



*Serving neighbors along Bay Point Lane, Grand Marsh Bay Road, Paul Bunyan Road, Peninsula Road and Roaring Brook Road in Corea, Maine*

Paul Bunyan Road Association

# NEWSLETTER

April 2018

P.O. Box 119, Corea, ME 04624

[www.coreabythesea.org](http://www.coreabythesea.org)

## **Hurray, Hurray, Winter's Over... We Hope**

What a winter! It started off without much fanfare—relatively mild temperatures and no snow to speak of. But about Christmastime things changed. We had a white Christmas for the first time in a couple of years. And then the weather went downhill... if you're not a fan of cold, wind, and snow. In addition to frequent short snow storms we had several strong wind storms that snapped trees along Paul Bunyan and Grand Marsh Bay roads. And even though the snow didn't stick around for long, the power outages seemed to. Things didn't let up as we got close to official spring; they got worse. Easter usually means that winter is over, but not this year! With Easter falling on April 1<sup>st</sup>, we hoped that the March 27<sup>th</sup> nor'easter—our fourth in as many weeks and which dumped up to two feet of snow on our peninsula—was the last hurrah of a rather hard winter. But on April 7<sup>th</sup> many of us awoke to a brief but heavy snowfall. There was enough wet snow to make what we all hope is the last snowman of the year. Some of the winter scenes our neighbors captured begin on page 4.



**The Last Snowman?**



**An All-Too-Common Sight!** Strong winds caused several power outages this past winter.

## **Sherri Cox, Gouldsboro's New Town Manager**

Starting in mid-March our Town has a new manager, Sherri Cox. Our Select Board named Sherri as Gouldsboro Town Manager on March 9<sup>th</sup>, the day our former Town Manager left for a new position as Town Manager of North Hampton, NH. We had over 20 applications but didn't have to go far to fill the position. After interviewing four of the candidates, our Select Board chose Gouldsboro resident Sherri Cox, who started work on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Sherri had served Gouldsboro previously as Deputy Clerk and Town Offices Office Manager, last starting in February of this year. Her experience with the Town and her background in finance made her an ideal fit for the post. To read more, see Jack Dodson's April 8<sup>th</sup> article in the *Ellsworth American*: <https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/maine-news/gouldsboro-names-new-town-manager-2/>.





## **From Mary Vauthy, PBRA President**

Happy Spring! By the time you read this I hope some warmer drier weather reaches Corea. As Barb Stewart wrote in her recent FB post, “Spring springs a little differently in DownEast Maine. I was spreading some straw out by the road when I heard my favorite spring sound... the wood frogs calling from the vernal pool across the road. Went to the PO and heard the ospreys were back at Matey’s nest.” SO spring is on its way!!

I want to let everyone know that your Board was responsible for notifying Jim Ecker, our regional enforcement coordinator for the Maine Forest Service, Rebecca Albright, our CEO, and Bryan Kaenrath, town manager about the devastation out at Point Francis. I received an email from Rosemary & Garry Levin on December 9<sup>th</sup> with explicit pictures they had taken out at Point Francis which clearly showed the massive cutting that had taken place. These were sent to the people above with the urgent request “investigate the damage please!” Jim Ecker thanked us for notifying them.

Roger’s next article explains in detail what has taken place since then. As Jim Ecker explained to me “It is based on the rules in Statewide Standards if the cut is legal or not.” Hopefully we see some action taken against the owners and the Forester involved.



We also sent another letter to the same recipients January 14<sup>th</sup> expressing our concern over the condition of Paul Bunyan Road “from Pt. Francis to Corea Rd, following the use of this road by the loggers who brought their pulpwood trucks down our road from Pt. Francis late November and into December.” Rosemary & Garry

Levin described this best: “We first noticed the logging trucks on PBR the week of Thanksgiving. We thought it was odd timing. From then on, each morning around 4:30 we would hear them rumbling by our house. They came by each morning, Saturday’s and Sunday’s too, until the middle of December.” We have not yet received a response about this issue. Perhaps as the snow melts and warm weather does reach us we can better assess the damage.

Seasonal residents will be returning soon to share in the beauty of Corea by the Sea. We are already planning our annual meeting and dinner for August 8<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow in the months to come.



## Point Francis Timber Harvesting Update

Over the last six months there has been a lot of discussion in town regarding the timber harvesting on Point Francis. There have been a couple of Planning Board meetings that included the land owners and the logger, and the issue has been discussed at a couple of Select Board meetings as well. So far, however, there is no firm resolution to the controversy regarding our Association's complaint.

