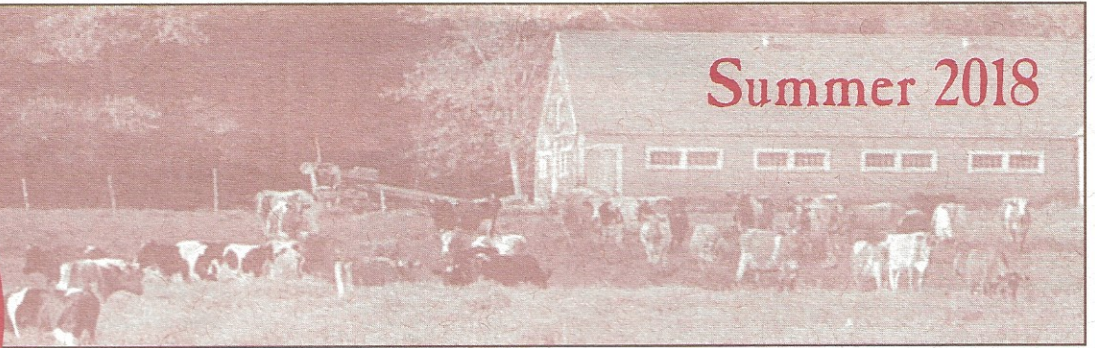
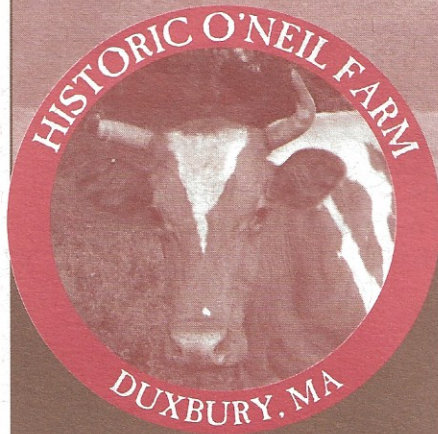


Summer 2018



Taking a New Look Down the Lane

As we enter into summer, we are happy to introduce Jessica McNally and Emma Duffy as our new board members. Sue Schortmann continues as our board President, Sam Butcher our Clerk, and Kim Glattstein will be taking on the responsibilities of Treasurer. We are excited to fill two board vacancies with qualified individuals and look forward to making real progress at the farm in 2018.

With ten years behind us we find ourselves needing to focus in on preparing for the next generation on the farm. We are actively evaluating how to make the inevitable transition from Carl, who had the wisdom and forethought to preserve the farm and who has spent his entire life (so far!) on the farm to a different sort of relationship with tenant farming. We are assessing housing, developing a plan to address critical maintenance needs for the existing barn and exploring ideas for how the barn needs to be improved for a future tenant farmer who may want to diversify from more than wholesale milk. As you will read in this newsletter, we thought we were well on our way to renovating the bungalow for farmer housing by the end of the year. However, as we got into the project, we discovered that the existing structure was not on solid footing. Two steps forward, one step back, thus we are reevaluating options. With the addition of Jessica and Emma, we are happy that our board is on solid footing, even if the bungalow is not. The position of Education Coordinator remains vacant, therefore, our education programming has been scaled back.

Farm Day preparations, revisiting tenant farming housing plans, and trail maintenance will be the focus for this summer. Farm Day will be held from 11- 2 on Saturday, September 22 and we hope you will take some time out of your day to enjoy walking the trails or ride the wagon to the barnyard. Farm Day plans include traditional music entertainment from The Wildcat Bog Stompers, "pet a calf", a milking demo, and plenty of activities for families, such as, old-fashioned games and kid's crafts. Our annual open house event is free and made possible by volunteer support and donations. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

We will be reaching out at the end of August for Farm Day volunteers. Thank you for your support

The Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation committed to maintaining the 145-acre farm in agriculture in perpetuity, preserving and protecting the historic landscape and natural habitat, providing educational programs, and offering public access to the farm.

Board of Directors:

Susan Schortmann,
President

Kimberly Glattstein,
Treasurer

Sam Butcher,
Clerk

Emma Duffy

Jerry Ingersoll

Marie King

Jessica McNally

Douglas Muir, Esq.

Carl O'Neil

Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc.

PO Box 2755

Duxbury, MA 02331

email:

historiconeilfarm@gmail.com

website: historiconeilfarm.org

Find Us on Facebook:



The Autumn Avenue trailhead parking lot is open dawn to dusk.



Bay Farm Montessori 7th and 8th Graders Learn About Dairying

For the fifth year Historic O'Neil Farm hosted The Bay Farm Montessori School 7th and 8th graders in an informative experiential three day program. The 14 students learned how to handle yearlings and newborn calves, and received an overview of raising dairy cattle and operating a small dairy farm. Highlights included walking amongst **The Goatscaping Company** goats who were eating their way through the invasive plants on the farm, and the opportunity to see a newborn calf on their first program day and then on their third day able to lead the then three week old calf out of the barn for the first time. The group also enjoyed the always popular butter and ice cream making activities.



Goats at the Farm Eating Invasive Bushes and Weeds

Goatscaping Has Arrived

Goatscaping has arrived at O'Neil Farm! Goatscaping is the process of putting goats out (fenced of course) to eat invasive plants in areas where pesticide use is discouraged. Goats can eat thorns, and leaves and stems that most animals would not eat. They can even eat poison ivy! **The Goatscaping Company**, based out of Duxbury & Plympton, donated two weeks of goats to O'Neil Farm in the hope of starting to clear some of the thorny vines that are invading some of the pastures. We hope to use the goats over the next few years to address the invasive species.

