

HIGGINS BEACH ASSOCIATION HIGH TIDE NEWSLETTER



January 2022

HBA By-Laws Committee Update

January 2021

Greetings and Welcome to the New Year.

Yes, the By-Laws Committee continued to meet over the holidays. We have completed Articles I – III General, Definition, and Objectives. We expect to be completing Articles IV – Membership and V - Meetings of Membership in our next meeting and completing Articles VI - Notices and Article VII - Quorum by the end of January.

Also, in the month of January, the Committee will finalize our Attorney review and make a recommendation to the Board.

A reminder the By-Laws Committee is:

Chair: Tom Roche, Committee Members: Annie Allen, Melissa Carifio, Dick LaRou, Sue Naiden, Jeff Perkins, and Jeff Tounge

As always please feel free to discuss the By-Law Articles with any Committee Member or email comments to HBA_ByLaws@outlook.com, all comments will be discussed in our meetings.

Tom

Civic Committee Update

The results of the Town of Scarborough Community Survey are now available. Click here to view <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aAlknq4HZF9knAvOy4eZnmYcgIIeE8p1/view>.

In Memoriam

John Veltri



Sadly, John Veltri a friend to all at Higgins Beach, passed away unexpectedly Monday January 10, 2022. [Click HERE](#) to view his obituary.

Tributes to John

John has been such an important voice at Higgins over the years and I know this is a place that he and Marilyn loved. He was quick to volunteer his time (and his truck and other resources) to support activities of the HBA as a Board member, to send out the Spring newsletter, to participate in and gather wood for the lobster bakes, as the music in the 4th of July parade, and so much more. He was a great year-round neighbor who would watch out for others who were away. John and Marilyn both truly cared about Higgins Beach. Pete and I will miss seeing him on Greenwood Avenue mowing his lawn, tending the bird feeder, moving his truck before a snowstorm, lounging in the warm sun in his driveway.....Sue Naiden

I had the unique privilege of knowing "Mr. Veltri" (in recent years, he'd always insist that I call him "John", but I just never could bring myself to!) for my entire life. My fondest memories of him are of climbing the steps to his back porch to buy tickets for Wednesday Suppers after my mom would send me over there. He was always full of compassion, patience, and zest even when speaking to an energetic child. That spirit of genuine human good is how he'll be remembered by the community who loved him so dearly. -Céile Day

John and Marilyn were the first to welcome us after we moved to Oceanwood to the Higgins Beach Club House events. He would always wave and stop for a chat from his truck.- Jack Kelley

Many years ago John and Marilyn invited us to dinner for the purpose of convincing Roger to run for an open position on the HBA Board. John really enjoyed being a Board member and his enthusiasm and dedication to the HBA was evident and his sales pitch worked. Roger agreed to run and was elected to the Board. The Clubhouse was John's second home. He opened it in the spring, closed it in the fall, coordinated all the trades and made sure everything was ready for summer activities and events. John was extremely organized. He kept accurate records of meetings, had folders for every topic and we don't believe he ever threw anything away. John was a friend and he will be missed. Roger & Glennis Chabot

I have known John Veltri for over 30 years and he is the epitome of what a gentleman should be. He would always drop anything to help a neighbor or friend regardless of the weather... beach raking, sawing up logs on the rocks, or picking up donuts on Thursday morning. He was one of the people that I could always count on to be there in a pinch. John was also a lover of good bourbon. We had many quaffs together whenever the occasion arose. When he wasn't at the beach soaking up the rays, he was at the gym keeping himself in shape. He was also becoming a very astute Macintosh computer user. He will be missed by all of us on Higgins Beach. John Osborne

For more photos and a tribute by Steve Seabury [click HERE](#)





Bill Daisley



Click [HERE](#) to view Bill Daisley's obituary. Longtime Higgins Beach resident who passed away in December. Donations can also be made to the Higgins Beach Association for a golf tournament in his honor next summer. Please make checks out to HB Association and send them c/o MaryBeth Shapiro 16 Forest Street, Scarborough ME 04074

Higgins Highlights

Gift From The Sea

Alyson Bristol



I first came to Higgins Beach sometime in the 1960s by way of northern New Hampshire. My mother's family was from Colebrook, on the Vermont/Canadian border. My grandfather died in 1926 before his 30th birthday leaving my grandmother, Eleanor Noyes, with two young children to raise. With life insurance proceeds, she bought a little three-bedroom house one block from the main street where she could raise her family. "Pa thought I was crazy, but Uncle Albert thought it was a good idea", Grandma would tell us. In need of work, she applied for the night operator job with the local telephone office, upstairs over the hardware store with three switchboards. Grandma would say she got the job because they knew she had two kids to feed, so wouldn't quit. She stayed for 39 years, eventually promoted to Chief Operator, retiring in 1965 when Colebrook "went dial".

Sometime in the 1930s a friend asked if she'd be interested in "taking in a teacher". Back then, teachers often came into town just for the school year, finding places to board through the local churches. For decades, Grandma's little house was a welcoming home to many teachers, as well as vacationers who would board with her in the summer months. For as long as I can remember, she had breakfast, lunch and dinner on the table for her boarders (she was a fabulous cook and baker), plus worked the night shift at the phone office until she became Chief Operator. I don't know how she did it all.

Her last boarder was Richard Irwin, who arrived in Colebrook in 1960 as the newly hired Headmaster of Colebrook Academy, the public high school. Mr. Irwin, as he was addressed by all including Grandma and me, grew up in Houlton. As a child, he summured with his parents at Higgins Beach. Steve Seabury's Higgins Beach



Higgins Beach High Tide

history shows Mr. Irwin's mother (also Eleanor) owned 20 Vesper Street ("Carrageen") from 1922-1944 and 2 Shipwreck from 1939-1948. His father was a Customs Officer who earned a Purple Heart in World War I.

