

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

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

Town Updates

- **Town Manager:** Pat Finnigan is working without a contract - is this wise for our Town?
- **Upcoming Elections:**
 - Absentee ballot requests are due by March 25th for March 30th special election; one candidate is on the ballot for Select Board
 - Nomination & other applications for the June 8th Annual Town Meeting are due April 9th
- **Comprehensive Plan & Space Needs Committees:** what's the hold-up on the appointments by the Select Board?

COVID 19: Don't forget
Even after infection or vaccine, you still
need to wear a mask, social distance
and check travel restrictions

Budget Considerations

What's the difference between a Town Budget and the operation of a business?

Town governments, unlike businesses, are not profit motivated. They are responsible for delivering services to ensure the safety of residents, workers and visitors, and to better the quality of life. Areas include local police & fire, beaches & parks, libraries, trash disposal, roadways, etc.

In Ogunquit, revenues are principally derived from property taxes, both residential and commercial. Other sources of monies include vehicle registrations, building permits, parking and other fees. There is a constant balancing act between tax affordability and the expected level of municipal services.

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Theatre Programming for Kids & Youth ages 8-18

Online classes & workshops are being offered by the [Ogunquit Playhouse](#) starting in March



ORA Food Taxi

Contributions to the **Biddeford Food Pantry** (open 3 days a week) can be **dropped off any day or night on the porch at 23 Spring St.**, off Berwick Rd, just after Woodland Hills.

- Food items, cleaning and personal care products. Hannaford gift cards are also welcome.

No names required.
THANK YOU!



Faces & Places

If you've visited the Heritage Museum and admired its surroundings or relaxed in your lawn chair while listening to a live band at Music in the Park wondering how this peaceful beautiful spot could exist in the middle of the chaos of a crowded town, then you've got **Dorothea Jacobs Grant** and her cousin Mary Jacobs Kennedy, who actually owned the land, to thank for it. We're fortunate that Dorothea established a fund to create and maintain the Dorothea Jacobs Grant Common.

If you've used the path that runs next to Barbara Dean's on Shore Road to enter the Marginal Way, you should also know that the Jacobs owned that land which was eventually deeded to the town for public access.

George Jacobs Jr. brought his family to Ogunquit in 1693 after George Jacobs Sr. 72, was hanged during the witchcraft trials in Salem, Massachusetts. In 1701, Jacobs and Josiah Littlefield purchased one of the original Gorges Grants of land which consisted of 200+ acres of land running from the York line on the west between what is now School Street and Obeds Lane (named after Dorothea's uncle Obediah) and east to the Atlantic Ocean.

Born in 1900 and a lifelong resident of Ogunquit, Dorothea grew up in the Jacobs family home built in 1800 which still exists today at 89 Shore Road. As part of the Sparhawk Hotel property, it is the house that you see displaying the "Happily Filled" sign next to the stone wall which is difficult to sit on because of the pointed stones on top of it! Dorothea's uncle Nehemiah P.M. Jacobs was responsible for building the original Sparhawk Hall in 1897 and rebuilding it again two years later after it burnt to the ground.



View of the Heritage Museum & Common on Obeds Lane



Dorothea Grant House on Shore Road

The Shore Road property passed through generations and came into Dorothea's possession upon the death of her mother Sarah Moody Jacobs Grant in 1936, and she became the last of the Jacobs to live on Shore Road. The original home was a great example of turn-of-the-century classic Maine architecture with grand porches.

Large swaths of open land, unpaved roads and a simpler life were Dorothea's world growing up. This may be why her lasting legacy related to her desire to preserve the natural land. Upon her death in 1983, the reading of her will revealed her deep love for animals and religious and charitable organizations. She created and funded the Dorothea Jacobs Grant Endowment Fund at the Ogunquit Memorial Library, bequeathed money to three cemeteries for the perpetual care of the Jacobs family plots, and gave to the Town of Ogunquit a lot of land along the Marginal Way situated at Israel's Head with the stipulation that the premises "shall forever be kept entirely in their natural state." Dorothea convinced her cousin, Mary Jacobs Kennedy, to donate land she owned called "Jacobs Field" to the Town of Ogunquit while, at the same time, Dorothea agreed to establish a special fund for its upkeep. However, complications arose with this agreement forcing the Town to purchase the land instead to avoid its being developed.

The list of contributors to the history of Ogunquit is filled with familiar family names like the Littlefields, the Perkins, the Weares, and the Staples, to name a few, but you must always include Dorothea Jacobs Grant in the mix.



**Happy International
Women's Day on
March 8th !**

Natural Resources

What You Can Do

The last two editions of The Breeze described the Ogunquit Watershed and how what you do on Your Land ends up in Our Waters. Protecting our swimming, boating, fishing, clamming, and health rests in individual actions, in addition to Town actions and ordinances.

When land is in a natural state, most rainfall soaks into meadows and underground aquifers. With new development, larger homes, more trees being cut, more septic systems, and more dogs, the rain water carrying increased pollutants flows into the Ogunquit River.

