



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

'Sconset is a state of mind, and we each will define that in our own heartfelt words, likely somewhat differently from our neighbors. My views about our village have changed considerably since our family relocated year round to 'Sconset in 2002. I have some new insights about how 'Sconset fits into the larger community and how some things we do and say foster an "us vs. them" undercurrent that can prove counterproductive. This is material for a future discourse on some views about how 'Sconset can be a more significant and contributing member to the Nantucket community. Today let's focus on being the best stewards we can be. Be a conservationist; be a preservationist; be a champion of establishing a model for your children and grandchildren of what 'Sconset can and should be in the coming decades. Plan for the future.

SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE

Sankaty Head Lighthouse is a cherished symbol of our community. It ties us to our maritime heritage, and the decision in 1849 to build a solid and proud brick structure, guiding mariners through the ever-changing and menacing shoals off our eastern shore, resonates in 2007. Today we will make sure Sankaty stands firm for future generations. It might not play the same role it did in the 19th and 20th centuries, but it will be our link to that glorious past. The presence of Sankaty Lighthouse immeasurably enhances the quality of our lives. It helps to establish our sense of place, and in part, to define the character of our community.

The campaign to preserve Sankaty Head Lighthouse, saving the great sentinel is underway. All should play a part in this grand undertaking, which will culminate in the coming months with the relocation of the Lighthouse to a safe position approximately 400 feet to the northwest of its

current location and the relighting of the beacon, likely with some fanfare. Get involved with your skills and time, and please be as generous as you can in helping us reach our \$4,000,000 fundraising goal. If you have already taken steps to notify the Trust of your financial commitment, please accept our sincere thanks.

Summer 2007 will provide many opportunities for you to learn more about the project and the campaign, so please join us when possible.

PRESERVATION

The final steps in the preservation strategy for the Siasconset Union Chapel are in hand and we should be celebrating a significant milestone in the history of our village this summer. The preservation easement for the Chapel and the Chapel property sets the stage for other public structures and private dwellings to follow suit. We are working with the Nantucket Preservation Trust to establish a broad and deep inventory of historic homes in 'Sconset. This will help document and support the effort to expand the scope of historic dwellings to those built in the first half of the twentieth century.

LAND CONSERVATION

Our primary mission and role is conservation of open land. The island is a model for communities around the country. We have moved into a time of ever escalating land values, and the conservation community is in direct competition with the development interests on and off the island. An analogy can be made between the erosive effects of Mother Nature on our eastern shore and the march of the development wave on our western boarders.

Recently an 8.8 acre tract of land was purchased by a Nantucket developer, who has initial plans to develop 15 half-acre lots with homes and possible secondary residences in a light-density neighborhood. Please see Erika Mooney's article on this matter in this newsletter.

Within 'Sconset boundaries are two of the



The spring crew from International Chimney Corp. work on the exterior bracing of the Lighthouse in May.

largest open tracts of land on the island – the properties (approximately 120 acres) to the north of the Milestone Road, owned by members of the Coffin family, and the Loran Station land (approximately 190 acres), owned by the Federal government and the town. Based on recent events it is clear that the Coffin land is now heading toward a possible public offering. Wetland delineations and other environmental tests have been completed. This paves the way for pre-development planning and approvals at the town level for build-out of these properties. The Trust is working with the major island conservation groups, including the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, the Nantucket Land Bank, and the

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The Trust's primary mission is to assist in the preservation of the Village's unique character through conservation and preservation of areas of open land and its structures of historic significance.

WHERE WAS THE 'SCONSET TRUST?

On March 19, 2007, John Keane, trustee of Burnell Street Nominee Trust, bought 8.8 acres of land on Burnell Street from the Estate of Anita C. Dammin. Mr. Keane has received preliminary approval from the Nantucket Planning Board for a 15 lot subdivision.

The property is located in SR-2 zoning, which requires minimum lot sizes of 20,000 square feet and maximum ground cover of 12.5%. Mr. Keane is currently in the process of seeking Planning Board approval for his definitive subdivision plan, including the construction of a 940' private road named Black Fish Lane. The Dammin Estate still retains approximately five acres of land adjacent to the proposed Black Fish Lane subdivision.

The first question many of you might have is where was the 'Sconset Trust when this sale went through and how did we let this subdivision happen? We'd like you to know that the Trust diligently tried to protect this property. Representatives of the Trust attempted to talk with Mrs. Dammin when she was alive about conserving her property. After she passed away, the Trust paid for her children to meet with Steven Small, a leading conservation estate attorney, in hopes that the family would consider selling all or a part of the Dammin land to the 'Sconset Trust.

