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Open space champions Vicky Lowell and Leonard Johnson.

The combination of preserving the farm and securing prime land on the Coonamessett River ranks as one of the most significant open space projects on Cape Cod. The farmland together with the waterfront parcels will provide farm fields, riparian corridor and wooded buffer to Pond 14 and the river. Keeping these parcels undeveloped will protect water quality as well as important fish and wildlife habitat, including the well-known Coonamessett herring run. Furthermore, the preservation of the Andrews lands complements the Coonamessett River restoration project, which got underway earlier this fall. In addition to filling a key puzzle piece in the Coonamessett Greenway, the Andrews lands link to existing open space both to the north (Bartolomei Conservation Area) and the south (town bog land).

*A small group of enthusiastic T3C supporters has pledged \$150,000 in matching funds if we can raise that amount privately by the end of December. We hope you can help us meet this challenge toward saving the farm and pond front lands forever for open space and agricultural use. An envelope is included with this newsletter for your convenience...thank you!

Stewardship Never Stops



When T3C welcomed a new Stewardship Coordinator in June, it felt like we were bringing an old friend to the staff team. Alexandra “Alex” Zollo grew up in Connecticut and has always loved the outdoors. After graduating from Westfield State University (Westfield, MA) with a degree in Wilderness Leadership, Alex worked with the Boy Scouts of America at the High Adventure Boy Scout base in Islamorada, Florida, before moving to the Cape in 2012. She took on a five-year stint with the Town of Falmouth, working first in the Department of Natural Resources for two years, followed by three more as Land Management Technician in the Conservation Department. In this newly created position, Alex took on a wide range of responsibilities and collaborated closely with T3C's Jack Sidar on numerous projects. When Jack left T3C last spring, Alex was already very familiar with all the conservation lands around town. She jumped right into T3C's stewardship role to keep our work moving forward.

Alex is an avid cyclist, curler and yogi. She lives in Mashpee with her husband, Michael, and their two dogs. We are delighted that Alex has joined us!

Highlights of Stewardship projects through the summer and fall:

- Overseeing work at Kelly Woodland to create the new parking area and trailhead. The project is nearing completion, with pending installation of two benches, an information kiosk and new trail access.
- Conducting a fall tick survey to poll the membership and public on general trail usage and tick awareness.
- Managing *Phragmites* treatment at Flume Pond in concert with the Buzzards Bay Coalition.
- Organizing and leading an AmeriCorps workday at Teaticket Park: edging and mulching all trees in the streetscape and planting two new tupelos. Weeded picnic and observation platform areas and planted native wetland species to diversify the wetland area.
- Working with an AmeriCorps member (October 2017 – July 2018) to create baseline documentation and management plans for approximately 226 acres of T3C lands.

This is just a sampling of the many and varied projects Alex is working on. If you'd like to lend a hand and a few hours to our efforts, we'd be glad to have your help. Contact Alex at azollo@300committee.org.



New Grants

T3C is grateful to **The Friendship Fund** for a grant supporting our long-term project to conduct land surveys and install boundary markers on conservation lands. This new grant will support work undertaken at Kelly Woodland, Pondview (on Deep Pond in Hatchville) and the Galleon Drive parcel.

Speaker Series

T3C will present an impressive slate of speakers this winter and spring that cover a variety of fascinating topics. Collaborating with Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc., we have lined up these great talks for January through May, 2018:

January 11: John Madsen, University of Delaware, “Anchors, Caviar, and Endangered Sturgeon: A Story of Fisheries Research on the Hudson River”

February 8: Stephanie Ellis, Wild Care's Wild Encounters: “Living with my Wild Neighbors”

March 8: Chris Neill, Woods Hole Research Center, “Cranberries in Massachusetts”

April 12: Joan Walsh, MA Audubon, “The State of the Birds Report: How Climate Change”

May 10: Ted Elliman, New England Wild Flower Society, “Wildflowers of Forests and Meadows”

All talks are scheduled at 7:00 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Falmouth Historical Society's Cultural Center. We hope to see you there!



