

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

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

Town News

- Co-Chair and Secretary resign from **Historic Preservation Commission**, leaving a single member
- Two members resign from **Board of Assessment Review**, leaving a single member; one new member appointed
- **September 9th** deadline to submit citizens petition
- Select Board voted to put **ten warrant articles** on the November 8th ballot. See the October *Breeze* for more information.

Special event at the Agamenticus Field in memory of tennis teacher, **Bob Hatem**, September 15th at 10am

CONTENTS

- Town News
- Ogunquit Historic Preservation Dissolves
- Why Not Fix the Police Station?
- Property Tax Relief for Homesteaders
- ORA Fuel Initiative Update
- Showcase on Electric Vehicles
- Our Water District
- Talk on Maine's Fishing Heritage
- Reports from Maine Healthy Beaches

GOING, GOING, GONE

The August 16th resignation of 2 members of the Ogunquit Historic Preservation Commission (OHPC) whose withdrawal letters were published in the August 22nd Select Board Meeting packet ([pages 42, 43](#)) signaled the demise of one of the most important Commissions in Town whose mission is to protect and preserve the historic charm of Ogunquit.

A contributing factor to this avoidable turn of events was 2 years of persistent interference and control of OHPC meetings and operations by the Select Board that made it difficult for the Commission to function properly as any progress made was often interrupted and stymied.

When an alternate member on the OHPC was told by the Select Board that sitting on the Planning Board at the same time created a conflict of interest, her resignation from the OHPC in order to remain on the PB was a serious setback for the Commission. Her invaluable research into historic properties had accelerated its efforts to FINALLY complete the list of designated places for the historic register. Rather than recognizing that the OHPC needed further bolstering after this significant loss, the Select Board instead continued to hamper its work, denying them the right to appoint her their "Researcher" (permitted in their Ordinance) with no explanation for their decision.

When all the Town committees were required by the Select Board to meet with them individually to report on their progress, the OHPC worked to assemble a formal presentation that would do this. Their difficulty in getting on the agenda was problematic. After months of waiting, and when their opportunity to appear finally came, the Board informed the OHPC that their presentation could only be a few minutes long. Their subsequent 3 month delay in approving a letter that the OHPC created to be sent to owners of historic properties further scuttled plans to move things forward.

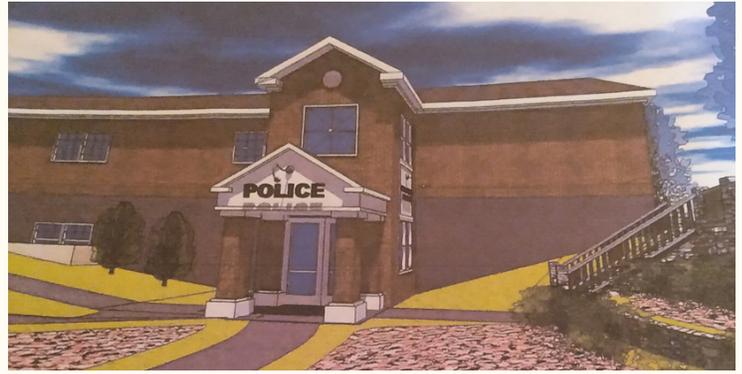
The Select Board's lack of regard for the importance of the OHPC was apparent in their failure to support a group they knew was working diligently DESPITE the obstacles that were constantly put in their way.

The role and duties of this Commission are spelled out in the Ogunquit Historic Preservation Ordinance ([Chapter 97](#)) which include evaluating and advising on demolition and construction, and the establishment of a register of historic properties.

By disregarding and undervaluing the work of the OHPC, the Select Board failed to fulfill its mission to uphold its ordinances and protect the character of Ogunquit.

Why Not Fix the Police Station?

The Police Department is the most important component of the Town buildings that needs permanent fixing. A grievance by the Police Union, which prompted an immediate temporary renovation and cleaning, and support from residents at the recent [Town Visioning](#) workshop signal the attention required to their space.



