

Board Member Profile: Ken Foreman

In July, Kenneth H. Foreman was re-elected to T3C's board of directors after a 12-year hiatus. He shared these comments when he was asked what drew him (back) to T3C:



Ken Foreman

“I’ve always been attracted to The 300 Committee because of the simple, clear and compelling mission of saving open space. In the mid-1980’s when I first joined the board, there were as many as 600 building permits per year being issued in Falmouth. I saw the landscape changing daily along the drive to and from work—farms converted to subdivisions, houses popping up like mushrooms on wooded lots that I’d naively assumed were somehow protected. To my delight, through T3C I met a fantastic group of concerned citizens whom I now count among my friends. After serving for many years, though, I felt it was time for fresh ideas on the board and I wanted to try my hand at the local regulatory boards to see if we could develop policies to promote wiser and more controlled growth. I joined the Planning Board where I served for 10 years and then the Zoning Board of Appeals (which as our Town Planner always said, is “where the rubber meets the road”). It has been a learning experience and I now feel ready to come back to T3C with new perspective. I hope the experience I’ve accumulated will be helpful in continuing T3C’s important mission of land preservation and stewardship.”

Ken has had a distinguished career with the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole. He and his wife, Dr. Anne Giblin, also a career scientist at the MBL, have lived in Falmouth since 1975 and raised their now-grown sons, Nick and Mike, here. At the MBL’s Ecosystems Center, among myriad other responsibilities, Ken serves as Director of the Semester in Environmental Education, an undergraduate program that provides an intensive field and laboratory-based introduction to ecosystem science and the biogeochemistry of coastal forests, freshwater ponds and estuaries. Ken’s research focus in recent years has been the study of effects of nutrient loading on benthic and water column communities and processes.

T3C is delighted to welcome Ken back and know he will contribute great enthusiasm, expertise and ideas to the board.

T3C Expands Stewardship Team—Introducing TerraCorps Member Colleen Smith!

This fall, T3C is delighted to be working with TerraCorps for the first time. At the end of August, we welcomed California native Colleen Smith, who is joining the staff for the next 11 months as a TerraCorps member to provide important support for land stewardship.



Colleen Smith

Colleen attended the College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University, where she graduated in 2019 with a BS in Forestry with an emphasis in Forest Soils and a minor in Geospatial Analysis. Her work experience includes several fascinating summers, conducting research in NSF-funded programs: at Humboldt State as a research tech investigating drought resistance of conifers; at North Carolina State University as a soil science research intern; and as an ecology intern at Harvard Forest. She moved to the Cape last spring with her partner, Jacob Partida, a Ph.D. student in the MIT/WHOI Joint Program in Oceanography.

Colleen’s background in climate science, soil microbiology and forest pathology, combined with her interest in gaining experience in the nonprofit sector, make her a great fit for T3C. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, reading and learning to identify new plants. We are excited to have Colleen on board and know she will have a big impact on T3C’s work.

The TerraCorps program, formerly called MassLIFT, supports 36 AmeriCorps members each year. Members serve at host sites across Massachusetts with a focus on topics such as environmental conservation, urban agriculture, and land stewardship. TerraCorps positions are full-time, with members completing a 1700-hour term over 11 months (August – July). The expansion of T3C’s stewardship capacity through TerraCorps was made possible by a grant from The Falmouth Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation, which leveraged more than \$22,000 in additional funding from state and federal sources.



Colleen on the trails, mastering T3C’s new parcel monitoring mobile app.



