

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

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

What Happened to the Conservation Commission?

To say that the Conservation Commission is an essential asset to Ogunquit is not an exaggeration. Too often, the importance that volunteer service plays in a Town's character and integrity is lost as years pass and history is forgotten. When this happens and its significance is taken for granted, unfortunate things can occur.

Such is the case of the Conservation Commission.

Its slow systematic dismantling, in large part by this Select Board, has been progressing for some time now, culminating in its final demise when they publicly removed a member in good standing resulting in the resignation of the Commission Chair last month and subsequently one of its long serving members. Could the impetus of all this be related to the fact that certain members weren't regarded as "Friends of the Select Board"? (FOTSB)

A little history is necessary to help you understand what has been destroyed. In accordance with the mandates of the newly adopted March 2003 Comprehensive Plan, updated in October, 2004, the first Conservation Commission was established, composed of seven residents and one non-voting member as the working body of the Commission.

Their daunting Mission Statement included:

"Protect Ogunquit's waterways, beaches and wetlands; Map, index and preserve the Town's open spaces including marshes, wetlands and wildlife habitats; and Establish a Conservation Land Trust for the acquisition, development and public use of conservation land easements"

Report of the Conservation Commission,
2003 Annual Ogunquit Town Report

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Town News

Election Results

- Carole Aaron, sole candidate, joins Select Board
- Peter Kahn is elected to Budget Review Committee
- Articles 4 & 5 Pass: Liquor or entertainment license now has to come out of the consent agenda to allow for public comment
- All Budget Articles pass including Statistical Revaluation
- Funding for Comprehensive Plan passes by three votes
- Ogunquit votes similar to State: Yes to all three Referendum ballot items

Covid 19 Updates

- [Covid Vaccine Booster Clinic](#) November 20th at the Fire Hall. See link to register!
- **York County Risk** has increased from High to Very High as of November 4th
- Virus in [Ogunquit sewage](#) at highest levels October 4th and 25th



Is this the anonymous Election campaigning you want for Ogunquit?

Conservation Commission

Through the years, with hard work and perseverance plus the help of countless volunteers who believed in their mission, Commission members have continued to work to preserve and protect the Town. Although they encountered opposition to some plans along the way, they always relied on the truth and sincerity of their message to convince the Town of their good intentions and much was accomplished.

Because of the extraordinary work of the Conservation Commission related to the lawn pesticide ban, in 2013 Down East Magazine awarded Ogunquit the 33rd Down East Environmental Award. See the link to the article entitled ["OGUNQUIT LEADS THE WAY."](#)

What has **NEVER CHANGED** is the dedication of the members of this Commission and their efforts to come together and reach consensus on issues that they think are paramount to maintaining the health and welfare of Ogunquit. Their successful campaign to gain approval by the voters to purchase the **Boston Land** was a major accomplishment this year.

What **HAS CHANGED** is this Select Board's attitude toward the Commission. Neglecting to recognize and process new member applications as well as failing to follow-up on Commission recommendations made to them in January, 2021 tells you a lot. At a time when environmental urgency should drive endorsement, dismantling this Commission does not benefit Ogunquit.

Share Your Thanksgiving!

Local Families continue to rely on the Biddeford Food Pantry.

Please drop off non-perishable items, donations and gift cards on the porch at [23 Spring St.](#) off Berwick Rd.



Conservation Commission Accomplishments

- Tested and reported first phase of the Josias River contamination report
- Established a Conservation Land Trust Fund
- GIS mapping and indexing of open conservation land and green spaces
- Fencing for the protection and restoration of beach dune system
- Ogunquit Beach and River clean-up days
- Ecologically implicit site walks of new subdivisions and planning proposals
- Prepared and submitted grant opportunities
- Created amendments to Zoning Ordinance to limit pesticides and chemical fertilizers
- Developed check-list of "Conservation Strategies" for subdivisions
- Ogunquit River Pollution Study Program
- Conservation Land acquisitions
- Sponsored Workshops and Seminars
- Open Space acquisition Plan
- Storm Water Mapping and Management Plans
- Shoreland Overlay District Stream Protection
- Greening of Ogunquit
- Installation of Bio-Filtration Systems at Main Beach parking lot
- Snow piles moved away from the estuary
- Increased fines for damage caused by dog waste
- Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Development Plan
- Protected Maine's largest Piping Plover nests

Of Note

Ongoing priorities of the Commission were presented to and ignored by the Select Board on January 5, 2021. These included testing to identify specific sources and increased notification to the public of recreational water pollution; ordinance enforcement on the estuary, dunes, and septic systems; and development of a stormwater ordinance. See [Conservation Recommendations](#)

Natural Resources

Where Does All the Water Come From?

The Ogunquit River Watershed (right map) which originates in South Berwick, drains the towns of Wells, Ogunquit, South Berwick and York. It includes the main stem of the Ogunquit River and Green, Bragdon and Stevens Brooks in Wells.