Mr. Irwin purchased 6 Bayview in 1963. According to Bob Hodgdon, with details provided by Rodney Laughton, the land had been an empty lot once owned by Ellie Hodgdon's sister, Betty McDonough. Sometime in the 1950s, the house was moved from 13 Greenwood Avenue, also owned by Betty. For a year, it was used to stable horses in its new location before being converted into a summer cottage.

Mr. Irwin became an iconic figure in Colebrook, a principal and history teacher who was feared and revered. No doubt his brand of teaching wouldn't fly today, but his students respected and loved him. Just as he kept mostly to himself at the beach, Mr. Irwin was a low-profile but formidable presence in Grandma's house, seated at the head of the dinner table and in charge of TV programs in the evening. The place that he went to in Maine was always referred to as "The Cottage".



During the spring and fall, he'd depart Grandma's house every Friday afternoon after school got out, returning in time for supper on Sunday night. In the summer, he would rent The Cottage, staying in Colebrook to tend to his prized vegetable garden located on what had been my great-grandparents' dairy farm. He particularly took great pride in his

cauliflower. You knew he liked you if you were a cauliflower recipient. His bountiful harvest and beautiful gladiolas graced Grandma's table for decades. Until the last few years of her life, Mr. Irwin would spend his Christmas vacation at Higgins, then shut The Cottage down for the winter. Before he left for the holidays, he would bring home a Christmas tree and string the lights. Grandma would send him off with a care package of food and a six-pack of beer to tide him over.



Grandma never drove a car. When I was a kid, probably after she retired, Mr. Irwin would drive her to Connecticut every summer so she could have a vacation with us, then reappear two weeks later to drive her home. At some point during these years, he invited us to The Cottage. I vaguely remember being here, remembering how cold the water was and seeing a seal on the beach. It never occurred to me that someday, The Cottage would be my home.

Grandma lived in her little house for 70 years. She passed away at 97 in 1999. Mr. Irwin resided with her for 40 years, right up until the day she died. When her house was sold, he again invited me to The Cottage, the greatest compliment I could have ever received. I stayed in touch with him and visited once a year. He stayed in Colebrook for a few more years, serving on the school board, but then decided to move full time to his beloved Higgins Beach. In 2001, I left New York where I had lived for 26 years to take a job in Boston.



Although my move had nothing to do with Mr. Irwin or Maine, it allowed me to see him more often. Some of my dearest memories are of coming up on Sundays in the winter. The Cottage was not adequately winterized, but it worked for him. Daylight hours were spent in the living room with the sun streaming in and a fire going in his old Franklin wood stove. When the sun went down, we would retreat to the back of the house, where a kerosene monitor heated his bedroom and tiny kitchen. An old batten quilt brought down from the attic in the fall hung over the doorway between the kitchen and the front of the house to keep out the cold. I would make supper, and at 5:00, we'd gather around the TV in his room with his dog Hobo on the bed and my toy poodle Princess in my lap to watch reruns of *Gunsmoke*, Mr. Irwin's favorite show, while we dined on meat loaf, chicken pot pie or some other dish to Mr. Irwin's liking.

Mr. Irwin passed away in 2009, entrusting me with The Cottage. His dog Hobo spent the rest of his days living with a childhood friend of mine and her boxer on a big piece of property in northeast Pennsylvania. Many neighbors have asked about Hobo, recalling the times he would take off, nowhere to be found. He did the same in Pennsylvania.

For all the years I knew Mr. Irwin, I could never have foreseen how he would impact my life. I am eternally grateful to have known him, for the life lessons I learned from him, and

for his profound gift from the sea.

Mailbox Woes



A Higgins Beach Resident reports multiple thefts from the free standing mailbox at the Scarborough Post Office. It is suggested that you use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your mail, or hand it to a letter carrier. For other safe mail suggestions click [Here](#)

Polar Plunges



Some brave HB Residents ignored the cold weather and started the new year with a polar plunge on Higgins Beach. Simultaneously HB resident Rocco Frenzilli participated in the Special Olympics Lobster Dip at OOB. They had more than 375 participants and raised \$100,000! This is Rocco's 34th year to jump in the freezing water!!



Book Club



January Book Club meeting will be held on Friday, January 21 at 10:30 am EST.

Contact Barbara Bombaci

barbbombaci@gmail.com if you would like to join the club or get details on the off season meetings.

The January book is **“Olive, Again”** by **Maine author, Elizabeth Strout**. This book follows Olive Kitteridge from her seventies into her eighties

We’re always on the lookout for a good book, so share any finds...please!

Welcome to the new Scarborough Fire and Police Chiefs



Deputy Fire Chief Rich Kindelan will take the helm of the Scarborough Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency when Fire Chief Michael Thurlow retires in January after 20 years in the top spot.

[Click here](#) to read more about the transition

Chief Mark Holmquist, was sworn in on Dec. 6, he replaced former Police Chief Robbie Moulton who retired earlier this year

[Click Here](#) to read more about then new Chief



Tell us what you love about Higgins



For our February "Valentines" edition of the High Tide, we are looking for things you love about Higgins Beach.

Please send us your stories, photos or anything you love about Higgins Beach
Deadline is February 8th,
info@hbamaine.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terry Cain, Glennis Chabot, Ceilè Day, Tom Ferrucci, Sue Naiden,
Barbara O'Brien, Jeff Perkins, Al Pevarnek, MaryBeth Shapiro

Please let friends, family and renters know past editions of the High Tide can be found on our website

<https://www.hbamaine.com/hightide.html>

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