Unfortunately talks with the Dammin family subsided and the Trust was asked to discuss the future of the Dammin land with the family's legal and real estate advisors. Last August these representatives invited the Trust and other conservation organizations around the Island to attend a meeting with them; the Trust and one member of Nantucket Land Council attended. We were presented with a plan showing the 8.8 acre parcel that the family wanted to dispose of. The price was \$11 million and we were told there was no negotiating. It was \$11 million for us and it would be \$11 million on the open market.

Regardless, the Trust began talks with abutters to discuss ways to finance the purchase of this lot. Although the Trust hoped to retire all the land into conservation, we were aware that a conservation-friendly development approach might have to come into play. The Trust ended up making two informal offers, the last for \$8.5 million. We never received a response to these offers and in the end the land was sold to Mr. Keane for the full asking price.

The Trust realized that it was essential to open communications with Mr. Keane about his plan for the land and had a constructive initial meeting with him. As concerns grew within the Burnell Street neighborhood, we realized we needed to facilitate a meeting between Mr. Keane and the



Burnell Street, photo courtesy of Kris Kinsley

neighbors. We did and the end result has been a positive one.

Although the majority of the neighborhood would have liked to see no development on Burnell Street, especially no road improvements as the Planning Board initially discussed, they were more interested in establishing a healthy dialog with Mr. Keane. Meetings were held between Mr. Keane and concerned members of the neighborhood and constructive sug-

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GRANT AWARDED TO UPDATE NANTUCKET'S HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

Last year the preservation community was informed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) that they cannot designate 20th century buildings on Nantucket as being "certified historic structures" that are eligible to receive tax deductions for preservation easements. Although the entire island is a National Historic Landmark, the nomination by which this designation was achieved only identifies the period from settlement through 1899 as possessing historic significance. This circumstance means that the nomination did not recognize anything built after 1900 as historic. In order to change this situation, the nomination needs to be updated.

This news raised much concern as many important houses were built in the early 20th century on Nantucket, especially in 'Sconset. So the 'Sconset Trust and the Nantucket Preservation Trust (NPT) decided to do something about it. The NPT applied to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for a grant to update Nantucket's National Historic Landmark nomination to include 20th century buildings. The CPC recommended the Preservation Trust, which will be undertaking this project, for an \$85,000 grant for this work, and voters approved the monies at April's Annual Town Meeting. Characteristic of the time in which it was written, the original National Historic Landmark Nomination lacks the level of historical information and analysis that is required today. Because of this shortcoming, part of the work of this project is to update the 17th, 18th and 19th century history of Nantucket's architecture as well as adding information about 20th century buildings. The focus of the research will be Nantucket Town and 'Sconset Village.

SIASCONSET UNION CHAPEL EASEMENT

ALMOST COMPLETE

The easement document that will preserve the historic integrity of the Siasconset Union Chapel and its grounds was finally approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) at the end of June. The easement will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for their approval in early July then recorded at the Registry of Deeds. We would like to thank the Board of the Chapel again for placing an easement on the important structure. What a wonderful gift to our community!

THIRD ANNUAL NEW YORK CITY SOIREE ~ MARCH 30



Clockwise from upper left: Philip Santarelli, Kathy Anselmi & Mark Donato; David St. Clair, Harrison & Michaela Grubbs; Peyton Grubbs & Matt MacDonald; Amy Tercek, Mark Fikipski & Batia Zumwalt; Kathy Cheek & Carolyn Meehan; Derby Wilson & John Reed; Tom & Pia Murphy.



President's letter, continued from page one:

Nantucket Land Council, to review and create a strategy to encourage a conservation tone to future development of this land. Regarding the Loran Station, we have informed the town of our interest in collaborating with the town for future conservation, recreational, and housing solutions.

As you consider what your personal commitment might be to the future of 'Sconset, think of the impact of 20, 30, 40 or 50 more houses as it affects our village infrastructure, open vistas, and

views and the overall quality of life. Be a steward and join with us to protect our future. We'll keep you informed as these storylines mature in the coming months.