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GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥Jayne Abbott from Bill, Muffie & Snowie Andruss, Art & Booje Calfee, Robyn Chadwick, Brian Dacey, Jane & Perry Ellis, Alex & Bruce Lancaster, Normandeu Associates, Anne-Marie Runfola & Ken Kostel, Timothy Toffoli
- ♥Lucy Waldo Abbott from Sandy McLean
- ♥Eric Benttinen from Stephen Day Ellis
- ♥Jim Bergren from Nancy Vander Pyl
- ♥Tony Cave from Peg Brandon
- ♥George Chase from Carla Zavorskass
- ♥Dr. Leonard Cohen (and in honor of Ruby & Samuel) from Anne Cohen
- ♥Clark A. Griffith from Suzanne Lyons
- ♥Frank Mello from Sharon Jaquith
- ♥Arlene Black Mollo from Peter Mollo
- ♥Michael Moloney from Jane Moloney Wittreich
- ♥Jerry Fanger from Leonard & Patty Johnson, Anne-Marie Runfola & Ken Kostel
- ♥Sherman Goodell from Judy Fenwick, Karen Goodell, Robert & Joann Haick, Joan Horan, Louise Mitchen, Chelsea Viglione, Judith Viglione
- ♥Peter Kaplan from the Forman Family Charitable Trust
- ♥Lorraine Lawrence from Julie McGrath
- ♥Pete Lowell from Nancy Gibbons, Al & Helen Wilson
- ♥Christina Rawley from Anne-Marie Runfola & Ken Kostel, Michael Stone
- ♥Donna Scribner from Carla Zavorskass



Riders enjoy a picnic at the Coonamessett Reservation, a stop along the fall Pedal to Parcels (P2P) open space bike tour. L to R: Vicki McCormack, Kasia Hammar, Terry Hammar and Bruce Lancaster.



Tom Duncan, Anne Giblin, Ken Foreman and Janet Duncan had fun on the P2P ride.

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The 300 Committee is a private, non-profit land trust dedicated to preserving natural places in Falmouth for everyone to enjoy now and in the years to come. Since 1985, The 300 Committee has taken a lead role to acquire treasured open space for conservation, recreation and water protection. In the last 35 years, more than 2,500 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

Leaves

fall 2020

T3C Transfers Parcel to Town

The Shivericks Pond Pathway on Katherine Lee Bates Road in downtown Falmouth was purchased by The 300 Committee in 2015 from the Bank of America in a bargain sale. This 0.67-acre parcel was an orphan lot created when the Town laid out and built the road in the 1950s. Although it was owned by Falmouth National Bank and all the successor banks, it has been routinely used as the access link between the Lawrence School property and Falmouth town center. T3C wanted to ensure that this public access would continue and stepped up to make the purchase when the parcel was headed for auction and the Town could not act in the Bank’s time frame.

T3C’s long-range plan has been to coordinate with the Town on a plan to make Shivericks Pond more of an aesthetic and accessible asset, and has supported the Town’s effort to develop a conceptual plan for a recreational trail around the pond. This includes significant road improvements along a short stretch of KLB Road and the construction of a fully accessible fishing/viewing platform on the western shore of the pond. T3C’s board recognized the practicality of having the town-owned platform be located on town-owned land and in November 2018 voted their intent to transfer the land to the Town.

“The Shivericks Pond project is an important investment in community conservation, said T3C Executive Director Jessica Whritenour. “The handicapped accessible improvements to the fishing platform and creation of a gateway park for Shivericks Pond will open up new public access and passive recreation opportunities for this underused natural resource. T3C enthusiastically supports the Town’s efforts to connect people with nature in the heart of Falmouth village.”

At the September 2020 Town Meeting (the spring TM that was postponed due to the coronavirus), members passed two votes relating to Shivericks Pond. The first was to grant \$310,000 in Community Preservation funding to support the Shivericks Pond Recreational Trail project, and the second was for the Town to accept T3C’s donation of the land. The recreational trail project has also received support from Falmouth’s Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission. Work to begin these improvements is slated to begin in the coming months.



View of Shivericks Pond Pathway from Katharine Lee Bates Road. With T3C’s donation of the land to the Town, long-planned improvements that will provide passive recreation and access to the pond can proceed.

