

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

A MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE COMMUNITY
FROM THE OGUNQUIT RESIDENTS ALLIANCE

Town Updates

Select Board & Upcoming Elections

- Member John Daley has resigned, citing a personal health issue. We thank him and wish him well.
- A March 30th Special Town election will fill the nine-week remainder of the vacated seat.
- Nomination papers are due by Feb 16th, and absentee ballots are available March 1st.
- Two three-year term Select Board member seats will be on the June 8th Annual Town Meeting ballot to fill the seat vacated by Daley, and the seat held by Bob Winn as he will have reached the two-term limit spelled out in our Charter.

More Good Financial News

- The Annual Town Audit through June 30, 2020 received an unmodified opinion which is the highest rating.
- As of January 29, 2021, the Town was through 58.3% of the fiscal year and 57.8% of expenses.
- Additional grant funds arrived from Keep Maine Healthy (\$92,540) and FEMA (\$19,089).

Thank you to Mandy Cummings, Treasurer; David Riccio, Special Projects; and Pat Finnigan, Town Manager.

COVID-19 Vaccine News

For local information:

ogunquitcovid.org

For York Hospital:

yorkhospital.com/vaccines/

For State updates:

www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccine

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**One Week until our
Town Manager
has no contract!
(expiration Feb 13th)**



Black History Month

In 1926 Carter H. Woodson, a son of former slaves, who worked tirelessly to promote Black history in schools, issued a press release marking the first "Black History Week." The event was expanded in 1970, and, since 1976, every US President has officially designated February as Black History Month. February was chosen because both Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born that month and played significant roles in ending slavery.

Faces & Places



Ethel Goode Franklin was the first African American woman to own property in Ogunquit.

From the time she bought her home at 67 Main Street (now the Hideaway Inn) in the mid 1930's until she retired in the early 1970's, she spent every summer cooking for housefuls of vacationers. In the winter Mrs. Franklin cooked for a fraternity at Harvard University but summer found her in her Ogunquit bed and breakfast welcoming Black visitors. While whites had the option of staying in hotels, Blacks didn't. During the days of segregation, when there were few places along the southern Maine coast that rented rooms to African Americans, Ethel Goode Franklin's was the exception to the rule.

Her bed and breakfast rates were \$25 to \$35 per week which included breakfast and dinner. Guests included doctors and lawyers, chauffeurs and bricklayers. Other visitors who enjoyed her hospitality were African American actors and writers working at the Ogunquit Playhouse only 200 feet away. Denied lodging elsewhere due to segregation laws, Langston Hughes, the famous Black poet, stayed for a few weeks when one of his plays was being performed at the Playhouse.

Continued ↗

Ogunquit Library talk for Black History Month

Human Rights in Wells/Ogunquit- Still healing from our past

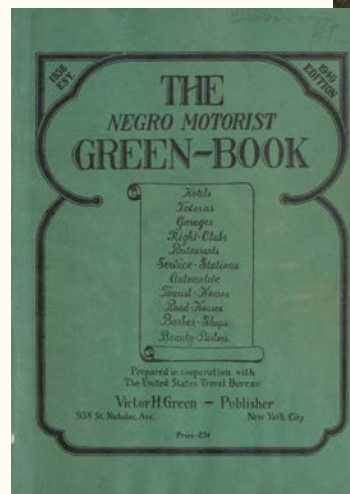
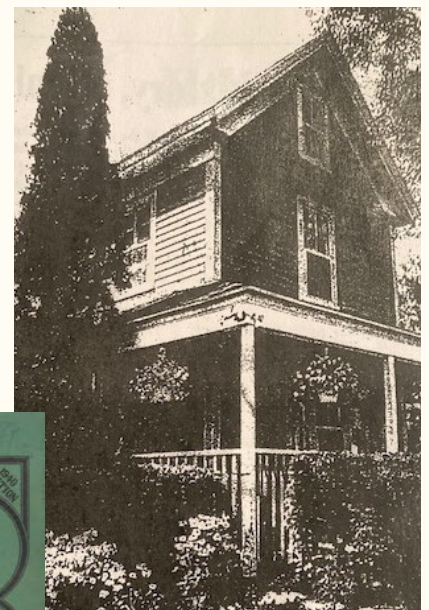
Speaker - Terry Ann Lunt, past Director of the Maine Human Rights Commission

Thursday, Feb. 25 at 2:30 PM via Zoom

Helping her with the daily operation and upkeep of the inn were generations of Ethel Goode Franklin's family members who stayed at the home while helping to entertain the guests. The atmosphere was casual and the cost was affordable. Her mission was to offer a warm and inviting place where African Americans could feel comfortable coming to Maine during a time of racial divide and segregation.

While the first generation of her nieces and nephews working for her in the summer documented racially biased treatment in town, this was not the case when the second generation started working there. This was due in part to the fact that Ethel Goode Franklin was now well known and respected in Ogunquit. Her hard work and dedication helped break down some of the of the racial barriers that existed in town.

*The Hideaway Inn,
67 Main Street*



*Cover of a copy of
the Green Book*

The Green Book

During the years of segregation (1936-1967), a yearly travel guide was published identifying businesses that would accept Black travelers state by state. Named for Victor Hugo Green, the Black postal worker who compiled it, it's easy to imagine that Ethel Goode Franklin's Ogunquit bed and breakfast was included among the state of Maine listings. NPR offers an interesting 2010 [interview with Julian Bond](#) talking about his personal memories of the *Green Book*.

Natural Resources

Ogunquit: We have a (Water) Problem

In the first two issues of The Breeze, we described environmental challenges facing our town and how the Ogunquit Watershed area carries pollutants into our waters like a dirty soup. In this third issue, we cover solutions presented by the Ogunquit Conservation Commission (OCC), in concurrence with the Sustainability Committee, to the Select Board on January 5th.