157 Locust Street
Falmouth, MA 02540-2658

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥**Tony & Marina Andrews** from Alex & Bruce Lancaster, Tom & Ann Stone
- ♥**Dick Backus** from Laurie Raymond
- ♥**Edmund J. Brown** from Pamela & Michel Paré
- ♥**Frank Campanella** from Maureen Campanella
- ♥**Mary Coan (Lucy's mom)** from Sue & Fran Smith
- ♥**Jim Craddock** from Laurie Raymond
- ♥**Arthur T. Doyle** from Rita Doyle
- ♥**John Erickson (Jessica's dad)** from Patty & Leonard Johnson
- ♥**Margaret Gould** from Daniel “Pup” Gould
- ♥**George Hampson** from Daniel “Pup” Gould, Christobel & Donald Rhoads
- ♥**Eric Johnson** from Sue & Fran Smith
- ♥**Cynthia Kendall** from Camille & Barry Beale
- ♥**Howard “Brud” Lane** from Louise Lane
- ♥**Rosemarie Lawrence** from Frederick Lawrence
- ♥**Rosemary** from John Baptiste
- ♥**Phil Lichtmon** from Ruth Segal
- ♥**Michael Moloney** from Jane Moloney Wittreich
- ♥**Edmund Naddaff** from Barbara Naddaff
- ♥**Carol Ppowers** from Nancy & Michael Bridges
- ♥**Beth Schwarzman** from Virginia & Ivan Valiela
- ♥**Souza Farms** from Greg Souza & Family
- ♥**The Thygesen boys** from Camille & Barry Beale
- ♥**H. Elaine Tripp** from Bruce Tripp
- ♥**Helen Walden** from Pamela Korites

GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

- ♥**Phyllis Edgcomb and her 95th birthday** from Andreas Teske & Carol Arnosti
- ♥**Howard & Dorothy Ellis** from Stephen Day Ellis
- ♥**Doris Eptstein's birthday** from David Epstein & Sari Friedman
- ♥**Susanne Goodman Hallstein** from Avis & Marvin Grosslein, Anne-Marie Runfola & Ken Kostel
- ♥**Alex Heintz's 10th birthday** from Heather Benway, Sofia, Olivia, Kunio, Sebastian, Torsten, Ezra, Gabe, Sebastien, Julie Huber & Matt Heintz
- ♥**Lucy Helfrich, for years of service to T3C** from Elizabeth Foley
- ♥**Leonard Johnson** from Milt & Sue Williamson
- ♥**Vicky Lowell** from Carolyn Partan
- ♥**Rosemary** from John Baptiste
- ♥**Tom Stone** from Iris & Bob Fanger
- ♥**T3C's staff members** from Anne-Marie Runfola & Ken Kostel
- ♥**Hale Thomas and his Eagle Scout achievement** from Susie Goodman Hallstein & Bill Hallstein
- ♥**Jessica Whritenour** from Kathie & Day Mount



Running the Road Race is a Family Affair

For the 14th consecutive year, T3C was a charity partner in the New Balance Falmouth Road Race's Numbers for Nonprofits program. Through this collaboration, the Road Race provides bibs to runners who commit to raise money to support their selected nonprofit partner. This year, we were pleased to welcome back to T3C's “team” a couple with lifelong ties to Falmouth: Sarah Mangelsdorf and Karl Rosengren from Madison, Wisconsin. Sarah and Karl have run the race many times over the years, and first joined up with T3C in 2012, recruiting their daughter Emily and then-boyfriend (now fiancé!) Richard Lee to run for us in 2015. The stars (and their very busy schedules) aligned this past summer, and all four were able to compete on the hot, hilly race course on August 20. We are grateful to this lovely family for their continued generous support of T3C and wish them many more happy running adventures together!

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Director of Program Services
Lucy Helfrich

Stewardship Coordinator
Alexandra Zollo

Tax Exempt # 22-2659529

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 30 years, more than 2,400 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

Leaves

Landmark Land Acquisition Fast Approaching
Tony Andrews Farm and associated waterfront lands slated for purchase in January

Since May, and The 300 Committee's last newsletter, much of our work has focused on the many facets of the Tony Andrews Farm preservation project. The acquisition of the Andrews properties presents a special opportunity for the Town to acquire working farmland and to keep this land open and protected in perpetuity. After the unanimous vote in support of Article 1 at the April Special Town Meeting, which authorized \$200,000 for a farm down payment and \$25,000 for due diligence, the road ahead for the Town and for T3C had a clear goal: to secure these 46 acres for permanent protection.