Despite what Association members may have thought, the work at Point Francis was forest management done to a formal plan overseen by State foresters, and which requires no local approval. This by itself wouldn't have been a problem, except for the fact that there are significant differences between how State Forestry and the DEP view what is and is not permissible in the shoreland areas. Fortunately, these differences did not absolve the land owners and the logger from adhering to specified maximum area for cleared areas in both the State-defined 75' and 250' Shoreland Zone buffer areas.

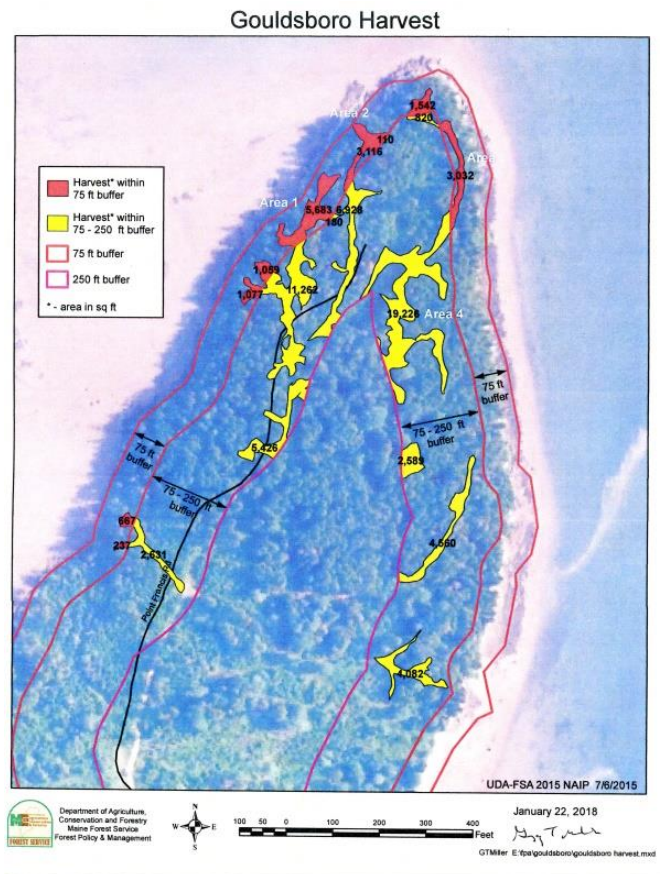
The second important aspect of the issue is the role the Town would play in monitoring and resolving any violations. In years past—and long before this issue came up—Gouldsboro was only one of a small handful of towns in the state that would share responsibility with the state for enforcing state standards. As explained below, this would change.

After several visits to the site by our Town Code Enforcement Officer and the State Forester, the Forester determined that there were eight openings (in the forest canopy) in the 75' buffer strip, three of which exceeded the maximum of 2500 square feet permitted by the standards. There were also nine openings created in the 250' buffer area, one of which exceeded the maximum permitted 14,000 square feet.

Our Town Select Board was kept abreast of these investigations and findings and, after this finding, found itself with a dilemma: the potential cost and risk to the town of enforcing state standards. After lengthy discussion and careful consideration, the Select Board unanimously decided to remove the Town from such involvement and allow the state to resume full responsibility. So far, so good as the State Forester decided that the four violations justified some sort of penalty to be levied on the logger. However...

With the Town no longer party to enforcement actions, we have only limited insight into what is happening now. Our CEO has been informed that the State has proposed a settlement agreement with the logger, but that the logger has refused to accept the State's position. As of March 27th, the matter has been referred to the Maine Attorney General's office and the forester is preparing a second case to present to the Attorney General.

As they used to say in radio, stay tuned! We'll see what happens next.





## **Neighbors with Cameras...**

Stuck vehicles, aching backs, and power outages aren't the only things this winter was notable for. Your editor had been negligent in photographing this winter's majesty; others were far more diligent. Here are a few photos that capture some of what those of us who live here experienced. Thanks to Paul & Barbara Stewart, Jeff & Yumi Young, Gary & Rosemary Levin, and Tim & Shirlee Smith.



