

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

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

Town News

Retraction: Due to a lack of a quorum at the March election, the vacated Select Board seat will remain unoccupied until the results of the June 8th election

- Absentee Ballots: available May 7-June 3rd
Drop box on east side of Dunaway
- Annual Town Meeting (election) and Warrant Articles
June 8th: Polls open 8am-8pm
- Two candidates for Select Board are running unopposed
- KKW Water and Sewer District candidates for re-election
- Competitive races for Budget Review & School Board
- Lieutenant Matt Buttrick takes over as Interim Town Manager May 15th
- Pat Finnigan finishes her role as Town Manager May 30th.
She will be greatly missed.

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Every Shot Helps!

Ogunquit Fuel Initiative

The flowers are in bloom, the furnaces are turning off and all of this while our fuel prices are increasing. So our Ogunquit Residents Alliance Fuel Initiative is preparing for another cost-effective collaboration between residents/business owners and our vendors for the upcoming 2021-2022 season.

We had a successful year with 35 subscribers but a dozen more hopefuls who were too late to enroll. Don't let this happen to you. Anyone who wants a reminder please don't hesitate to send us your e-mail. The Fuel Application Form is available on the [ORA website](#) or at the Dunaway. We will be contacting you soon.

We received thanks from folks. One wrote the following; "We were very pleased with this program and appreciate ORA's initiative...it was a totally seamless process for us and saved us money." Stay well and enjoy the warmth.

Happy 5th Anniversary
Ogunquit Residents Alliance



A civic association established to build community, advocate on behalf of all residents, and maintain our quality of life and the environment

To receive email news from ORA

Sign up at:

<https://www.ogunquitresidents.com/contact.html>



Articles on the June Ballot

Two Citizen Petitions

These are generally drafted by members of the community who believe a needed addition or change would benefit the Town. A petition may stand alone or in opposition to a warrant proposed by the Select Board.

Article #6 Conservation Land Reserve

Fund: specifically for future land purchase

A Vote for \$75,000 will replenish the funds that contributed to the successful purchase of the Boston Farm as Conservation Land. With time, fewer parcels of land will be available to protect our watershed and to pass on to future generations for hiking and recreation. **OR**

A Vote for \$25,000 will contribute to re-starting the fund with a smaller amount. It currently stands at \$0 dollars.



Article #7 Term Limits for Planning

Board:

A Yes Vote will conform to the current Charter on Term Limits for Select Board and Budget Review Committee, limiting members to 2 three year terms. Although Planning Board members are not elected, this Board is required by State law. **OR**

A No Vote will allow members to remain on the Board indefinitely if re-appointed. Without limits, there has been little turnover with members serving for many years.

Continued →

Learn more about the effects of artificial light, the benefits of **Dark Sky Lighting** and what you can do on your property

The Legacy of Stewardship

Many of us are lucky to have inherited a memorable family item: perhaps a special memento, a favorite jewel, a valuable piece of furniture, an irreplaceable portrait, things that have been passed through the generations, possibly traveling across different borders with love and care, just as we will care for them. For they are not owned by us forever...we are only their stewards while we are here, mindful of their future recipients.

And so it is with our land. In Ogunquit over the decades, fields and cranberry bogs have been developed, pine forests have been cut down making way for houses, lawns and pavement, dunes have eroded and so much more. While this is called 'progress' in many quarters, with the information garnered from the Sustainability Committee, The Conservation Committee and the good works of our land trusts, we should all be reminded that our land and rivers are perishable; that we need mitigation techniques around our watershed. We hear from some newcomers that the town needs to be developed...but wait, isn't its current state why they came? Surely there's enough profit in restorations rather than demolition, development and clear cutting.

It's a heavy legacy to be responsible for other's futures, but we are effortlessly capable of that reach with proper stewardship.

Zoning Ordinance: Lighting

Article #8 Proposed Changes

A Vote in Favor will allow strings of lights for outdoor seating at type 2 restaurants and outside at retail businesses. Retail stores will have no restrictions on the number, height and placement of these lights. These new allowances will be permanent (post Covid).

A Vote Against will leave the existing Ordinances unchanged whereby string lights are currently allowed only in "live bushes or live trees as part of the landscape."

