like the Jamestown Boatyard proposal which is now being appealed with the support of the Attorney General. It has also sparked legislative interest in the form of a bill introduced by Representative Ruggiero of Jamestown who is asking for the legislature to form a commission to study how the CRMC operates and whether it needs restructuring.

**VOTERS APPROVE PURCHASE OF OVERLOOK PROPERTY NEAR CHAMPLIN'S AT THE FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING.**

The lot known as the Overlook Property, the 4.5 acre grassy field off of West Side Rd, abutting Champlin's driveway to the NW and the "Salt Pond Settlement" condos and the Ball O'Brien Playground to the SE was offered to the Town of New Shoreham and participating conservation groups for \$10.5 million by Stephen Filippi, of Ballards. Six million dollars of the cost would come from conservation groups (Block Island Land Trust, Block Island Conservancy, Nature Conservancy) and \$4.5 million would come from the Town. The Warrant item on acquiring the "Overlook Property" was presented at the Financial Town Meeting on May third. Several people spoke in favor of the purchase including CGSP members George Davis, Sven Risom, and Henry duPont along with several leaders from the Block Island Land Trust and the Block Island Conservancy. Speakers in favor of the acquisition spoke of protecting the property against overdevelopment and providing public access to the Pond. Possible uses of the property discussed at the Financial Town Meeting included the addition of: a boat ramp and dinghy dock; a Town dock for the Harbormaster's boats and resident small craft; and the long-discussed Harbors Department facility that would include a welcome center, restrooms, and showers. Voters did approve purchasing the property! The next step is to obtain an appraisal of the property.



This was a once in a generation chance to preserve forever the last available commercial zoned property on the Great Salt Pond and the purchase of this lot will forever protect it from commercial development

**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**

[cgspblockisland.org](http://cgspblockisland.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 6th Swim the Pond event on July 31, 2021. 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.

Thank you for your support of the Committee for the Great Salt Pond. We are happy to report that the pond remains healthy, our water quality-monitoring program is active and our annual Swim the Pond continues to grow as a demonstration of how great the pond truly is.

**ABOUT US**

**Directors**

- Cheryl Moore, President
- Cindy Pappas, Vice President
- Sven Risom, Treasurer
- Betsy Pyne, Secretary
- George Davis
- Henry duPont
- Tricia Foley
- Bob Greenlee
- Ed Hayde
- Eric Reimer
- Mitchel Silberbush
- Lara Andrea Taber

**Members**

Approximately 450

**Governance**

Up to 16 Directors

**Committee for the Great Salt Pond**

PO Box 1092, Block Island, RI 02807  
[cgspblockisland.org](http://cgspblockisland.org)

**July 31, 2021**

**Swim the Pond-6**  
Andy's Way • 11:00 am  
**Register today.**  
[cgspblockisland.org](http://cgspblockisland.org)  
Go to Events



The Great Salt Pond Swim

6

**September 12, 2021**

**Annual CGSP Meeting**  
4:00 pm  
*Location: To be determined.*  
*Check website for more information.*  
[cgspblockisland.org](http://cgspblockisland.org)



**THE GREAT SALT POND SWIM-6.** Last year, our swim was cancelled because of Covid-19. The 2021 Great Salt Pond Swim this year will take place on Saturday July 31, 2021. This is a (1) mile swim, starting at Andy’s Way, turning around at Beane Pt. and returning to Andy’s Way. The registration fee is \$60, and will be limited to 150 swimmers. This swim is an annual fundraiser, serving to support our efforts to protect The Great Salt Pond, and provide funds for additional water testing in the recreational swim areas. In addition to our on-site swim, we have added a virtual swim, which we will continue to have each year. Information about our virtual swim can be found on our website.

Please note that although the swim will take place there will be some changes from our 2019 swim as follows:

1. All swimmers must pre-register this year, no on-site registration. Registration closes at 11:00 pm on June 30, 2021.
2. Waiver forms found in the participant packet on our website must be signed in advance and handed in as swimmers pick up their swim items.
3. No food this year, just bottled water.
4. No placing of medals around necks, they will be handed out with the swim towels.
5. We would appreciate it if swimmers and spectators wear masks on the property, wherever possible. Extra disposable masks will be available.
6. We would appreciate it if swimmers and spectators have been vaccinated, and please limit the number of spectators.
7. There will be no changing tents this year.

