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# BAYWATCH

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## CITIZENS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAQUOIT BAY CPWB

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CPWB recognized the efforts of Winnifred Woods at our Annual Meeting last July. We would like to share with our members the history of Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay through Winnie's leadership.

### **Thank you Winnie!**

*By Bill Overhotz*

Imagine the setting, it was 1982, the Mashpee Wampanoag Land suit was still unsettled, the Cape was relatively undeveloped, and suddenly beautiful Washburn Island was slated to be turned into a private luxury resort for only the well to do. This jewel of Cape Cod was completely vulnerable and 50 trophy homes were already well into the planning phase, designed and ready to be constructed. All of Falmouth was stunned that such a wonderful place, a place they had all grown up with and accustomed to, an area that was an such integral part of the Waquoit Bay estuary, was about to become an exclusive private development that only a few would now enjoy in perpetuity. How could a 400 acre barrier beach island, a priceless example of what should be protected for all, suddenly be on the design board for so many 5000 sq ft mega homes?

At this time of course, there was little standing in the way of progress as it is so often defined, until a small group of local residents decided to stand up and confront the seemingly overwhelming inertia to develop this island. This was a grass roots movement with little local support at first, no funding, no plan, and only sheer determination to somehow thwart this wrongful onslaught on one of nature's finest places. The group, Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay (CPWB), was very small at first, but amazingly a potent little force that would not be intimidated, somehow emerged and set about confronting the developer and his hired guns. One volunteer and perhaps the most effective member of this tiny army was Winnifred Woods, a Falmouth local, an attorney, an activist, a naturalist. Winnie Woods was determined like all the other members of CPWB to wage a battle and not let Washburn Island be taken from its rightful owners, the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Winnie was vocal, knowledgeable, full of ideas, and such an inspiration to the committee members, for there was so much work to be done.

Countless hours were spent in strategizing, attending Planning Board and Con Com meetings, raising funds, reviewing documents, and gaining the support of the Falmouth community. The developer assembled all the right designers, lawyers, and a bevy of other hired guns. At first it seemed like the odds were insurmountable, but the CPWB Committee was unflappable and Winnie Woods provided the kind of leadership and support that is necessary during difficult times. The CPWB Committee commented on all phases and aspects of the project, providing the type of review and testimony that the local boards were not accustomed to. Winnie was an integral part of the whole process, commenting, writing, and testifying. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality and Coastal Zone Management Agencies began to take notice of the impact that this small group of tireless Falmouth residents was having and began to seriously consider the issues that were being discussed.

When the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the Washburn Island Development Project was delivered it was a huge document, the kind that developers often hope will squelch any opposition if by no other means than the sheer bulk of information that was provided. It made no difference, as the CPWB Committee met, planned a strategy, and carefully addressed every facet of the EIR. The developers were in a sense overwhelmed; they had not planned on being confronted by such a vocal and knowledgeable group of local residents. Their plan was flawed in so many ways and CPWB was able to point out all of the discrepancies. Shortly thereafter, the State of Massachusetts decided to intervene and take Washburn Island so that its citizens could enjoy this pristine area for all time. It seems clear now that this would never have happened had it not been for CPWB and its Committee members exemplified by Winnifred Woods.

CPWB became involved in many other local issues over the years, notably the acquisition of South Cape Beach, the Hamblin Pond development, and several other projects centered on the Waquoit Bay estuarine system. CPWB continues to be an important local citizens group to this day; it is fitting that during the summer of 2005, the group decided to recognize the contributions that Winnifred Woods made in keeping Waquoit Bay such a wonderful place for all of us to enjoy. Good luck Winnie and thanks so much for your service and devotion!

### **WBNERR to have a new director.**

Christine Gault, director for the past 16 years has left WBNERR as of December 30, 2005 to travel in Costa Rica and in time to pursue other interests.

During Christine's leadership the Reserve's educational programs and workshops have become an important tool linking the community to actively support land conservation and scientific research. While locally the Reserve is seen as the land surrounding Waquoit Bay, the Reserve's impact is much larger. The guidance of the director has played a key role in studies of nitrogen loading in wastewater and the health of coastal estuaries. Impacts on similar estuaries have helped WBNERR become an active voice in coastal communities in the Northeast.

CPWB wishes to thank Christine for the strong leadership that has grown our reserve, impacted our community and friendship that will continue as her home will still be in Falmouth.