The two positive aspects of this proposed article can be handled separately. If restaurants need more immediate outside lighting for safety, the Town can approve that immediately under it's current Covid Emergency powers. If the Town proposes to finally adopt the national Dark Skies lighting program, it can be clearly proposed on the November ballot.

Faces & Places

Our Select Women

We say we are proud to live in a Town that claims to promote inclusiveness. But with the exception of our Town Manager who has served us with distinction, we have had a scarcity of women's guidance over these years on the Select Board. Surely we are missing out on the dimension of leadership that women bring. As Governor Ann Richards of Texas once said, "After all, Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did. She just did it backwards and in high heels."

The statistics bear out the fact that few women are elected to municipal office. Since Ogunquit was incorporated forty one years ago, only eight women have served on the Select Board, this compared to forty six men. The roster of these women's resumes reads like a 'who's who': Helen Butler, Ellen Tucceri, Evelyn Judkins, Karen Maxwell, Jacqueline Bevins, Barbara Dailey, Madeline Mooney and now Lindsey Perry. Among them, outstanding backgrounds ranging from Psychiatric Nursing, Environmental Advocacy, Marketing, Finance, Realty and Business Ownership. Interestingly, after completing their public service, they returned to their worlds of work or other volunteerism. The common aptitude they brought to their leadership was their interpersonal skills.

Women's exceptional talents are honed in the place that the fading traditional role separation designates them to be... that of the family manager. So it is natural for women in government to be superior deal-makers, problem solvers, and listeners. The old adage that men are judged on their potential and women on their accomplishments, although criticized in the job market, is ironically useful for those who've been practicing communication and compromise instinctively, throughout.

For the women who came before us, starting in 1990 for Helen who won with 67 write-in votes, for Ellen who became Chair and was elected to three consecutive terms, to Evelyn who received the 2nd highest vote in a field of six, to Karen who received the highest vote ever and served as Chair, to Jackie who served 10 years, to Barbara who served as Chair for five years, and for Madeline who also served as Chair, we thank them. And lastly, thanks to Lindsey who serves currently while also handling an important legislative environmental job and who promises with her intelligence, integrity and youthfulness, to be a continuing presence in public service.

Don't let the number of women on the Board remain at eight. Please consider running for office. It's time for you to make a difference and because of you, Ogunquit may have a broader perspective in our little piece of heaven!

Shipwreck!



An amazing site has emerged at low tide on the Ogunquit River just north of the bridge to the Main Beach. The remains are believed to be those of the *Enterprise*, a 55 foot schooner. Identified and photographed by Newell Perkins whose deep knowledge of Ogunquit's history is unparalleled, his generosity in sharing his knowledge about this boat is of great benefit to us. The *Enterprise* was last owned and sailed by Capt. Charles Moses Perkins (1819-1898), father of Moses S. Perkins who lived on Beach Street. A letter that Ed Wear sent to Roby Littlefield confirmed that the *Enterprise* was abandoned by the riverbank just north of the new bridge after the ship was found unsafe for service.



It is assumed that this occurred around the 1880s, before the bridge was built, because the mast was still on the boat for some time after it was beached. Boys would jump off the ropes of the mast into the river for fun.

Back in the 1800's, Wharf Lane was lined with shacks and storehouses vital to the health of the successful shipping businesses that existed in Ogunquit at the time. Its location at the intersection of the ocean and the tidal river made it an ideal docking spot for schooners to load and unload their cargo there. The *Enterprise* was probably one of those boats.



Natural Resources

Local Energy Efficient Home



For many years, Jennifer Walker, Ogunquit realtor, dreamed of building her own home following green energy protocols built with environmentally conscious products and techniques. She accomplished that goal in the past year with the only builder she interviewed interested in whole house, environmentally friendly design, Dave LaValle Building.

They collaborated on her research, drew up plans (and even made a few mistakes) to get to a home as close to net zero as the budget would allow on a small triangular lot that still had to meet Local, State and Federal guidelines regarding lot coverage, set-backs, septic and well regulations...

Some of the decisions included:

1. Facing the house East/Southeast on the lot to allow for the greatest sun on the rooftop solar panels, which generated 15-20 kw watts of the 35 watts needed daily during the winter
2. Spray foam insulation which keeps the house above 57 even with the heat turned off for periods of time
3. Mini splits for heating and air conditioning
4. An incredibly efficient hot water heater with a dehumidifier included
5. An air exchanger from Germany that keeps any condensation out of the air tight home as there is a swim against the tide pool on the lower floor

Continued ↗

Attend the 1st Annual Native Plant Fair

May 22 from 10am-1pm

Beach Plum Farm

Info: healthyriversogunquit.org

There is no fossil fuel equipment in the home. In addition, other choices include an Elgin septic system with a 20x20 stacked leaching bed made from rubber tires and an “I Spring” well filtering system that has filters manufactured from coconut hulls.