The terms of the agreement with the Andrews Family are that T3C will purchase the six lots (10 acres) along the Coonamessett River for \$950,000 and the Town will purchase the farm's 36 acres for \$2 million. Purchase & Sale agreements were signed with the family in July. While there will be two distinct transactions, the deals are inextricably linked—one will not take place without the other.



T3C's fund raising got underway immediately: two major grant proposals seeking \$485,000 in reimbursement funds were submitted to the State; grant announcements are expected later this fall. In August, the Community Preservation Committee voted to recommend a CPFund grant of \$800,000—the full amount requested—to help purchase the farmland. Other funding sources have lined up, and the Town's portion of the land acquisition costs have been endorsed by both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee, with final approval to be voted at November Town Meeting. Toward T3C's overall goal of \$1,315,000, we have raised nearly \$900,000 as of press time, and we are grateful to lead donors and others who have joined in the excitement of preserving the farm and river frontage with wonderful, generous support.*

The Tony Andrews Farm Working Group (TAFWG), a tight-knit corps of people interested in the future of farming in Falmouth, has devoted countless hours to investigating how other municipally-owned farms across the Commonwealth operate, and generating ideas and plans for future management of the farm. Members include representatives from the Falmouth Agricultural Commission, Falmouth Preservation Alliance, and T3C and a host of interested individuals, many of whom bring extensive knowledge of and experience in farming and farm management. The working group has served in an advisory capacity to the Town, as the Town plans for continued farming on the Andrews land. Details are currently being negotiated on a short-term license between Jeff Andrews and the Town, which will serve as a bridge to a long-term lease (up to 20 years) to a farm management entity.



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“Strawberry Fields Forever”
~ *The Beatles*



“Our fondest community memory is picking our own crops grown on the prime farmland at the Andrews Farm. Falmouth can continue this legacy forever by purchasing the Tony Andrews Farm.”
~ *Virginia Valiela, T3C board member*



“Farms are, literally, our lifeblood. With its prime soils and ideal location, Tony Andrews Farm is part of both our heritage and our future. This is our moment to secure that legacy.” ~ *Susan Shepherd, TAF Working Group member*

Tony Andrews Farm & Pondfront Lands Preservation Project	
Land Acquisition Costs	
\$ 2 million	Farm (36.71 acres) to be owned by the Town
\$ 950,000	Waterfront land (9.84 acres) to be owned by T3C
\$2,950,000	TOTAL
Funding	
\$ 200,000	Town free cash voted unanimously at April TM for farm down payment
150,000	Town, free cash for November TM approval
800,000	CP Fund grant for November TM approval
400,000	MA LAND grant (pending)
85,000	MA Cons. Partnership grant (approved)
1,315,000	T3C*
\$2,950,000	TOTAL



Photos: Lucy Helfrich, Mark Robinson, Karl Rosengren, Anne-Marie Runfola, Tom Stone, Tony Andrews Farm Working Group



“It is with great pride and pleasure that the Andrews Family is able to continue the legacy that our parents started over 90 years ago in creating a family farm that can now be openly shared with the Town of Falmouth and the community at large. Our property has given us much joy over the years with its beautiful unspoiled vistas. Since beginning this collaboration with the Town of Falmouth and The 300 Committee, my brothers and I walk the property with images and thoughts of our experiences growing up on the farm. For the farm was more than a farm, it was a lifestyle and one that we're very proud of. There aren't many places where you can walk across beautifully manicured farmland to reach a pond of natural serenity. This was our life and we are glad we can now share it with everyone.” ~ *Joe Andrews*



Tributes to Tony and Marina Andrews.

