



MATTAPOISETT LAND TRUST, Inc.

Box 31, Mattapoissett, MA 02739

News Letter: Fall 1997

The "Heart Connection": Hearts & Hands will be our tenants at the Dunseith property if final discussions are successful. They are a non-profit "hospice - type" organization which provides support for terminally ill children and their families.

Mattapoissett Land Trust has held the property left to it by Henry B. Dunseith for nine years now while searching for a non-profit use. Several organizations have initiated enthusiastic plans, only to be confronted with prohibitively expensive building code requirements. This proposal is different.

The Dunseith property is an important "greenspace" at the corner of North Street and Route 6 (the Seahorse). Nestled in the midst of the commercial district, it is green, well planted with specimen trees, and generally easy on the psyche, and it will stay that way. Hearts & Hands plans to rehabilitate the antique 1809 residence and replace the gift shop with a similarly sized but accessible facility for support-group activities. The grounds will be upgraded but retain the same visual impact, and the Seahorse will be maintained as it is today.

It's not a "done deal" yet as there are residual legal issues to resolve and the lease is not complete. The prospect of H & H as a long-term tenant is great and is certainly consistent with the intent of the Dunseith will (the rent will be \$1.00 per year). We look forward to a constructive relationship.

Munro Seawall: The seawall at our Munro property has suffered the ravages of time and has been virtually destroyed by storms during the '90's. Many of our readers have already contributed generously to the reconstruction announced last spring. Financing is almost complete at \$50 thousand with a target of \$60 thousand.

N. Douglas Schneider & Associates is developing the design and the nine licenses necessary to begin work. He's "almost" there. If the weather holds, the last approvals are obtained, and just a little more money comes in, we'll begin work this year. The crane is already on-site.

To all those friends of Mattapoissett who have already helped, Thank You. There are many generous personal gifts and the following "leadership" gifts from area companies:

Nye Lubricants, Inc.
Hiller Associates, Inc.

Peoples Savings Bank
Dawson Real Estate

Brownell Boatyard, Inc.
Dupont Landscape

To those who are going to contribute, it's not too late, and thanks in advance. We'd be happy to visit anyone desiring detailed plans and perspectives on the project. This project will preserve our waterfront park well into the next century.

To spruce up the property and say "Thanks" for all the support, the MLT board has voted to replace the split rail fence this coming Spring. We'll do it using our annual budget - also contributed by members and readers. The town at-large and the Land Trust thanks you.

Calendars for 1998: The Buzzards Bay Land Trust Network, a consortium of SouthCoast land trusts including MLT, has created a limited number of beautiful 1998 calendars. Pictures are from properties owned by the six participating land trusts. These will make excellent Christmas gifts or a kitchen decoration for the entire year. They may be purchased for \$15.00 at Rogers Gallery or from Ruth Bates @ 758-6279.

Meetings @ Town Hall: Beginning this month, the MLT board holds its monthly meetings at Mattapoisett Town Hall. Until recently we enjoyed the hospitality of a director's living room which was always gracious but discouraged visitors and member participation.

Meetings are usually the second Thursday at 7:30 and all of the Mattapoisett community is welcome. Please come and learn about MLT properties and our objectives for each. Learn what your annual contributions support and how your participation will make an even better Land Trust.

MLT Signs: You may have noticed yellow signs marking MLT properties. Prime examples are the signs on the Munro property at the waterfront. We hope to have most of the properties marked by year-end, weather permitting. Also, please note that some of these are also NO HUNTING signs. This is an indication of MLT preference and can be used by the Environmental Police to remove hunters. It does not guarantee that hunters will not be on the property.

Good Neighbors Plan: The MLT board is extending an outreach to neighbors of MLT properties. In doing this we hope to increase our membership and improve our stewardship of the properties. Positive rapport with our neighbors will ensure a mutually satisfactory approach to property management.

Harbor Days: MLT had its usual booth at Harbor Days to dispense information about MLT and to sell T-shirts and hats. This year we also had a booth on the adjoining Munro property to educate interested person on the need for seawall work. It was a grand time and very successful. Guests bought all our shirts and hats, raised \$600 for the seawall, and increased their awareness of the project.

Annual Meeting 1997: In May we held our annual meeting at the Mattapoisett Friends Meeting House. About 50 interested members came on Saturday morning for coffee, scones and an interesting talk by Reed Stewart of the Wildlands Trust of S. E. Massachusetts.

Following election of officers and directors for the coming year, we toured the Emerson property, our newest acquisition which is 8 acres surrounding the Route 6 water tower. The trail blazed prior to this meeting is now slightly overgrown, but it's marked with orange surveyors tape and we encourage the walk - - or take a clipper and renew it a little as you go.

Land Acquisition: MLT is always available for quiet conversations and estate planning as you think about land gifts or conservation easements.

Spring '98 Project: We've designated the eastern parcel of Mrs. Martocci's gift for focus next spring. The parcel is accessible from Old Sippican Path (or Prospect Street if you're brave) and has some existing trails. We need volunteers to define property lines, mark existing trails, and create new ones.

Funds Needed: Your interest, physical help and your funds make MLT what it is. Thank you.

SEAWALL Gift and/or Pledge:

For more information please call:

Gift /pledge Information:

Date_____

Name_____

Address_____

City/State_____

Bob Atkinson

508-758-4401

Brad Hathaway

508-758-3579

Randall Kunz

508-758-2966

Bob Walter

508-758-2379

Please make checks payable to: MATTAPOISETT LAND TRUST, Seawall Fund, Box 31, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. Contributions are deductible under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.