Historic O'Neil Farm Welcomes New Board Members

Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc. is excited to announce the addition of two new board members, Emma Duffy and Jessica McNally.

Emma Duffy has her degree from UVM, where she was part of the Cooperative for Real Education in Agricultural Management (CREAM) program. After graduating she took an advanced year of a herds person internship at Miner Institute in NY, and is now back home as the herds woman managing the dairy herd at Hornstra Farms in Norwell, MA. In her spare time she enjoys riding her horse, and running.

Jessica McNally has a BS in Human Resources from Northeastern, a riding instructors' license, holds a certificate in equine massage, and is a Pilates instructor. She has been actively involved at Historic O'Neil Farm helping with milking for many years. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, Pilates and horseback riding.

Emma and Jessica come with a wealth of knowledge between them to help move and propel Historic O'Neil Farm forward.

Please join us in welcoming them.



Bay Farm Montessori Student Leads a Three Week Old Calf

Interested in receiving email updates
of events and news? - Sign-up at:
www.historiconeilfarm.org/eneews.html



11th Annual Farm Day

September 22, 2018 from 11am - 2pm



Together with the Duxbury Food and Wine Festival's "Food For Thought" event we are hosting our 11th Annual Farm Day Event on Saturday, September 22.



We look forward to seeing everyone at this free open house event where you can get up close to our calves, see a milking demonstration, enjoy live music by "The Wildcat Bogstompers", and browse local vendor booths (Hornsta Farms Pumpkin Ice Cream is a favorite) and displays. Children will enjoy free crafts and old fashioned games. Some food will be available or you can bring a lunch and blanket and enjoy a picnic while listening to some music.



Join us in the fun from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. Parking is in our Autumn Avenue field (Rt. 53 to Autumn Ave and down one quarter mile on your left) where you can ride the hay wagon or walk through the pasture or woodland trails to the barnyard. Only handicapped parking we be available down our Winter St. entrance.



For more information and a schedule of demonstrations visit: www.historiconeilfarm.org or www.duxburyfoodwinefestival.com



Future Housing Plans

The shingle house on the left side of the drive as you approach the barn was built in the early 1920s for O'Neil family member James T. O'Neil. He was appointed Duxbury's constable in 1925 and Duxbury's first police chief in 1931 and this is the house that Carl was raised in with his brother and sister.

Barbara O'Neil shared with us that the house was a Sear's kit that was similar to "The Fairy Model". The house was modified in the 1930s to accommodate Carl's family where they resided through the 1960s. For most of the last 40 years the house has been rented and in 2016 the last renters moved out leaving the house vacant.

In 2017 the Historic O'Neil Farm Board evaluated the dwelling for a potential residence of a future tenant farmer. After a cursory inspection the board authorized initial interior demolition down to the framing to evaluate if the house could be modified and pass current dwelling codes. With the age of the property, some low ceilings, and obvious sloping issues with the flooring we knew it was a long shot, but the Board wanted to retain the building if the modifications were feasible and costs less than new construction.

During the past year our board member and retired architect, Jerry Ingersal, volunteered hundreds of hours walking through and evaluating the property, drawing up a couple of iterations of plans and developing cost estimates based on board and contractor feedback. The Board authorized a contractor to begin construction and clean up exterior debris left by previous renters.



Carl O'Neil Shares Information with the Bay Farm Students

With the goal to renovate within the current building envelope to provide safe and functional housing on the existing foundation, Jerry developed and the Board approved a final cost estimate. The last step was to have the town's building inspector approve the start of construction. However after an initial evaluation the building inspector required a structural engineer's certification to demonstrate that the existing foundation was sound.

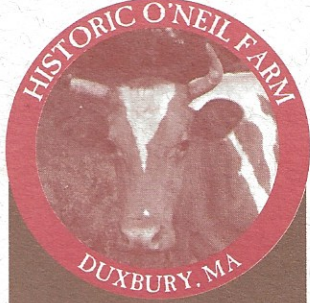
Evaluation of the foundation required excavation around the foundation to expose cracks and major issues and unfortunately excavation revealed a number of cracks in the concrete portions of the foundation. Further, portions of the stone foundation were also deemed unsuitable. The agreement by all experts present was that based on the examination any construction project would require a new foundation or extensive repairs to the existing foundation.

The board will be reevaluating our plans for housing for a future tenant farmer and utilize this time to also evaluate the immediate needs of barn maintenance and Mr. O'Neil's home, ca1717, which we intend to preserve. We look forward to future communications about these plans.

Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc.
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Duxbury, MA 02331

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See inside for:

Bay Farm Montessori
Visits the Farm

The Goatscaping Company
Comes to the Farm

Welcome New
Board Members

Farm Day 2018

New Farmers
Residence

Join Us for Farm Day 2018 ~ Saturday, September 22, 2018 ~

Support the Farm

Thank you for your continued financial contributions to Historic O'Neil Farm. 100% of your donation is used for trail, barnyard, field, and building maintenance, infrastructure improvements, education, and program materials for open house, school and scout visits.

We count on volunteer resources when hosting open house events, schools and scouting groups and appreciate the support from all of our volunteers. Thank you to Molly Hollister and Emily Zoltowski who helped us with our programs.

Donations can be made using the adjacent form and mailed to:
Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc., P.O. Box 2755, Duxbury, MA 02331

Or donate online at www.historiconeilfarm.com/donate.

The board of directors thanks you for your generosity and continued support.



YES, I am committed to helping Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc. move into the future.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

email: _____

THANK YOU!