Robert Dean Felch, President
rdfelch@aol.com

SOIREE SPONSORS

'SCONSET LIGHTS

*Elisabeth Bittner & Chansoo Joung
Bill Moore
Lydia & Rob Petty
Amy & Mark Tercek
Deborah & Jim Walker*

'SCONSET ROSES

*Kathy & Joseph Arvay
Betsy & Ray Grubbs
Andrea & David Kinsley
Carol & Ken Kinsley
Nantucket Moose
Susan & Perry Ruddick
Alix & David St. Clair
Anne & David St. Clair
Batia Zumwalt*



LIGHTHOUSE HAPPENINGS

- ❖ HDC approval for moving the Lighthouse was given in January, 2007.
- ❖ An information session about the Lighthouse move and restoration was held in Vero Beach, FL in March.
- ❖ Building permits were issued in April.
- ❖ International Chimney Corporation (ICC) began Phase One of the move on April 30. Progress to date includes:

- ◆ Reinforcing was placed on select openings on the Lighthouse.
- ◆ A reinforcing corset was placed on the upper footages of the masonry column.
- ◆ Inspections of the lantern, the exterior stucco, the Lighthouse floor were done.
- ◆ Excavations were performed for the installation of the new foundation.
- ◆ The concrete foundation and pedestal were formed and poured.

- (115 yards of concrete!)
- ◆ Conduits were laid in the foundation for the reconnection of utilities.
 - ◆ The excavation has been fenced and secured for the summer season.
 - ❖ Bob Felch participated in the NHA's Food for Thought Thursday lecture series by giving a presentation about Sankaty Lighthouse, the move and restoration on May 10.



Photo courtesy of Rob Benchley

A WORD OF THE MOVE SCHEDULE

The current timeline calls for an early October move for the Lighthouse, we must caution those of you who are making plans to be on the island at that time that certain elements of the excavation and preparation process at the old site along with foundation and site work at the new location might result in delays in the actual move dates. Also, Mother Nature might have a voice in the matter.

While we will make every effort to facilitate the relocation on schedule with an expected one to two week move during the first two weeks of October, please understand that issues beyond our control might cause delays.

The current schedule is:
Early August – resumption of work

Early August – November – the light will be out of operation

September – active construction work on the new site adjacent to the golf course

October – 8 to 10 day move of light

Mid-October through November – completion of installation and commencement of restoration of light – the light will be turned on as soon as practical during the winter and will be re-certified as an official aid to navigation

November through spring Of '08 – landscaping and site work

Spring 2008 - "official" relighting of light and community celebration.

SANKATY LIGHT

*From my chair on the porch
From the window in the hall
From my bed that faces East
I can see the light call*

*To boats and cars and those on feet
Sankaty paves the way
Every night it flashes round
But, I like it best by day*

*By day it stands for all the things
The tourists seem to buy
Coasters, salt cellers, Tee shirts
I prefer it in the sky*

*It's straight and proud,
And modest too
No gaudy bits has it
Our lighthouse stands for Sconset
It is a perfect fit!*

Weedie Block - Spring 2007





*“Groundbreaking” (l to r): Susan Whitlock, Steven Cohen, David St. Clair, Bob Felch, Erika Mooney, Susan Ruddick, Peter Hull, Perry Ruddick, Bill Tramosch, Chris Ryder & Bob Kuratek.
Photo courtesy of Rob Benchley.*



The Sankaty Head Lighthouse Campaign will officially go public in early July when the Keepers of the Light will be honored and the money raised to date announced. Perry and I are very gratified by the generosity and vision of our early donors. In the weeks ahead as the move approaches, we will be reaching out to the entire island population. This island icon can not be preserved without the support of all of us. If you haven't given, please do so today. Thank you.

*Susan Ruddick
Campaign Co-Chair*



*Spring work: the lighthouse is prepared and the new foundation is laid.
Photos courtesy of Steve Scyok/International Chimney.*

TRUST HAPPENINGS

- ❖ The 'Sconset Trust participated in the Nantucket Historical Association's Festival of Trees in December 2006. Our theme this year was "Santa Saves Sankaty" and featured a 6' Paper Mache Sankaty Lighthouse on wheels being pulled to safety by Santa in his sleigh. Thanks to Bunny Whiteley for volunteering many, many hours on this project!
- ❖ The Trust held its third winter board meeting, held in New York City. Our meeting coincided with our Third Annual 'Sconset Soiree held again this year at the Harvard Club. The Soiree was held in March instead of February after the two previous years were affected by winter storms. We are happy to say we had a fabulous evening and a wonderful turnout.
- ❖ The Trust, on behalf of the Sankaty Head Lighthouse Campaign, was the recipient of a \$300,000 grant by the Nantucket Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for the move of the Lighthouse. The grant was

recommended by the CPC in November and was approved by Annual Town Meeting in April.