Business Member Testimonials

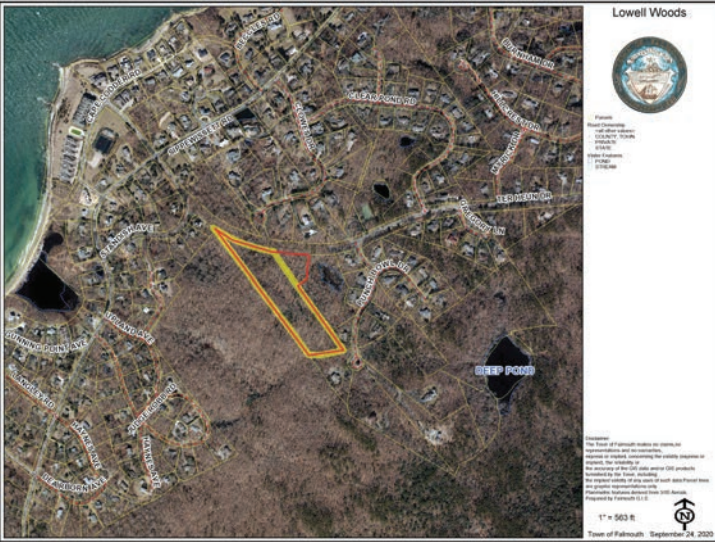
“Liam Maguire’s Irish Pub gladly supports The 300 Committee. We are grateful for all of Falmouth’s beautiful open spaces, which help us in so many ways by providing places to walk, relax and appreciate the natural world. Working at a restaurant in a tourist spot means also being a concierge. All of us at the pub are frequently asked, ‘Besides going to the beach, what do you recommend doing here?’ Advising customers of all the great places to walk, bike and explore is our #1 recommendation. We can do that because of the amazing efforts of The 300 Committee. We will continue to support The 300 Committee for a long time to come!” ~ Deb Maguire, Liam Maguire’s Irish Pub

“The 300 Committee acts as a guiding light for Falmouth’s environmental community. Lawrence Lynch Corp. is proud to use one of the most recycled products in the U.S. to build roads and bridges and we support and back The 300 Committee in the entirety of their mission, which has shown to be an impactful extension of our environmental efforts. ~ Chris Lynch, Lawrence Lynch Corp.

“We are astonished by and grateful for the depth of generosity in this community that enables The 300 Committee to buy land and protect our landscapes in perpetuity. We believe deeply in this work and are so, so fortunate to have The 300 Committee here—thank you!” ~ Jill Neubauer, Jill Neubauer Architects

Vicky Lowell Donates Land to T3C

The 300 Committee and long-time board member and open space champion Vicky Lowell are thrilled this fall to close on a land donation she is making possible—7.4 acres abutting Beebe Woods, to be called Lowell Woods. T3C will be the new property owner and The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts will hold the perpetual conservation restriction (CR), adding a layer of protection to the land's conservation status.



The to-be-named Lowell Woods includes 7.4 acres that immediately abut Beebe Woods to the southwest.

The land is important for a number of reasons: it consists of more than five acres of Prime Forest Soils; it expands public access to protected open space; it protects an area identified by the Nature Conservancy as being particularly well-suited to climate change adaptation; it includes essential buffer zone for several significant habitats, including both a vernal pool and Priority and Estimated Habitats of Rare Species (so-designated by MassWildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, NHESP); and it protects an area recognized by the Massachusetts Historical Commission as highly archaeologically sensitive, favored for land use and occupation by ancient and historic period Native Americans.

T3C is enormously grateful to Vicky for her patience in seeing through this very special gift of land.



Vicky Lowell in her woods.

Annual Meeting Marks 35 Years of Preserving Open Space for Falmouth

The 300 Committee Land Trust held its 35th anniversary and first-ever virtual annual meeting on July 9, with more than 100 friends and members participating by Zoom webinar. Board president Anne-Marie Runfola greeted those in attendance and thanked our many supporters for their commitment to T3C's mission of preserving land in Falmouth. Executive Director Jessica Whitenour shared land project updates, which during the last year permanently protected another 46 acres in Falmouth: T3C's recent acquisition of the 9.3-acre Florence Sylvia Woodland in North Falmouth, and two conservation restrictions (CRs) in collaboration with the Buzzards Bay Coalition, the 30-acre Wheeler Forest Reserve CR and the 7-acre Wilson CR in West Falmouth. Staff members Lucy Helfrich and Alexandra Zollo presented highlights of their respective programs: outreach and education projects for the public and stewardship initiatives undertaken on protected lands across town.