“Gathering food and walking trails has been a part of the human experience from our beginnings. Farming, farmland, and conservation areas allow us to connect to and honor that part of our human nature.”
~ *Stanwood Ingram, TAF Working Group member*

“Saving a piece of Falmouth's heritage for all to enjoy for generations to come is a wonderful thing.”
~ *Paula Yanni, T3C board member*

A huge thank you to the Tony Andrews Farm Working Group!

T3C joined the Tony Andrews Farm Working Group (TAFWG) with members of the Falmouth Agricultural Commission and the Falmouth Preservation Alliance. Meeting with this group almost weekly since January was a pleasure as gatherings were focused, informative and had a real sense of enthusiasm for the opportunities at TAF. We discussed the uniqueness of TAF, the many possibilities for its future and how we might get there. Several guest speakers, from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Barnstable County Extension and current farmers working on Cape Cod, provided expertise and advice. The working group's diligence and dedication have been inspiring and bode well for the future of farming in Falmouth.



Jeff Andrews getting ready for a busy weekend.



“Keeping Tony Andrews Farm as a working farm — as our Town farm — not only honors its past, but helps create the future Tony and Marina Andrews wanted for Falmouth.”
~ *Patricia Gadsby, TAF Working Group member*



“The Town of Falmouth is extremely fortunate to have The 300 Committee as a partner for the acquisition of the Andrews Farm properties. The 300 Committee brings to bear financial resources, community engagement and technical expertise which lowers the cost to Falmouth taxpayers and makes this acquisition possible.”
~ *Peter Johnson-Staub, Assistant Town Manager, Town of Falmouth*

“Purchasing the Tony Andrews Farm and maintaining it as a farm sustains Falmouth's farming heritage.” ~ *Joe Netto, lifelong Falmouth resident*



“Tony Andrews Farm shelters one of Falmouth's best fishing ponds. The bass are the fresh water equivalent of Moby Dick. Nothing will take you back in time like walking through the fertile strawberry fields to laze the day away catching a creel full of fish in Pond 14.” ~ *Adam Thomas, T3C board member*



Fish ladder at the southern end of Pond 14.



Robinson boys at Tony Andrews Farm.

“I don't even live in Falmouth, but my now-grown sons picked pumpkins from the Tony Andrews Farm each fall. It was an annual family highlight. The farm is important to the region as a model pick-your own, public resource. We cannot afford to lose it.”
~ *Mark Robinson, Executive Director, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts*



Memories of Tony Andrews Farm
Sarah Flynn, T3C Outreach Committee member

I freely admit to being a Tony Andrews Farm loyalist. I have been buying the farm's produce — especially corn, tomatoes, and strawberries — since at least the 1970s, maybe earlier. So I was thrilled when I learned, soon after my husband, David Prosten, and I moved here full time two years ago, about the Town and The 300 Committee's move to purchase and preserve it.

My family built a summer cottage on Johns Pond in 1957, and I'm not quite sure when we first discovered Tony Andrews Farm, but it has long been our go-to place for delicious fruits and vegetables. My mother and I used to go there at least weekly during the summer and were always warmly greeted by Mrs. Andrews. One of my abiding memories of Mrs. Andrews was that along with her friendliness came the stern admonition not to peel back the husk of the corn to see what the kernels looked like. You bought your ears and took your chances, though I can't recall any “bad” ears over the years. And you preserved the corn for other customers, so it didn't dry out. To this day, I cringe when I see people in supermarkets and elsewhere stripping corn, even just a little bit.

And the strawberries! I still swoon over Tony Andrews Farm strawberries and have a tendency to overbuy. One year I picked so many strawberries that I spent an entire weekend making jam. In recent years I've taken the easy way out and let the farm staff do the picking.

We didn't often see Mr. Andrews, as I'm sure he was busy on the farm, but the last time I remember doing so must have been quite late in his life. In my memory, though it may not be accurate, he was sitting gracefully atop one of his tractors.



Since David and I have been living in Falmouth year round, the farm has remained a constant. We look forward to the next chapter in its illustrious life.



Patty Johnson at the farm stand.

“Falmouth is very fortunate to have both the opportunity and the financial support from the community to save this special place for future generations. Like they say: 'Special places don't stay special by accident.’”
~ *Mike Duffany, T3C board member*