- ❖ The Trust will once again be hosting bird walks in July and August, led by Dr. Bob Kennedy of the Maria Mitchell Association. Please pre-register as the group size is limited.
- ❖ The 'Sconset Trust Annual Meeting & Reception is Friday, July 20. After the business meeting has concluded, stay and gam about Sankaty Light. Joan Porter will be our moderator. We hope to see you there!

NEW OFFICE LOCATION!

For the first time in the Trust's history, we have an official office space. We are located at 18 Sparks Avenue, Unit E. Please continue to use our 'Sconset post office box for any correspondence.

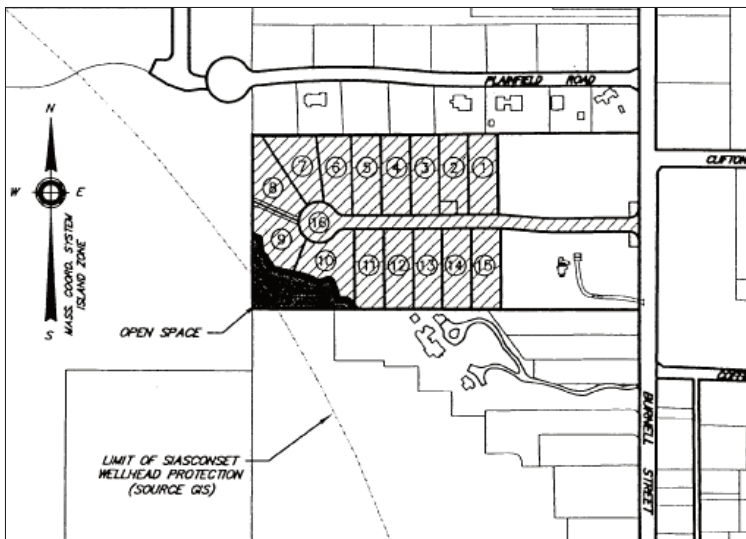
Blackfish subdivision, continued from page 2:

gestions were given.

Today, both sides feel they have come to a compromise most everyone can live with. These suggestions, such as limiting density and keeping Burnell Street's rural characteristics as much as possible (although the street will be paved with chip seal), have been incorporated into Mr. Keane's plans and have been presented to the Planning Board. The Planning Board, at its June 11 public hearing, praised the relationship between the neighbors and the developer and said they hope this area of 'Sconset can serve as a model for other areas of the Island facing development.

The end result is still not known as Mr. Keane is currently going through the Planning Board public hearing process. He has also revised his subdivision plan slightly, changing the road layout and reducing the number of lots to 14. Although the 'Sconset Trust would have preferred 100% retirement of this land into conservation, we feel we have led the community in a positive way.

Erika Mooney
Executive Director



Proposed subdivision plan for Blackfish Lane

THANK YOU

I want to thank the members of the 'Sconset Trust for your support over the years and your willingness to step up to the grand preservation challenge of saving Sankaty Head Lighthouse. At the same time we must not take a step backward in our annual fund raising effort. Certainly capital fund drives tend to detract from the ongoing needs to run a non-profit such as your 'Sconset Trust. Your continued generous annual support of our operating needs will help us win the day for our conservation and preservation initiatives. Life in 'Sconset is wonderful, let's keep it that way.

Robert Dean Felch, President
rdfelch@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Dean Felch, President
J. Perry Ruddick, Vice President
William J. Charlton, Treasurer

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Bunny Whiteley
Walter C. Wilson

Susan R. Whitlock,
'Sconset Civic Association

Executive Director
Erika Davidson Mooney

'SCONSET TRUST MERCHANDISE

Please contact the 'Sconset Trust for order information and availability.

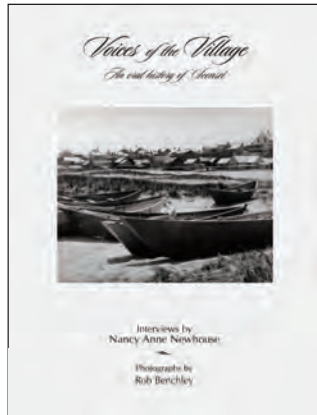
'SCONSET ROTARY BY FORREST RODTS



Forrest Rodts very generously offered to paint a classic 'Sconset rotary scene with all proceeds to benefit the Trust. He has signed 150 limited edition giclee (high quality, long-life) prints. The dimensions are 12" x 15".