Kenneth Foreman was re-elected to the Board of Directors (see page 3). A long-time advocate of open space and smart community planning, he served for many years on the board (stepping down in 2008) and as a vital member of the Land Bank Committee. Ken more recently has played significant roles on the Falmouth Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

A tradition of the land trust's annual meeting is to recognize outstanding contributions by volunteers. The 2020 Invaluable Volunteer Award was presented to Sue Smith, a key advocate and steward of Teaticket Park, and T3C's bookkeeper since its beginnings in 1985. The Mel Miller Stewardship Award was given to Elizabeth "Betsy" Gladfelter and Mark Kasprzyk, of the Falmouth Conservation Commission, for their "steadfast commitment to the stewardship of conservation lands in

Falmouth," and for their extraordinary work along the Coonamessett Greenway. The Special Places Award was presented to Falmouth High School teachers Jane Baker (Studio Art) and Lauren Kenny (English) "for sharing special places with their students, who document them beautifully in art and poetry." Finally, board member Virginia Valiela was honored with the inaugural Wise Owl Award for her "many years of wisdom, experience and dedication" to our land protection mission.

The meeting was peppered with several polls that encouraged attendee participation and closed with an inspirational video produced by outreach volunteer Alison Leschen. T3C staff and board members extended gratitude to friends, members, project partners and all the people of Falmouth who help make T3C's important conservation work possible.



T3C's annual meeting team, captured in a Zoom screenshot.

Stewardship Update

Through these times we have been finding new ways to connect. A book club aimed at stewardship methods and mentality has helped us continue relationships while growing our understanding of the issues shaping management decisions. (We read *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy and *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.)



This past summer stewardship volunteers helped ensure the survival of more than 100 plants through a coordinated watering front. Ed Jackson and Ginger Rabesa clocked in over 55 hours at Teaticket Park helping water all 68 of the trees from August to October. A few of these trees simply would not have survived without their help and dedication. At the entrance to Peterson Farm, the newly planted native thicket was watered with the help of Bob Lacquidara, Bob Butcher, Tom Stone, Vicky Lowell, Bob Olsen, Will Clarke, and Charlie Peterson. Led by Town Conservation Agent Mark Kasprzyk and volunteer Steve Chalmers, this crew donated 70 hours to give these young plants the best chance of survival.

Earlier this, our monitors were able to safely make it out to all 32 of T3C's properties where we hold conservation restrictions. With the help of our TerraCorps member Colleen, we will be building on our monitoring and stewardship efforts throughout the winter. Anyone interested in volunteering with T3C and helping us keep eyes on the land, please email azollo@300committee.org. Stewardship has a rigorous schedule of work days planned for this winter and beyond so stay tuned for updates.

Little Pond Conservation Area Restoration to Begin

At Town Meeting in September, \$121,000 was approved to finally launch restoration efforts at the Little Pond Conservation Area (LPCA). T3C and the Falmouth Conservation Commission (Con Com) partnered in the CP Fund request to begin the first phase of restoration and public access improvements. The Town purchased the 9.6 acre LPCA in 2011 as part of the \$3 million acquisition of 21 acres for community housing, recreation, and open space.

The housing piece was recently completed by The Falmouth Housing Corporation, which has a long-term lease agreement with the Town; the 40-unit Little Pond Place affordable housing complex was opened for occupancy this fall. The vision for the open space is for residents of Little Pond Place and the Falmouth community to have access to LPCA for passive recreational uses, such as trail access, nature study and kayaking on Little Pond.

The Con Com and T3C are poised to move forward with Phase I work including site preparation, mobilization, and site clearing/invasive plant removal. Two additional phases are planned to facilitate public access and habitat improvement including creation of a parking area, trails, interpretive signage, and landscape restoration with native plants.

