



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

Fall 2019

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2019 Annual Association Meeting & Summer Social

(by Outgoing President Mary Vauthy)

You should have heard the chatting and laughing as 78 residents of our Paul Bunyan Road Association gathered for our 30th annual meeting and summer social on August 14th at Peninsula School! Our attendees represented 40 families or 40% of our 101 paid members... a great turnout for a WONDERFUL meeting and social event. I'm sure everyone who attended will join me in thanking the coordinators for our dinner—Susan Haight, Shirley Smith and Barbara Stewart—for their hard work in making our evening so TERRIFIC. The flower arrangements that we all enjoyed were provided by GayLynn Jackson, Barbara Stewart, Kathy Coffey, and Susan Haight (*Editor's Note: And Mary, too!*) and our setup/cleanup team included Shirlee Smith, Gaylynn Jackson, Barbara Stewart, Kathy Coffey, and Susan Haight along with husbands and other Board members. THANKS to everyone who helped make the 2019 PBRA annual meeting and dinner such a success!



Those of you who have attended annual meetings in the past know we had a new venue this year: the Peninsula school cafeteria. Its new facilities and other amenities (real bathrooms!) made the evening so much better. Thanks to Heather Dorr, the new principal of Peninsula School, and Sally Leighton, the newly retired principal, the School Board allowed us to use their cafeteria for our meeting and social event at no charge. They explained that this was a way the school could give back to the community for all of its support. So THANK YOU to all of them as well!

Many boxes of non-perishable food items were generously collected for the Gouldsboro Lifeline Food Pantry along with over \$200 in cash donations. Thank you neighbors!

THANKS EVERYONE FOR A GREAT MEETING AND DINNER!!

Mary

Mary Vauthy, Outgoing PBRA President

The 2019 Association Business Meeting

The *business portion* of the evening included brief summaries of our various committee activities:

Treasurer Paul Stewart reported that as of the July 31st end of the Fiscal Year, we had taken in \$3857.82 and had spent \$2994.10. We currently have \$5614.08 in the checking account and a CD worth \$5115.50. Kudos to Paul for his years of dedication to PBRA!!

Roger Dean, Newsletter Editor, made his annual pleas for updated member information, specifically mailing and email addresses, and submittals of any news tidbits or photos that members are interested in sharing. Roger also spoke briefly about the status of the roads on the Peninsula. In particular, he mentioned how this year's town paving plan was changed in favor of Gouldsboro Point Road after an impassioned presentation to the town Select Board by a Gouldsboro Point resident. The lesson here seems to prove the old adage, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease." So he encourages any of us with concerns about the condition of "our" roads (everyone, right?) to speak to the Town Office and Select Board about our roads.

Patrick Weaver and Mary Jane Dobson reported on rockweed harvesting and the ownership of the intertidal zone. The ruling against Acadian Seaplants in favor of landowners has been appealed to the Maine Supreme Court. This leaves the areas open to harvesting and gains time for the company. (*Editor's Note: See the separate stories on page 5.*)

In addition to thanking everyone who helped the Association throughout the year, Mary also thanked your newsletter editor (*blush...*) for what she described as "great newsletters."

2019–2020 Board Members: Association members elected our 2019-2020 officers with a single vote for the entire slate:

President: Bob Youtt

Vice-President: Frank Chudnow

Secretary: Susan Haight

Treasurer: Paul Stewart

Newsletter Editor: Roger Dean

Members at Large: John Finn, Jeff Young, Annetje L Meyer, Mary Newman, Mary Vauthy, Patrick Waver



L to-R: Jeff Young, Mary Newman, Annetje Meyer, Roger Dean, Frank Chudnow, Bob Youtt, Mary Vauthy, Susan Haight, Paul Stewart, Pat Weaver

Departing Board Members: In addition to electing new board officers for the coming year, outgoing President Mary Vauthy acknowledged the contributions of two retiring Board members, Rosemary Levin and Carol Prince. Rosemary leaves after several years on the board and contributions to numerous Association activities. Carol retires after 20 years (!) of leadership in the PBRA. For the past eight years Carol has been Association Secretary; before that she served seven years as Association President, and five years as Secretary at the start



of the Association. She and husband Peter were among the charter members when the Association was founded in 1989. In special recognition of her years of leadership to the PBRA, the Board presented Carol with a plaque citing just a few of her significant accomplishments and contributions.