\$150

VOICES OF THE VILLAGE, AN ORAL HISTORY OF 'SCONSET, WITH INTERVIEWS BY NANCY NEWHOUSE AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB BENCHLEY



29 interviews take the reader back to a simpler time in our lives. This wonderful book of 'Sconset oral history is truly a keepsake and is a must have for your Nantucket book collection.
\$25

SAVING SCONSET, HOW YOU CAN PROTECT THE FUTURE OF A FRAGILE PLACE, WRITTEN BY GEORGIA URBANO RAYSMAN



This small black and white booklet discusses the general ins and outs of the restriction process, and how we can help to preserve the 'Sconset we know and love by placing either historic preservation restrictions or conservation restrictions on our properties.

\$5

'SCONSET TRUST GOLF/TENNIS SHIRTS



These polo-style shirts are short-sleeved, white, and all-cotton, made by Boast. The 'Sconset Trust logo is featured over the heart and our mission of "Conservation and Preservation" is on the left sleeve. Adult sizes S, M, L and XL currently available.

\$45

SAVING 'SCONSET, HOW RESPONSIBLE VILLAGERS CAN PROTECT THE FUTURE OF A FRAGILE PLACE



This important book focuses on how 'Sconseters can cope with the changes and pressures that face the village as it continues to develop; it contains specific references to the character and scale of different architectural neighborhoods.

\$12.50

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Whether you would like to purchase Trust merchandise, have questions about what's happening in the Village, or want to update the Trust on an issue or your address, please contact us by telephone, fax, email, or post.

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The
Sconset
Trust



Conservation and Preservation

2007 Calendar

JULY

- 4 BIKE PARADE. 9:40 a.m. at the Casino. Helmet required.
- 4 FIREWORKS DISPLAY. 9 p.m. at Jetties Beach. Weather date: July 5.
- 7 ST. MARY'S CHURCH SUMMER FAIR. 9 A.M.-2 P.M.
- 9 **'SCONSET BIRD WALK LED BY DR. BOB KENNEDY/MMA. 8:30 A.M. at the Casino. Pre-registration required. Call the 'Sconset Trust (508) 228-9917.**
- 9 'SCONSET CIVIC ASSOCIATION meeting at the Casino.
- 11 COMMUNITY GREEN THUMB FLOWER SHOW. 10 A.M.-5 P.M. at the Nantucket New School. Nantucket Garden Club.
- 12 ST. PAUL'S CHURCH FAIR. 9:30 A.M.-2 P.M.
- 12 ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE. 9 A.M. at the Casino.
- 19 HUG THE LIGHTHOUSE. 7 P.M. at Sankaty Light. Songs and stories for children and families. Led by Batia Zumwalt.
- 27-29 CIRCUS FLORA. Tom Nevers Field. Nantucket Atheneum.

AUGUST

- 3-5 NANTUCKET HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ANTIQUES SHOW. 10 A.M.-5 P.M. at the Nantucket New School.
- 4 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAIR & AUCTION. 10 A.M.-2 P.M. at 62 Center Street.
- 6 **'SCONSET BIRD WALK LED BY DR. BOB KENNEDY/MMA. 8:30 A.M. at the Casino. Pre-registration required. Call the 'Sconset Trust (508) 228-9917.**
- 6 'SCONSET CIVIC ASSOCIATION meeting at the Casino.
- 8 NANTUCKET GARDEN CLUB HOUSE TOUR. 11 A.M.-5 P.M.
- 9 NANTUCKET PRESERVATION TRUST AUGUST FETE. 6-9 P.M.
- 11 BOSTON POPS ESPLANADE ORCHESTRA. 7 P.M. at Jetties Beach. Nantucket Cottage Hospital Benefit.
- 18 SANDCASTLE & SCULPTURE DAY. 12 P.M. at Jetties Beach. Pre-registration required.

'SCONSET TRUST DATES TO SAVE!

July 4 – Field Day after the Parade at the Siasconset Union Chapel. Refreshments.

July 20 – Reception & Annual Meeting at the Casino. Stay and Gam about Sankaty Light! Moderated by Joan Porter.

August 7 – Patrons' Party for Leadership Donors hosted by Lydia & Rob Petty at Green Chimneys, 20 Main Street.