What Individuals Can Do to Protect our Water Quality

1. Use Organic Garden and Lawncare Products – Ogunquit was the first Town in Maine to ban fertilizers and pesticides on all property. Local vendors are aware of this, but it is the landowner who is responsible for abiding by the ordinance.
2. Maintain Septic Systems and Sewers – Report any issues. Per ordinance, Ogunquit Septic Systems must be cleaned every 3-5 years and the date reported to the Town.

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Center for Wildlife

Now Open to the Public in their New Space!

Established and operating out of a ranch house for over 30 years, our neighbors near Mt. A. are launching their expanded and upgraded facilities. The CFW runs a hospital for injured and orphaned wildlife as well as offers educational programs. The new buildings meet their space needs for the clinic, visitors and more!

Photos courtesy CFW



3. Contain the Rain – Plant a “rain garden” to capture run-off. Add soakage trenches. Direct downspouts away from paved/impervious surfaces.
4. Contain Fecal Matter – Be sure there are no sewerage discharges on your property. Scoop all pet poop and put in the trash.
5. De-ice with sand instead of salt and chemicals.
6. Don't pave your property – Gravel or stone allows for better drainage. Check out pervious pavement.

More tips coming for the Spring Issue!

Sustainability Committee

This Committee has been working hard to our Town's benefit! Visit their new website for lots of information on beach erosion, heat pumps, stormwater management, shoreline zoning, low impact development and more:

<https://sustainabilityogunquit.org/>

Support Great Works Land Trust

ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION

Online! Many new & returning items
Sunday, March 7- Saturday, March 13

The Cove Beginning: Part I

In the beginning the Josias River, which originates at Mt. Agamenticus, didn't empty directly into the Atlantic Ocean at Perkins Cove as it does today. Instead it meandered down from the mountain towards the ocean forming a waterfall a few miles outside of the village next to which Josiah Littlefield built his sawmill in 1686, then continued on its way through Flat Pond at the base of the falls through the grasslands beyond the footbridge, then veered sharply to the east forming a crescent shaped beach north of Adams Island before emptying out into the ocean at Oarweed Cove.

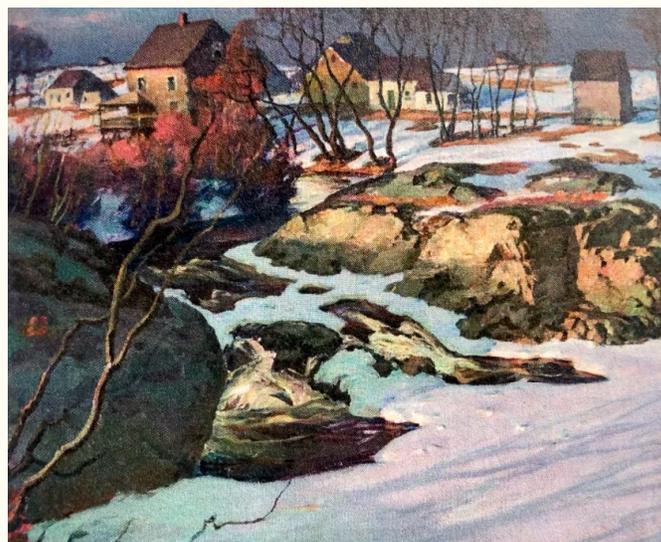
The fishermen used the riverbank to beach their Ogunquit dories in the winter and in bad weather because no harbor existed at the time. Although the moorings out in the Fish Cove were safe in the summer and during good weather, it was still necessary to constantly monitor the winds and tides because a bad storm could endanger their boats if they weren't constantly alert.

This situation was remedied on Saturday June 6th, 1857 when the Fish Cove Harbor Corporation held its first meeting with the goal of constructing a canal through lands owned by Charles Weare and George Adams that would connect the waters of Flat Pond with those of Fish Cove in an effort to give fishermen easy access to a protected beach.

To raise the money to do this they created stock in the corporation for \$25 a share for any fisherman interested. In exchange for their money they could use the canal AND the rocky land on the oceanside to build their fish houses. The rocky land was divided into numbered lots that were thrown into a hat and drawn at random with each \$25 contribution getting you one lot. Fifteen corporation members bought 27 shares and among them they bought most of the land in the Cove for \$675.

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ORA has become a 'Friend of the Chamber of Commerce' and looks forward to partnerships that enrich our town



Josias River Falls 1919 by Joseph Davol (1864-1923) who arrived in Ogunquit in 1885



Adams Island

"So while the fishermen built their fish houses on the rocks, construction of the canal began. The river was dammed just before it veered to the east, the old corn field between Woodbury (Cove) Lane and the Adams House was harrowed for the new riverbed, and the Josiah's [sic] backed up and up into the marshes for weeks.

"When the builders finally broke the dam, the rush of water could be heard a half mile back toward the village. But out it went as planned, emptying into the Fish Cove. Now the fishermen could row their boats from the Cove to the river, giving them easy access to a protected and safe anchorage."

Excerpt from The Cove, 1976



Ogunquit Residents Alliance

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