Guest Speaker: Joe Young. Rosemary Levin introduced our guest speaker, Joe Young. Joe is a local storyteller and business owner from Corea. He gave a wonderful talk on his family's history in Corea. Rosemary presented Joe with a book on oysters as a thank you!



Joe Young, Guest Speaker

In Preparation for the Annual Meeting

In her remarks on the opening page, Mary Vauthy thanked all the people who helped make the annual meeting a success. But there is much to be done to let members know the details of the meeting. One task that usually goes unmentioned is sending out the annual hard-copy newsletter. The Association must contact each subdivision property owner in writing once each year to keep our federal tax-exempt status, so we take this opportunity to announce the annual meeting. We mail our newsletter with meeting information along with an annual dues renewal form to every property owner on the Peninsula. Keeping the list up to date is an ongoing challenge, which is why each of you is regularly reminded to let us know your contact information. After the summer newsletter and address labels are printed, members of your Board roll up their figurative sleeves and set to stuffing envelopes. Here are Carol Prince, Mary Vauthy, and Susan Haight hard at work about a month before our August meeting this year.



L-to-R: Carol Prince, Mary Vauthy, Susan Haight

Bob Youtt, Incoming PBRA President

As your new Association President, I hope you will all join me in thanking Mary Vauthy for her service to the Paul Bunyan Road Association over the past three years. She set a high leadership standard that I hope I can duplicate. Next year we enter a new decade and I believe that we need to maintain and grow our membership numbers. Membership dues are our only source of income. Today we have sufficient funds to enter the new year but a larger war chest would be good to protect against possible future expenses, especially with respect to enforcing deed covenants. Another issue I am concerned about is the condition of our roads. They desperately need maintenance, in part because of recent development projects that have severely stressed our roads. I would like to see the Gouldsboro Selectman address our roads. While the 2019–2020 budget originally included funds for Paul Bunyan Road maintenance, the Select Board ultimately directed all budgeted funds to a different project. We need to be more involved in local political decisions that affect our subdivision.



We do represent a fair portion of the real estate taxes collected annually and I believe we should receive a proportional distribution of benefits.

It is important to remember that our permanent residents have the only voice that the Select Board hears. The Select Board approves the town budget, including allocation of discretionary funds. The town meetings and the voting box are where subdivision residents can make their voices heard. We need to make sure that our permanent residents exercise their constitutional rights in the town meetings and elections. Our nonresidents' concerns can only be heard if the permanent residents bring their desires and needs forward. Many of us first came here as visitors from away, but now we are permanent residents who are well qualified to reflect the concerns of both part-time and full time residents. We need to make our voices heard.

Rockweed Collection along Paul Bunyan Road

Researchers from the University of Maine, Maine Maritime Academy, and Schoodic Institute are studying the role of rockweed in intertidal and nearshore food webs, and are completing some of their research efforts on the intertidal shore off the Paul Bunyan Road. “We are trying to characterize the relationships among rockweed, invertebrates, and birds, and understand any role harvesting rockweed plays in affecting the relationships,” says Hannah Webber, Director of Marine Ecology at Schoodic Institute and PhD student at UMaine. “We are collecting rockweed and invertebrate samples, as well as bird observations and environmental data from areas where we know there has been harvested areas, unharvested areas, and areas that are currently being harvested specifically for our research. We'll compare data across the different sites and evaluate the role rockweed plays within intertidal food webs, and identify possible impacts of harvest. We have been working with diverse stakeholders, including conservation groups, landowners, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Acadia National Park, and representatives from the rockweed industry to conduct our research—we really could not do our work without input from all of these groups.”

More on Rockweed and Shoreline Access

If you attended our annual meeting, you heard a brief discussion on the continuing status of the recent law suit *Ross v. Acadian Seaplants, Ltd.* PBRA member Tim Smith let us know of an OpEd piece by John Duff, an associate professor of environmental law and policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Posted by the *Island Institute* (Rockland, ME) in August, Mr. Duff's article talks about the potential broader implications of the court's split decision regarding the differences between rockweed harvesting and other public access to the shoreline.

Mr. Duff notes that, that in the court's minority dissenting opinion, “The 2019 case includes what reads like an invitation by at least three justices to resurrect the debate, overrule the 1989 decision (that partially limited shoreline access), and deem the public has a ‘right to walk unfettered upon the wet sand of Maine beaches to peacefully enjoy one of the greatest gifts the state of Maine offers the world.’ But that invitation is time sensitive, notes this judicial trio, since the ‘passage of time ... will eventually diminish the ability of the court to correct’ what they see as ‘the wrong created by the (1989) Bell II decision.’”

