

In this issue:

View from the River's Edge

FOBR Becomes Independent Non-Profit

Save Our River Symposium 2022

Looking ahead to 2023 – How you can help

View from the Rivers Edge – December 2022

Rick Bishop – Executive Director

If you look closely at my picture to the right you will notice I have two fist-fulls of **very green sea lettuce**. This photo was taken on Thursday December 1, 2022. The air temperature was a chilly 41 degrees and the water temperature 44! I waded out into Mill Pond and was quite surprised to discover, probably acres of nitrogen enriched growth.

The Massachusetts Estuaries Program has determined that's a 73% reduction in nitrogen is necessary to return upper Bass River headwaters to health. This growth is further evidence of the accuracy of the MEP findings.

Returning the upper Bass River to health is precisely what we continue to work on every day.

Thanks to the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) and Yarmouth CPC we have received nearly \$300,000 this year – earmarked exclusively to fund a design for the replacement of the drastically undersized North Dennis culvert with a new **60' bridge**.



**The current bridge and culvert
at Crab Creek/North Dennis
Road**

The replacement of the North Dennis Road culvert is the essential first step in our 160- acre restoration project. Not only will the new bridge allow for more water exchange (remember “the solution to pollution is dilution”), the expanded opening will reduce the velocity of the current coming through this location & thus reduce erosion along the banks of Crab Creek.

The recent opening of the Cape Cod Rail Trail Bridge has created more flow between the upper and lower sections of the river – a great first step benefiting the health of the upper river. Now is the time to take the next steps...

Proposed design rendering of the new North Dennis Road Bridge at Crab Creek



In addition to the Crab Creek project **Friends of Bass River** continues to move forward with plans to restore 57.2 acres

of abandoned cranberry bogs owned by the Town of Yarmouth to the west of Mill Pond. This project also requires replacement of a failed culvert along Weir Road in Yarmouth Port.

In early 2023 we will also start the application process for state and federal permits for these projects.



The existing, failed culvert under Weir Road at Hamblin's Brook

Proposed design rendering of the new Weir Road Bridge at Hamblin's Brook



We need your help to continue this important work. Please Donate now.



Friends of Bass River is now an official 501c3 Non-Profit

Your **Tax-Exempt Gift** will make even more of a difference!

We are very proud to announce that we are now a privately operated 501C3 non-profit. We are so thankful to the staff at the **Cape Cod Foundation** for their excellent fiduciary management of Friends of Bass River since 2017. We are very excited to take off our training wheels after 5 years and embark on this new Chapter of FoBR. We are committed to running a **lean & mean non-profit organization**.

We will be completing the transition from CCF during the month of December & will be launching a **new website & updated donation portal** later this month.

3rd Annual Save Our River Symposium

In late October 152 Friends learned about culvert replacement and bridge design from nationally recognized engineering firm Tighe & Bond, wetlands restoration from geomorphologists with Inter-fluve, Oyster Aquaculture success within the Town of Falmouth, and Route 28 Bridge conditions, shoaling and erosion conditions on the river from FOBR's Rick Bishop. Excellent questions and answers concluded a very successful event. Thank you to the West Dennis Yacht club for hosting and Cape Media for recording the event. We will have the presentations up on our **new website**.



Our Volunteers are the lifeblood of Friends of Bass River



Looking Ahead to 2023

Your Tax-Deductible Donations to Friends of Bass River go directly to local programs like these. Please Donate Now!

Water Testing



Our water quality testing volunteers provide essential scientific data on the health of Bass River. **Testing and equipment costs continue to rise.**

Summer Interns



In 2023 we are looking to **increase the number of paid interns** to assist with water testing and educational programs.

Education



We continue to do more with the DY school system – from grade school to high school and beyond. **This year we will be providing stream tables to 3rd grade classrooms.**

THE DENNIS CONSERVATION LAND TRUST

Catch 2023's first light with DCLT and FOBR!
6:45 AM on Jan 1, 2023 at West Dennis Beach

friends of BASS RIVER

For more info or to register, email info@dennisconservationlandtrust.org

Photo: D. Fryxell

Friends of Bass River
P.O. Box 303
West Dennis, MA
02670

www.friendsofbassriver.org

FOBR is a private, 501C3 Nonprofit dedicated to the preservation of the Bass River Estuary

President – Robert R Churchill, Jr
Treasurer – Erinn McCarty
Clerk – Elizabeth G Hayden

Directors

Robert S Harrison
Kenneth H Foster
Joseph E Tierney

friends of BASS RIVER