**West Bay on a March Day.** (Stewarts)



**Paul Stewart's mid-March efforts to keep winter birds happy.** (Stewarts)



**Nearly-Buried Lobster Buoys along Grand Marsh Bay Road.** (Youngs)



**January Sunset over West Bay. (Stewarts)**



**A Winter's Day at Sand Beach. (Youngs)**





**Pine Cones in Snow along Grand Marsh Bay Road. (Youngs)**



**The Smith's Buoy Tree. (Smiths)**





Corea Heath on March 16, 2018. (Levins)





**Grand Marsh Bay Road after First Plow, March 27<sup>th</sup>. (Youngs)**



**Jeff Young, Digging Out... Same Storm. (Youngs)**



## **Et cetera...**

- ✓ The proposed merger of the Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro police departments is moving along. WH Chief Danny Mitchell and Gouldsboro Chief Tyler Dunbar have prepared two alternative approaches that they presented to the towns in public sessions in February and March. Either approach includes a very modest increase in costs for both towns—with all costs shared, 1/3 by Winter Harbor and 2/3 by Gouldsboro—but will include a substantial increase in police coverage for both towns. They plan to have a firm plan to present to both towns' Select Boards soon with warrants for both towns' residents to vote on at their respective annual Town Meetings.
- ✓ In addition to the police departments merger, Gouldsboro now has two new police officers: a second part time policeman, Eli Brown, and a new full time officer, John Shively. John has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and served in the US Marine Corps Reserves. He is a current member of the National Guard as a medic. He is now finishing up his training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and will be on the job in town starting in late May.
- ✓ Gouldsboro not only has a new Town Manager, the Town Office has a new office manager: Deana Workman. Deana was promoted from Deputy Clerk to Office Manager in March. Filling her previous position as Deputy Clerk will be a new hire, Sue McLean, who starts work April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Starting May 1st, you will need a new sticker to use our transfer station. If you don't know whether yours is current or not, check the color. The ones for the coming year are a shade of purple.
- ✓ The Town has a new snow plow contractor for the next three winters: Dana Rice Jr. Dana was the low bidder with a quote that will significantly reduce our Town's snowplowing costs from previous years.
- ✓ Our Town Manager reports that the Town should have its own Facebook page sometime soon. Plans are for it to focus on letting residents know of upcoming Town activities such as regular committee meetings and special events.
- ✓ Gouldsboro's sidewalk project is now officially underway, so expect a bit of congestion around the Town Hall. Wellman Paving of Winterport is doing the work, which started on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Completion is slated for June 22<sup>nd</sup> barring unforeseen problems.
- ✓ Two Select Board seats are being contested this year: Roger Bowen is retiring from the Board and Bill Thayer's current term is expiring. In addition to Bill, there are five other candidates vying for those two slots; if you are a Town resident, be sure to vote in June.
- ✓ Kevin Schneider, Acadia Park Superintendent, reported in February that the visitation rate for all parts of the Park was up in 2017, 6% park-wide and 4% for Schoodic. And there was a whopping 26% increase in RV campers park-wide.
- ✓ This past winter the Select Board took notice of the wear and tear our winter weather puts on the flags that have flown year round in town. The Board decided that it was best to limit flag displays to the period from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day.
- ✓ The Downeast Schoodic Byway Committee is seeking new members, in part because Gouldsboro representative Dick Fisher is leaving the committee this spring. If you think you might be interested, contact Dick at 963-2383 or call the Gouldsboro Town Hall at 963-5589.
- ✓ If you are one of us who regularly drives Grand Marsh Bay Road, thank Wally Bell and Mike Hunt for keeping the gravel portion of it more or less navigable during this past winter. They've done a super job!

## ***A View from the Porch (Editor's musings)***



By the time you read this, let's hope it feels like spring—even though as I type this it is 24° with a few faint snowflakes in the air... and the forecast for the next couple of days includes the words “winter weather advisory.” But, if nothing else, the local roads say it's time for spring: the “No Heavy Loads” postings came down this past week. There are other signs as well. The snow banks along our driveways are just about all gone, revealing piles of driveway gravel even the most careful of “plow guys” dug up after the last couple of storms (thanks to the thawed ground). We've seen buffleheads on the bay, sea gulls have returned, we've had a robin or two in the yard, my wood pile is just about down to the pallets, and a neighbor has seen two red breasted mergansers in his pond. So review the list of outdoor projects that you've postponed for the last five months, pull out the driveway stakes, take down the storm windows and put up the screens, find the porch furniture and garden tools (and, for some of us, the chain saws), and get ready to greet the first of our seasonal neighbors coming back to the Peninsula for yet another summer in one of Maine's best places to live. Real spring can't be far away!

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