(Editor's note: If you want to read the full article, email me at pbra.newsletter.editor@gmail.com and I'll send it to you.

If you didn't get this newsletter via email and think you should have, it means you didn't confirm/update your email address. So please send me your email address at pbra.newsletter.editor@gmail.com.

The “Orphan” Road

Anyone who has been an Association member for more than just a couple of years knows of our ongoing efforts to maintain the gravel portion of Grand Marsh Bay Road that runs through Oceanside Meadows B&B’s field. While it is a private road through which a number of peninsula residents have a deeded right-of-way, it is, in practice, used as a public road. And for anyone living north of #407 Paul Bunyan Road or anywhere on Peninsula Road or Grand Marsh Bay Road it is the shortest way off the peninsula. Lots of people use the road but its upkeep falls to volunteers. The condition of the road at any time depends on who has the equipment, time, and inclination to scrape or rake it, how much money our “keeper of the checkbook” (Mel Jackson, at least for now) has to hire a contractor to grade the road when it gets too bad for volunteers to do anything more than annoy the surface, and the use the road gets. “Use” is the biggest factor, especially when coupled with speed. Heavy vehicles such as loaded dump trucks and the school bus, driving even close to the posted speed limit (25 mph), cause ruts and potholes to rapidly grow, as do some locals who like to speed down the road. The most recent problem is the failed culvert where the heath pond drains under the road into Grand Marsh Bay.



Those of you who have driven the road lately have seen the large (and growing) hole in the middle of the road, causing road gravel to slowly erode into the culvert. Fortunately, Wally Bell from Peninsula Road donated a rather inventive caution sign to warn people of the danger. But clearly this is only a temporary Band Aid on a serious issue. There are two possible results of this culvert problem, neither of which is very good. 1) The hole in the road will continue to grow until the road becomes impassable, or 2) the culvert will become sufficiently blocked to the point where a heavy rain will cause the pond outflow to cascade over the road, washing it out entirely. If either of these two possibilities materializes, lots of people will be severely inconvenienced. (*Now there’s an understatement!*) The problem is that our road maintenance fund has nowhere near sufficient funds to

make a permanent fix. (*Another understatement.*) But, as the old joke goes, **there’s good news and bad news**. The good news is that, in the spirit neighborliness, the people developing the *Peninsula Shores* subdivision (owner Mike Emmons and developer Jim Boyle) have offered to help. They have offered to do the excavation work at no charge if those of us who use the road will buy the culvert. The bad news is that the culvert alone will cost over \$2000 and we don’t know if any additional items or fill will be needed. The collective “we” does not have that much money in the private road account, so we need to raise a significant sum quickly to take advantage of the *Peninsula Shores*’ very generous offer, and have enough left in the checkbook to take care of winter maintenance.

Many of us will have already received an email request from Mel Jackson for a donation. Even if you do not use the gravel road regularly, please consider that regardless of where you live on the peninsula the gravel road would be your only way on and off the peninsula if there were an emergency that closes Paul Bunyan Road. And if you have occasion to encounter the people developing *Peninsula Shores*, be sure to thank them for being good neighbors!

Please note that the gravel road will be closed on the day the culvert is replaced. There is no firm date set for this work yet but it could happen as early as Wednesday, the 9th of October. There will be signs & informal barriers at each end. And please don’t try to sneak by... the culvert will be replaced in its entirety so for a good bit of the day there will be an impassable trench across the entire road.

Et cetera...

- ✓ For those of you who don't know, Eve Wilkinson, the former Town Manager, is our interim Town Manager. Now that the Town is advertising for a new permanent manager Eve hopes her tenure this time isn't too long.
- ✓ At the end of July the Select Board approved the load of the historic S.S. Queen Victoria ship's bell and model to Peninsula school.
- ✓ Town funding issues have meant that the electronic school zone speed signs planned for Rt 186 by Peninsula School won't be installed this year. But interim Chief John Shively reminds us all that school is in session and the speed limits will be enforced.
- ✓ Fire Chief Tate McLean received the Select Board's approval to purchase a 2014 ambulance from the town of Belfast. Its cost is only \$15,000 and is in excellent condition; only a few updates are necessary before it is put into service. Money will come out of the Emergency Medical reserve fund.
- ✓ Thanks to an ordinance change, the No Parking zones opposite the Town Park and along Rt 195 by Sand Beach will be enforced.
- ✓ GMBR resident Deb Bisson is working to establish a once-a-week public market in town to honor "Farmer Bill" Thayer. To be called *The Bill Thayer Market*, Deb hopes it will be in full operation beginning next June and will feature typical farmers' market items as well as craft items. As sort of a preview, she also hopes to have a two-day holiday pop-up fair at the town's community center on December 14 & 15. Look for information around town sometime around Thanksgiving.