### **New Project for CPWB**

CPWB has formed a subcommittee to Save Waquoit Farm, the former Mucker Davis farm and its land in Waquoit Village. A developer is willing to sell the 30 acres of land for conservation purposes. Our interest is to preserve the wildlife habitat, reduce septage/nitrogen loading by limiting development. Matt Patrick has joined the CPWB steering committee to direct the subcommittee and act as liaison to CPWB. A letter from CPWB will be going to the Falmouth Zoning Board of Appeals stating our wish to keep the land open as part of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge.

Mark Robinson of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts is providing the administration to support the effort.

**UPDATE to Save Waquoit Farm**, as we enter 2006 our project to preserve the land to keep the waters entering Waquoit Bay clean from septage/nitrogen was started too late. The developer has gone through a number of the permitting processes and now plans to move forward with the development. The 40B project will consist of 19 buildings with a total of 44 units.

WBNERR, CPWB and neighbors of Waquoit Village have worked with the town. The developer through these discussions has agreed to donate 10 acres to the town, these acres will remain undeveloped.

CPWB would like to work on more projects to protect the land surrounding our water ways. If you are aware of land that is available please contact CPWB or WBNERR.

### **Annual Raffle 2005**

*By Toni Grady*

The steering committee is pleased to announce that over \$1,400 was raised from the 2005 Raffle and will be used to provide scholarships to the summer youth program at WBNERR. In addition to raising money for our projects, the annual Raffle allows us to deliver our message to the community and recruit new members.

Special thanks to Kenyon's Market and Mahoney's Garden Center for allowing us to distribute information and the sale of our raffle tickets. They always make us feel welcome.

Thank you to the businesses and friends of CPWB for contributing gifts certificates and prizes for the 2005 Raffle.

Carbo's Grill  
 Don Grady  
 Eastman's Hardware  
 Edward's Boat Yard  
 Gary and Bobye Anderson  
 Hair by Paula  
 Kensington of Mashpee Commons  
 Kenyon's Market  
 Mahoney's Garden Center  
 Mashpee Bagel  
 Mashpee Commons LLP  
 Michele's Kitchen  
 Moonakis Café  
 Park Cleaners  
 Paul Andrews  
 Pendleton's  
 Subway of Mashpee  
 Tailwaggers  
 True Value Hardware of Mashpee  
 Waquoit Feed and Garden  
 Waquoit Kayak  
 WBNERR

We also thank the following CPWB members who participated in the 2005 Raffle:

Tom and Jayne Abbott, Hank and Susan Bode, Jeanne Concannon, Toni Grady, Nancy Gwynne, Mark Kennedy, Maureen Jankauskas, Don Lunn, Mike O'Leary, Vida Wagner, Chelsea Harnish, Alex Lancaster, Diane Rieger, Robert MacFadyen.

We are hoping more of our present members will volunteer to participate for a few short hours during our 2006 Raffle season. Please call Toni Grady to join in the planning of this event! Toni's phone number is 508-548-9457.

2006 CPWB Steering Committee Directors

Tom and Jayne Abbott, Hank Bode, Jeanne Concannon, Toni Grady, Nancy Gwynne, Chelsea Harnish, Maureen Jankauskas, Mark Kennedy, Don Lunn, Robert MacFadyen, Mike O’Leary, Matt Patrick, Diane Rieger, Vida Wagner

CPWB is a non-profit organization concerned with the health of the area’s waters. CPWB serves as the Friends Group for the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, supporting their educational programs and seminars. We are committed to providing critical support through our membership base to support WBNERR.

**CPWB Membership Annual Dues and Contribution**

I want to be a member of Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay CPWB, to protect our Coastal Ponds.

*Please make checks payable to CPWB*

Enclosed is my contribution:

\$ 10.00 Membership

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to volunteer:**

Washburn Island clean-up  *June*  *September*

Poster Contest for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  *Spring project!*

Summer Raffle  *A few hours of your time*

Steering Committee  *The committee meets every other month at WBNERR.*

*Your contribution to “Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay” CPWB is Tax Deductible.*

# **BAYWATCH**

**Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay CPWB**

**JANUARY 2006 NEWSLETTER**

**Thank you Winnie!**

**WBNERR to have a new director**

**New Project for CPWB**

**Annual Raffle 2005**

**Thank you to our business sponsors and friends**

**Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay CPWB**

**P.O. BOX 3021**

**WAQUOIT, MA 02536**

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