As Covid restrictions lessen, Jennifer, who continues to look for other energy efficient, environmentally safe options for her home (such as native plantings and a future electric car(s) to hook up to her two charging stations) hopes to have an open house.

In the meantime, to hear more about this incredible home, [see her discussion at the start of the Town Sustainability Committee meeting](#) in March.

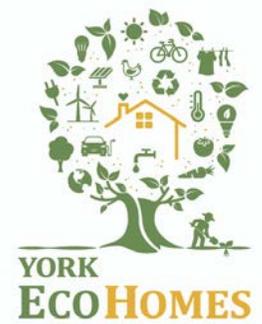
York EcoHomes

Launched in January 2021, this community-based program offers monthly recommendations on how we can live more sustainably at home. Residential buildings account for more than a quarter of all of emissions, so home-based efforts will be key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting renewable energy.

Currently reaching more than 400 members, you don't have to be a York resident to join.

February's recommendation listed three options for joining solar farms; in March an LED light bulb exchange (there are still free light bulbs available!) and the next issue will focus on composting as part of their waste reduction campaign.

<https://yorkreadyfor100.org/ecohomes/>



Help Seed Clam Beds with volunteers from the Shellfish Conservation Commission

Friday May 7th at 3:30 pm

Park at Footbridge and walk south on the west side of the river to the Littlefield Village area



Learn more about marine research at

<https://downeastinstitute.org/>

The Cove Bridge

When Moses Lyman Staples turned his home on the riverside of the Cove into a guest house he soon realized that he had to build a bridge.

By the late 1880's, activity on the oceanside of the Cove had increased with more fish shacks bringing more fishermen there to live. Their busy lives piqued the curiosity of the guests across the way who wanted to cross over to get a closer look at what was going on.



The first bridge that Staples built was a small, rickety structure which must have been difficult to navigate due to the long skirts worn at the time.

However this didn't deter the women from using it and they were soon socializing with the fishermen as well as the artists who were added to the mix when Easter Field opened his art school in 1911. After a number of years of maintaining the bridge, Staples sold it to the Ogunquit Village Corporation who oversaw construction of a series of fixed footbridges.



First Bridge ca. 1900

The canal that the fishermen dug to create the safe harbor for their boats had slowly eroded and by 1900 required constant re-widening and deepening to maintain. The Corporation soon recognized that to save the town's fishing industry, they needed help to rebuild the harbor and unsuccessfully appealed for federal funding to improve the Cove in 1910 and 1928 .



Early bridges

Recognition finally came with the passage of The River and Harbor Act in 1935 when the US War Department sent engineers to Ogunquit to survey the Cove. Their 1939 report recommended digging a 900 foot long 40 foot wide channel from the Cove to the pond and then a dredge of the marsh to create a 5 acre boat basin. Ogunquit agreed to contribute \$22,000 to the project with an additional \$10,000 through private subscribership. The War Department added that no Federal permit would be issued for the existing fixed bridge and instead required reconstruction of a **drawbridge** with sufficient horizontal clearance for navigation.

The start of World War II deferred the government work but Ogunquit decided to proceed with a smaller version of the War Department plan floating a \$35,000 bond to pay for it. A dredge was brought in and work on the basin began.



First Dredging 1940

The dedication ceremony of the basin on July 3, 1941 included Governor Sewall riding up the new channel with Henry Strater in his tuna boat the *Bluefin II* to cut the ribbon strung across the Josias River in front of 3,000 spectators.



First drawbridge ca. 1942

The new drawbridge was soon completed at a cost of \$12,979 financed by the Ogunquit Village Corporation. Unfortunately it became clear at their June 1942 meeting that it didn't meet the requirements of the War Department. In a letter they were informed that a Coast Guard patrol boat was unable to enter the cove and improvements or changes would have to be made. The necessary improvements were made to the drawbridge in 1944 and the Department of Defense expanded the cove in 1951, 1960 and 1993.