Moose print seen along the gravel portion of GMBR. That's a size 13 shoe next to it!

A Note from Carol Prince, retiring PBRA Leader

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you so much for the recognition you gave me at the recent annual meeting. The twenty years as an officer and board member have passed so quickly. I appreciate the card signed by so many of you, the floral bouquet, and the attractively framed subway sign which highlights the past six decades of my life. It will soon hang proudly in my quilting studio.

Corea by the Sea is such a special place to live. Who could have imagined that when we came here in search of land in 1976 and knew no one that we would find so many wonderful neighbors, many who were retired at the time and have gradually departed. We still miss those we first met but through the years as the subdivision has continued to grow and more families have gradually arrived, the caring nature of those who live here continues. We see daily examples of neighbor helping neighbor. We are so fortunate to be able to share this little bit of heaven on earth with each other. Would you believe when we purchased our land that we did not know that Schoodic Point existed? And then in more recent years we were blessed with Frenchman Bay Conservancy purchasing the 625 acre core of our peninsula.

Thank you Mary Vauthy for your dedicated service to the association as president the past three years. And thank you to all who have served as officers and board members since the association's inception in 1988.

Peter and I look forward to seeing many of you at next year's annual meeting. Thank you to all who pitched in to make the evening such a success.

Fondly,

Carol

And Speaking of Moose...

Paul Bunyan Road resident Mazouz Hussein found this huge male moose in his yard on September 26th just after 5:00 pm. Perhaps this was the owner of the footprints we saw on GMBR. Mazouz was fast enough with his camera to capture this “stern end” view before it wandered into the woods. Thanks Mazouz!



Association Website Update

Paul Bunyan Road Association



As we reported at the Annual Meeting and Summer Social one of our late summer projects has been to put together an updated website for our neighborhood. This will be the place to go for an introduction to our community for new members and the most up-to-date news, announcements, and neighborhood information. Take a look: coreabythesea.org. This site replaces our old web site which was developed with a very old technology that no one on the board could update. Now we have a new format that is easier to update and add postings. In addition to the text and information from the old site (primarily cut and pasted), we've added a tab that includes our past and current digital newsletters, a membership renewal page, and a gallery to post photos and other articles of interest to our community. This site is a work in progress and we welcome your feedback. If you have any comments, suggestions or photos you would like to post, please email them to pbra.website.editor@gmail.com.

More Photos from the August Annual Meeting



Our 2019 "Flower Ladies" (L-to-R): Barbara Stewart, Kathy Coffey, Mary Vauthy, GayLynn Jackson, Susan Haight,

A View from the Porch (Editor's musings)



I'm lucky enough that the view from my porch encompasses a good bit of West Bay and Grand Marsh Bay. On days like the ones at the end of September I can see the few deciduous trees that line the far shores begin to change colors, foretelling the coming of colder weather and, sooner or later, snow. Somehow with each passing year the view gets better and better. Or maybe it's just me appreciating it more and more. The view closer in, along the shoreline, is equally wondrous, at least for now. In addition to the shore birds and occasional eagle, I also note that the shoreline is definitely a bit closer than it used to be when we bought the property nineteen years ago. Not by much, but enough to be obvious. And enough to make several of the trees along the shoreline, some quite large, lean precariously over the water. They never used to do that, I'm sure. And others have already succumbed to the erosion of wind and water. As I read about the worldwide climate protests of the last few weeks, I can't help but be aware of the impacts of climate change close to home. Even though our house is built on ledge a few meters above high tide, I wonder whether granddaughter Cookie will be the one to face moving things just a bit further inland to avoid being flooded out as water levels rise over the decades. But then again, I'm moderately optimistic that no one will have to worry about that. The actions of that amazing teenager Greta Thunberg give me hope that world leaders will someday soon step up to their responsibilities to humanity... or the next generation of voters will replace them with leaders who will.