2008-2009 drawing of front entrance

A new effort by a group of residents has provided a Citizen's Petition with support from 114 voter signatures. This proposal will allot existing funds to design, engineer and cost estimate renewed plans for the police in a renovation that will provide them with three times the space they have now and fully use the lower level of the Dunaway Center. If voted favorably in November, work on this plan over the winter would provide a concrete option to be prepared and ready for the June ballot.

The Citizen's Petition reads: "Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to provide for pre-construction costs to Expand and Upgrade the Police Department Headquarters on the lower level of the Dunaway Community Center for the Police Department?"

The preliminary plans that were developed by the Town Building Needs Committee in 2008-2009 should be re-considered and potentially applied to revised plans, along with participation by the members of the police department. The design from 2008-2009 dedicated the Lower Level of the Dunaway to the police facility. These plans were a combined product of Port City Architecture, Allied Cook Construction and Becker Structural Engineers, and part of an overall proposal for the Dunaway and Old Village School.

A few of the improvements in this original plan for the police space included: heating, ventilation, air conditioning, humidity control and more efficient energy consumption; energy efficient windows with more natural light for office space; an attractive reception area with access to public washrooms; a secure sally port and a booking area away from public view.

The 2008-2009 proposal was approved by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting that year with the idea of future funding but never acted upon by the then Select Board.

Hasn't its time finally arrived?



Current police department entrance



Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens

You may qualify, as of April 2023, to have your property taxes frozen

Deadline for applying
December 1, 2022

[Check it out](#)

ORA Fuel Initiative
Update for 2022-2023

[See Website](#)

Want to know more about
electric vehicles?

Sunday Sept 11th 1-4PM

[Wells Library](#)



Natural Resources

Our Water District ([KKW](#))



Superintendent
Steve Cox
and Assistant
Superintendent
Scott Minor love
to "talk water."



Branch Brook

The Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District (KKWWD) serves nearly 15,000 customers from Biddeford Pool to the Cliff House in York. The primary source of water comes from Branch Brook (surface water), and eight groundwater wells also contribute to meet the water demands of customers. Treatment varies based on the chemistry and clarity of the source water. Generally, the groundwater is less expensive to treat because it is already naturally filtered through the vegetation, sand and gravel that comprise the aquifer.

All sources are treated to meet the EPA and State requirements of the Surface Water Rules and Groundwater Rules respectively. In addition, the Water District initiated removal of PFAS ("forever chemicals") as soon as it was detected using two pressure filters that are run in series: GAC (granular activated carbon) and an ionic resin media.

The use of the [U.S. Geological Survey Gauging Stations](#) has been a helpful tool for assessing flow rates since Branch Brook was added 13 years ago. The KKWWD treatment plant operators can see the variations in stream flow from intense rainfall and can adjust treatment strategies from predictable changes in the water quality of Branch Brook.

During the summer months of July and August especially, the Water District can buy water from the neighboring water utilities both North and South. In turn, KKWWD provides water to those water utilities when they are sometimes in need of water. Water rates between utilities essentially reimburses treatment and power costs only.

When asked about the effects of climate change that KKWWD is experiencing, Steve and Scott acknowledge that **storm intensity** seems to have occasionally increased, and some prolonged dry spells have been challenging, but KKWWD's diversity in sources helps them manage. Branch Brook only has one dam, located at the treatment plant and, with bridge improvements under Route One over a decade ago, the dangers of flooding have been reduced.

However, since a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, more flooding may be generally forecasted as the world heats up. In the case of severe flooding in Branch Brook, the plant operators can shut down the treatment plant and rely on the other water sources until the flooding subsides. The worst recent floods were in 2006, followed by 2007 where the highest flow reached 310 cubic feet per second (CFS). In contrast, a very heavy rain this past June measured only about 50 CFS. Water flow this July was well below average, sometimes at only 5 CFS.

