



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FRIENDS OF ELLISVILLE MARSH 2014-15

MOVING FROM SUCCESS TO SUSTAINABILITY

FINANCIAL CONDITION

The Friends remain in good financial shape, thanks to strong, ongoing support from our members and conservative spending. Going into the fiscal year (July 1st – June 30th), we had \$9,280 in regular operating funds, \$6,800 of which was a grant from Entergy to cover last summer's environmental monitoring costs. Over the last twelve months we spent \$11,279 and took in \$7,625, leaving us with a \$5,625 balance, \$2,000 of which is needed for monitoring this summer. Please give generously so we can raise our operating account to a healthier level.

REGULATORY UPDATE

After performing inlet maintenance work in late March, we applied for a new General Permit (MA-GP) from the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Our original permit expired in January but was grandfathered. We prepared the application without outside assistance this time, saving the Friends several thousand dollars. The application is now under review and we are optimistic we will receive the new permit.

COASTAL GEOLOGIST EVALUATES OPTIONS FOR ELLISVILLE INLET

Several months ago, Friends' board member Becky Harris suggested contacting Greg Berman, a coastal geologist with the Cape Cod Extension Service and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, for his expertise on long-term options for maintaining the Ellisville inlet. Greg visited Ellisville, flew his drone over the inlet and researched sediment flows and tidal dynamics that contribute to inlet blockage. The report he recently delivered to the board is highly informative and is helping shape discussions about the future. Greg shared his insights at our 2015 Annual Meeting on July 25th. A copy of Greg's report is available to any Friends' member. Email your request to us at:

board@EllisvilleMarsh.org

2015 SUMMER INTERNSHIP

For the second summer in a row, a bright college student has been selected as Environmental Monitoring Intern. Abby Foley, who is a rising sophomore at the University of New Hampshire majoring in marine biology, will collect sampling data for water quality, tidal hydrology and wetlands vegetation, three of our most important programs. She will be supervised by Ellen Russell, our resident wetlands scientist (who also happens to be Abby's mother). The internship and associated costs will

be covered in full by a generous \$2,500 grant from the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund.

A GREAT YEAR FOR PIPING PLOVERS!

Three Piping Plover chicks fledged on Ellisville Beach this week. This is our best result in many years!



"Muttonchops" and two-day old chick.
Photos by Diane Fletcher.

MONITORING SAVERY POND

Board members Peter Schwartzman and Paula Marcoux continue to work with town, state, and private partners to investigate water quality problems at Savery Pond, which lies just upstream of Ellisville Marsh. Water testing has been funded by donations and the Town of Plymouth. Savery Pond was included in the Town's 2014 Pond Atlas. Stay tuned.

ELLEN RUSSELL REJOINS BOARD

We are delighted to report that Ellen Russell, who was a founding director in 2007 and has been our key scientific resource for many years, has agreed to serve on our 2015-16 board. Welcome back, Ellen!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Our membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th so now's that time to renew. We accept online payments via PayPal, a secure and (for us) cost-efficient means of accepting payments. Or you can mail a check to Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc., PO Box 1728, Sagamore Beach, MA 02562. All methods of payment are described at www.EllisvilleMarsh.org! Donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law.