The watershed includes a number of small ponds and wetlands and drains 24 acres. Moody Beach and

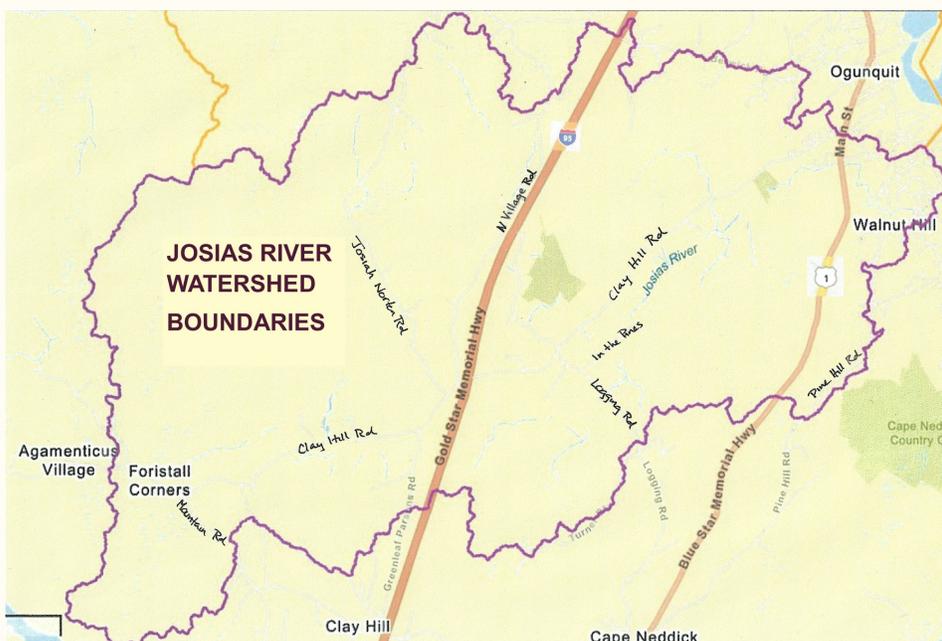


Ogunquit Beach are its significant water features. The River travels east and southeast through York and Ogunquit. Along its route, it forms a long salt marsh estuary, between two barrier beaches, Moody and Ogunquit. The salt marsh estuary, located within the Rachael Carson Wildlife Refuge, creates important habitat for Piping Plovers, turtles, and other important plants and organisms.

The main stem of the Josias River (bottom map) is 5.75 miles long and drops 220 feet over its length, and drains 7.4 square miles. Clay Hill Brook and Muddy Brook are the significant water features. Josias empties in portions of

York and Ogunquit, and also includes numerous small ponds and wetlands which provide valuable habitat for rare plants and threatened wildlife. The majority of the watershed is undeveloped forest land, with scattered agricultural land and small parcels of private conservation land. Continued development along Rt #1 and near the coast has the potential to further degrade water quality.

Elevated fecal bacteria found throughout both watersheds has caused them to be listed as **impaired**. Sources of this pollution are likely caused by human, animal waste, stormwater runoff, malfunctioning septic and sewer systems, and chemicals.



Continuing development throughout the watersheds results in increased impervious surfaces leading to greater runoff, erosion and sedimentation.

Find your house on these interactive maps from [Healthy Rivers Ogunquit \(HeRO\)](#).

If you missed...
the initial Planning Board Workshop presenting in-depth information about the Ogunquit and Josias Watersheds go to [Watershed Workshop](#) and accompanying [Documents](#)

Faces & Places

HELLO RICHARD!

The Poet Laureate of Ogunquit says that the town has charisma, however it is truly the poet himself, Richard Perkins who has the charisma!

For the 91 years that Richard has graced us with his presence, he has been synonymous with, and as popular as, this town itself! His body can barely contain his exuberance as he talks about his beginnings as the jitterbugging king of the region, winning contests at the dance pier in Wells, spreading the excitement and enthusiasm in whatever he's engaged in.

Raised by his grandmother, he became a gourmet of sorts developing an appetite (pun intended) for both cooking and entertaining. Earning a living in the 'shoulder seasons' sent him to the glamour of working in restaurants in New York City and Palm Beach where he also began modeling, and ultimately bringing these talents home to where his heart was in Maine. His fame spread as he became popular as an artist's model and where today we can see him posed on canvas in some locations toasting to our viewing him.



His fifty years as a restaurateur began modestly with a small soup shop in the Village, then on to a place with a closet-sized kitchen where only making casseroles was possible, continuing to locations in buildings now known as The Chamber of Commerce, Clay Hill Farm and That Place.

Continued ↗

If you missed...

the dazzling presentation by the Town's Performing Arts Committee, watch the [video](#) (at time 16:10) on its history and upcoming events.

[See their schedule here](#)



After five decades of nourishing us at Poor Richards, Richard hung up his apron some years back. Now he begins the promise of each day at 7AM with his Breakfast Club at the Village Market and toasts his gratitude for each day at the cocktail hour with his partner Robert as he considers the possibility of entertaining again.

And in between and over the years, he has written his odes; to holidays, to memories, to food, to friends, to animals, to places, to nature, and to so much more. Here is his....



Reverie About Longevity by Richard Perkins

*When we are young being old is far away
Nary a thought! We'd be there someday!
Suddenly when you are past your prime
The word longevity! Pops into your mind*

*You hope to continue having a long life
A 100-year-old birthday! Would be nice!
Enjoying your existence and longevity
Having a ball! Beating life's expectancy!*

*We live much longer in this modern world
So I'll endeavor! To give 105 a whirl!
Now that's one hell of long duration
If it happens! I'll expect a standing ovation!*

*By any chance if I should live to be that old
My request! Which I hope is not too bold?
At the Leavitt Theatre on the marquee
Richard Perkins is 105! Whoopee!*