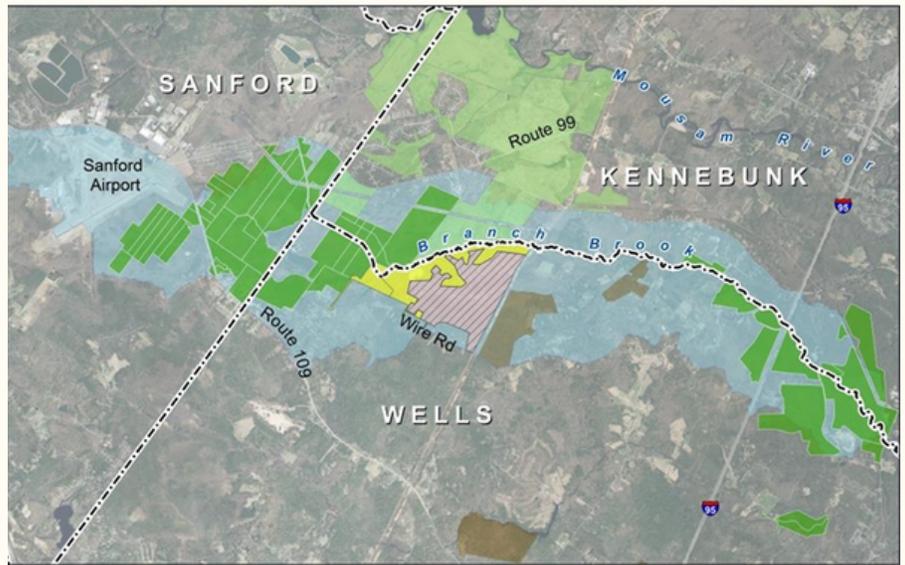
KKWWD produces a semi-annual "What's On Tap" newsletter sent to all customers. It contains reports on improvements (such as new technology water meter installation) along with details on water quality testing. Some of the Conservation Tips include adjusting automatic sprinklers on cool or overcast days, and letting the water run for 2 minutes after it has been sitting for several days to minimize the potential exposure to lead in private plumbing components found in homes built before 1986.



Water Treatment Facility

Did You Know?

- KKWWD was established in 1921. Ogunquit added a trustee in 1980 when it separated from Wells, hence the historical exclusion of Ogunquit in the District name. Fred Lynk, our current elected Trustee, took over after many years of representation by Richard Littlefield.
- The distribution system includes 207 miles of water main, and over 2200 acres of protected water shed (40 acres added last year). KKWWD continues to explore additional groundwater sources as population and demand increase.
- The new water meters can alert abnormal customer usage indicating a possible leak, frequently from a toilet or irrigation system. Since the new meters have been installed, leak abatements have been reduced by nearly \$17,000, which saves water, minimizes unnecessary cost to customers, and reduces District administration time and effort.



■ KKW Portion of Wells Barrens ■ TNC Portion of Wells Barrens
■ KKW Property ■ Great Works Regional Land Trust
■ Branch Brook Watershed ■ Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

One Silver Lining to Drought?

We've been fortunate to have little contamination this summer on Riverside and Little Beaches. This is related to minimal stormwater runoff into the estuary because of the lack of rain. Is this the future? Will we have a different scenario next summer? If so, do we have solutions?

Maine Healthy Beaches

Enterococci Bacteria Counts

Safety threshold in marine waters: 104 MPN/100mL

Date/Count	Riverside	Little Beach
May 31, 2022	203	110
June 2, 2022	379	160
June 14, 2022	1046	226
June 15, 2022	10	63
June 21, 2022	less than 10	less than 10
June 29, 2022	less than 10	less than 10
July 5, 2022	10	less than 10
July 12, 2022	31	119
July 13, 2022	NA	less than 10
July 19, 2022	96	less than 10
July 21, 2022	less than 10	NA
July 26, 2022	less than 10	10
Aug 2, 2022	less than 10	31
Aug 9, 2022	10	75
Aug 16, 2022	84	less than 10
Aug 23, 2022	less than 10	10
Aug 30, 2022	31	less than 10

[Hear Speaker Crystal Canney](#)

from **Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation**
 A Statewide Coalition addressing industrial aquaculture and protecting fishing and recreation

Thursday, September 15th from 2:30-3:30
 Ogunquit Public Library