The OCC framed the problem to be addressed: "High Enterococci Fecal Indicator Bacteria levels due to NPS (non-point source pollution) in the Ogunquit River Estuary, Watershed, and recreational water."

Continued →

The Richard E. Payeur Preserve

This 35-acre forest of hardwoods, white pines and hemlocks is filled with outstanding double stone-walled cattle paths along its meandering **one-mile trail loop**. Beautiful wildflowers, at least two vernal pools and an open wetland meadow are in the headwater of the Levitt Stream which flows into the Ogunquit River. The land was donated by Richard Payeur in 2012, along with 20 other acres west of I-95, to the Great Works Regional Land Trust "to leave something for future generations" and help preserve the Ogunquit River Watershed. The Preserve is open to walk from dawn to dusk all year. Entrance to the trail is adjacent to the Dog Park, next to the Transfer Station at Spring Hill Road (off Berwick Rd).



Conservation Commission

Recommendations:

1. Provide Meaningful Notification to the public regarding high bacteria counts in recreational water. Signage is available from Maine Healthy Beaches to be put in visible locations, the Red Alert system is part of the Town website, and the Ogunquit Police Facebook page reaches many.
2. Conduct specific highly accurate (PhyloChip) testing to determine origin of fecal bacteria. Testing in 2014 showed human, wildlife, bird and dog. Specific locations are to be determined, but likely include Roby's Pond, Unnamed tributary east of Roby's Pond, and the Leavitt Stream area.
3. Enforce Ordinances, such as trespassing on dunes, dogs in the estuary and picking up dog waste to show we are serious about protecting our assets.
4. Hire a Beach Ranger to educate the public, collect data, and help enforcement.
5. Update the septic system database and require all property owners to be in compliance with the ordinance. Of the 303 properties with septic, 90 show not being pumped in the last five years or no data at all. Review strengthening the ordinance.
6. Stronger stormwater management through ordinance and/or working with other towns.
7. Prioritize and fund the purchase of Conservation Land to retain forested areas to protect the Watershed and maintain critical habitat for animals and plants.
8. Create a regional approach to the Ogunquit Watershed with York, South Berwick and Wells.

More Options for Outdoor Walks



Take a [Wednesday winter hike at Laudholm Farm](#) or explore the many trails with [Great Works Regional Land Trust](#)

Congratulations to Great Works for fundraising \$58,000 (going beyond their goal) to develop trails and parking access to the recent Boston Land purchase!

The Story Behind the Stamp

When Maine chose Edward Hopper's painting "Sea at Ogunquit" as the image for the stamp to commemorate its bicentennial on March 15, 2020, it was particularly exciting for the town but especially so for the Ogunquit Museum of American Art because that scene was painted on the grounds where the Museum now sits, at the entrance to Narrow Cove.

Hopper came to town for the first time to stay and paint in the summer of 1914. Renting a room for \$8 a week at Mrs. Daniel Perkin's boarding house on Shore Road, he met his future wife Jo Nivison, a painter, who was also staying there. Ogunquit was quite popular with artists from Boston and New York as it was easy to reach by train and trolley. Charles Woodbury and Hamilton Easter Field each offered art classes at their respective schools in Perkins Cove that were very well attended.

Although it isn't known why Hopper came to paint here, there is speculation that a 1913 article in *American Art News* mentioned Ogunquit noting that it was "adjacent to Prouts Neck where Winslow Homer lived his hermit's life for so many years...an attractive Maine Coast resort." He completed six paintings and one oil study of Ogunquit that summer including "Sea at Ogunquit." Most of them were painted from the vantage point of the Museum site where the views of the ocean, the rocks and the dories were spectacular.

He returned to paint in Ogunquit the summer of 1916 but because of inclement weather was unable to produce any work. He went on to paint on Monhegan Island in subsequent summers. The Whitney Museum in New York City owns the seven paintings and they're magnificent to see.

Use the titles listed below to look them up on the internet and enjoy the scenes that, although painted over 100 years ago, are still recognizable today.

- The Dories*
- Square Rock Ogunquit*
- Dories in a Cove*
- Road in Maine Farmland*
- Cove at Ogunquit*
- Rocks and Houses, Ogunquit*
- Sea at Ogunquit*

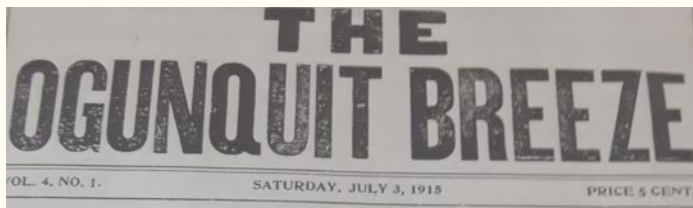


Sea at Ogunquit

Where Did Edward Hopper Set Up His Easel?

The Ogunquit Library will be hosting an online Gabby Gathering about Hopper's time in Ogunquit. Listen to speaker Chris Woodbury, retired engineer and grandson of Charles Woodbury.

[Thursday, Feb. 18, 2:30 PM via Zoom](#)



Sentiments Then & Now

"The Breeze has its ambitions. It sincerely aims to become the plane upon which all our home people and our summer guests may meet in a friendly interchange of experience and mutual suggestion. The Breeze opens its pages to frank and helpful expression of opinion likely to benefit our village or likely to interest its summer visitors. Our appeal is to all good citizens to aid in making The Breeze of more than ephemeral value. It appeals for the encouragement it intends to deserve."

The above is quoted from July 3, 1915. The Breeze continues to share those values with our added sentiments that we be free from discrimination, bias and hate speech in our community with inclusion for all.