Please read over our revised participant packet for this swim which can be found on our website: [cgspblockisland.org](http://cgspblockisland.org). If you have any questions please send them to: [cgsp02807@gmail.com](mailto:cgsp02807@gmail.com). We look forward to a great, safe swim!

**STOP BY AND TAKE A LOOK AT OUR KIOSKS.** Our kiosks have a new look, from an information standpoint. You will notice news about what is happening on the Pond in addition to our initiatives in progress. Our initiatives include:

- A future new walkway at Andy’s Way down to the beach area
- Our water testing program
- Shellfish and Aquaculture on the Pond
- The Great Salt Pond Photo Scavenger Hunt
- The Great Salt Pond Swim
- On the Pond (*our new monthly publication*)
- CGSP Newsletter (*our yearly publication*)



You will find information about all of these items in our kiosks, in addition to a tide clock. We have three kiosks around the Pond, located at: Mosquito Beach, Coast Guard Beach and Andy’s Way.

**THE GREAT SALT POND PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT.** Back by popular demand! We want you to experience the pristine waters of our Great Salt Pond. All you have to do is take photos with your phone or camera of (8) objects around the Pond whose first letter spells out ANDYS WAY. An example would be a photo of an ANCHOR which gives you the “A” in ANDYS WAY. A photo of a NECKTIE gives you the “N”, and so on until you spell out ANDYS WAY. Your photos will be judged, and if you have met all the requirements, you are a winner and will receive a popular CGSP hat. This hunt is fun for all ages, so come down to the Pond and “click”away.

The Hunt starts July 5th and ends August 6th.

- Photo must be taken 25 yards or less from Pond.
- Separate Photo for each letter, no duplicates (“Anchor” & “Necktie”) may not be used as an object.
- Be sure to name the object in each photo.
- Don’t forget to include your name and address.

Any questions, email [BDJohnsn@comcast.net](mailto:BDJohnsn@comcast.net)



CGSP Prize Hats

**SHELLFISH & AQUACULTURE.** The annual re-stocking of market size quahogs by the Harbors Department and Shellfish Commission took place May 20<sup>th</sup>, aided by CGSP members and the CGSP boat. This re-stocking is done in the area of the GSP that is open year round for recreational clamming. This year the Department upweller will contain oyster seed to be grown until the fall. And oyster and kelp farmer Catherine Puckett just completed a successful harvest of her second annual sugar kelp crop.

Be sure to check out the *Shellfish/Aquaculture Series* of our new publication, *On the Pond*. This new publication is sent to our members electronically each month and you can find it on our website, [cgspblockisland.org](http://cgspblockisland.org).



CGSP members on the CGSP boat assisting with the annual clam restocking of the Pond. Photo courtesy of Renee Meyer and the Block Island Times

**WATER QUALITY TESTING.** The CGSP samples the water at 14 sites in or just outside the harbor and along several tributaries every two weeks from April into November. Based on our data, the pond is relatively clean throughout the summer. 2021 will mark the twenty-first consecutive year that the CGSP has participated in the University of Rhode Island’s Watershed Watch program.

**ANDY’S WAY WALKOVER.** The new walkway from the parking area to the beach is scheduled for construction in late September.

**THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT SALT POND BURGEE.** Sixteen years ago, two Directors of CGSP were working on the design of their favorite Block Island logo. It was the Island with red and white stripes crossing it and a gold star in the middle of the Great Salt Pond. A wife of one Director owned an embroidery business and she put this Island logo on a hat that became very popular. From there the Island logo became the “centerpiece” on the Island burgee. As a fundraiser the CGSP has been selling the burgees on the Pond to boaters since 2005. The background of the Burgee always changes but the Island logo remains the same.

The Burgees are sold at a cost of \$20.00. Reserve one by emailing [BDJohnsn@comcast.net](mailto:BDJohnsn@comcast.net). CGSP members will also be selling the burgees at the boat docks around the Pond June 28–July 3.



2021 Great Salt Pond Burgee

**COMMUNICATION.** There are several ways we keep in touch with our members and friends of the Great Salt Pond:

**New CGSP Website**

Check out our new website, which is more interactive and informative: [cgspblockisland.org](http://cgspblockisland.org)

**CGSP Newsletter**

This is a publication which comes out once a year, in June, a summary of our initiatives, developments along the Pond and important current events.

**On the Pond**

This is our new monthly electronic publication in which we write about the Pond; its history, the surrounding environment and community, events, and inhabitants of the Pond.

**Email**

We stay in touch with our members and keep them informed about important issues that need immediate attention.