Walk and Learn at Sylvia Woodland

The Florence Sylvia Woodland in North Falmouth is The 300 Committee's newest acquisition. In Spring 2020, we closed on the purchase of 9.3 acres in North Falmouth, off Millstone Street. Seller Jerry Sylvia, who had long hoped to permanently protect this land, worked with T3C to complete the acquisition, and the parcel is now named the Florence Sylvia Woodland in honor of Jerry's mother. Mostly wooded, the parcel has a trail running through it, and as protected land it will continue to provide valuable wildlife habitat. The acquisition benefits an area of Falmouth where there is surprisingly little permanently preserved open space. Parking and signage, just installed, facilitate public access.

This fall, T3C's stewardship team created a plant identification walk along the trail through the Sylvia Woodland that highlights a dozen different plant species, all marked with orange pin flags. To find the plant ID, visit T3C's home page and scroll down to the "New Acquisition" post and follow the links. We hope you will enjoy exploring this new conservation land and learning about native trees and plants along the way!



Stewardship Coordinator Alexandra Zollo at T3C's newest acquisition.



Aerial photo of the new Plant ID Trail at the Sylvia Woodland.



Little Pond Conservation Area awaits restoration and public access improvements.

Art Inspired by Open Space



First Place in the Conservation Creations art contest went to Rebecca Cox, age 18, whose lovely acrylic landscape depicts the Two Ponds Conservation Area.



Thirteen-year-old Ethan Littman's acrylic, "Misty Forest," was inspired by an early-morning bike with his parents to the Coonamessett River, and was awarded Second Runner Up.

Art Inspired by Open Space

Over the summer, T3C issued a call to young artists to enter the Conservation Creations youth art contest. Designed primarily for K-12 students, the contest was open to all who entered and any artistic medium was welcome. Submissions were made online. The only requirement was that artworks be inspired by Falmouth's protected lands: along the Coonamessett River Greenway (Coonamessett Reservation, River Bend Conservation Area, Bartolomei Conservation Area, Andrews Grove/Andrews Farm, or any portion of the restored Coonamessett River area); Two Ponds Conservation Area; Teaticket Park; Breivogel Ponds/Shallow Pond Woodland; or Quaker Marsh in North Falmouth. An incentive—prize money—was donated by an enthusiastic board member. We were excited to see the artworks that were submitted and were happy to make five awards; the winners are pictured here.



Honorable Mention went to Ericka Peterson, age 11, who drew a resting spot at Two Ponds.



Madison Genest, age 18, won the prize for First Runner Up. Her work was inspired by the bugs at Teaticket Park.



Another Honorable Mention prize went to Sophie Verbeke, age 16, for her three-generation photograph, "Visiting Grandma," taken at Two Ponds.

T3C Supports Outdoor Learning

Schools across the United States are facing an uphill battle as they figure out how to navigate COVID-19 physical distancing requirements that allow students to return to campus. There has been an urgent need to reimagine PreK-12 schools in order to reopen safely and equitably.

The National COVID-19 Outdoor Learning Initiative supports schools and districts around the country in their efforts to reopen using outdoor spaces as strategic, cost-effective tools to increase capacity with physical distancing measures in place. The Initiative seeks to improve learning, mental and physical health, and happiness for children and adults using an affordable, time-tested outdoor approach to keeping schools open during a pandemic.

Locally, volunteers have been working with the Falmouth Public Schools to support K-12 learning as they work to reopen safely. The Falmouth Outdoor Learning Committee is adopting elements from the national group, recognizing that repurposing outdoor spaces is a cost-effective way to reduce the burden on indoor classrooms while providing fresh air, hands-on learning opportunities, and the health benefits associated with increased access to nature.

The Falmouth School Department has endorsed the work of this local committee, helping to facilitate the implementation of outdoor learning spaces and practices that will be important not

only during this challenging and unprecedented time, but also in the post-pandemic future. T3C applauds these efforts. At their October meeting, the board voted unanimously to make a financial contribution in support of local outdoor learning initiatives that will benefit our community's young people today and tomorrow.



Aerial view of the restored Coonamessett River, looking north.



This Clear-winged hummingbird moth was spotted at the Coonamessett Greenway.



Nature paints in vibrant fall colors.