

NEWSLETTER --- SPRING 2016



ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, June 20 at 7 p.m.

Stevens Memorial Library Community Meeting Room

A short business meeting will be held, followed by:

**Kathleen Scharf of the Friends of Harold Parker
"100 Years of Harold Parker State Forest"**

Refreshments will be provided.

All are welcome.

We continue to pursue our mission statement to "preserve the history and natural beauty of the town" of North Andover. We have been consulting with the town's Public Works Department on the planting of trees and flowering shrubs on the **Old Center Common**, which the Society pieced together by acquiring parcels of land over many years and then gave to the town in 1959. We have also been working on other beautification opportunities on the Common. This spring, through a generous donation to the NAIS, we will fund the replanting of a flower bed at the **Patriots Memorial Park**. We have also made a donation to the North Andover Foundation for Education to help fund the purchase of ten benches for the **Middle School Courtyard**. You may have noticed our new updated logo, designed by former North Andover resident, Lee Anne (Roop) Webb, which can also be seen on our website, **naimprovement.org**.

In recent years, one of our most impactful roles has been to serve as the parent organization to The Friends of North Andover Trails, the North Andover Wildlife Team and the Friends of Patriots Memorial Park. We provide these groups with administrative and, to some degree, financial support. The following are updates on these groups' activities:

Friends of North Andover Trails (FONAT)

This committee meets monthly, planning trail walks and repairs, new trails, and other activities. It holds popular family-friendly hikes/walks every month on the second Sunday. Information on the schedule of activities can be found on the FONAT website, **www.fonat.org**.

FONAT has approximately one hundred members and gains more with every hike. About 10 to 15 members attend each of the monthly meetings, which are also open to the public.

FONAT members also keep busy with regular trail cleanup days, usually held on a Saturday. The committee has also built several new trails, under the direction of the Conservation Commission and often with the help of Eagle Boy Scouts, who build bridges and help to clear paths. More trails continue to be developed in North Andover as land becomes available and these new trails are added to the web site as they are developed. The committee has been a member of the Bay Circuit Alliance for the past several years, and since a section of the trail passes through North Andover, FONAT maintains this piece. Beaver activity keeps the committee needing to re-route trails and build bridges across wetlands.

The committee has published a beautiful trails guide, financed with a \$1500 grant from the Essex Heritage Area, as well as funding from the Conservation Commission and the Improvement Society. One thousand copies were printed and released in July 2015. This first printing was sold in many local shops and businesses. It was very well received and sold out by January 2016. A second printing has been ordered and a new updated version is planned for the next year or so, with additional new trails and photographs.

 *Cut here and return this slip if mailing your dues in the enclosed envelope.*

Please join the North Andover Improvement Society, or renew your membership by one of two methods:

- 1) Pay online using PayPal at **www.naimprovementsociety.org**
- 2) Pay by check made payable to North Andover Improvement Society and mailed to: **P.O. Box 212, North Andover, MA 01845**

If you pay by check, please complete this form and mail it with your check:

\$ _____ Single Membership \$10/year
\$ _____ Household Membership \$15/year
\$ _____ Contribution

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

(we will use your email address only for NAIS business)

Each year members are invited to our Annual Meeting in June and may participate in any of the projects undertaken by the Society. Would you be willing to:

_____ Volunteer to work on a specific project

_____ Be a member of a working committee

_____ Serve on the Board of Directors

North Andover Wildlife Team

The goal of this group is to register enough North Andover public spaces and homes as a "wildlife habitat" to certify the whole town with the National Wildlife Federation. In moving toward that goal and in order to meet the Federation requirements, gardens at several public schools, the Parson Barnard House, and the Stevens Estate have been planted with native plants. Approximately fifty private properties and homes are now listed, with about one hundred more needed in order for the Town to receive the National Wildlife Federation's certification.

We encourage all Improvement Society members to consider qualification for their homes. In order to qualify, a property must provide a place for wildlife to shelter, raise young, and find food and water. For example, an oak tree and a birdbath will do! Many other trees and evergreens have seeds which birds and other animals like as well. Certification of a property by the Federation costs \$20 and will bring a certificate and a year of a beautiful Wildlife magazine. The link to the certification site (nwf.org) may be found on the Wildlife Team's website at www.nahabitat.com.

Friends of Patriots Memorial Park

In 1992 this committee undertook the responsibility to restore this Frederick Law Olmsted designed park which had been given to the town in 1922. The Friends continue to maintain it, by mulching, replanting, weeding and pruning as needed, with the help of the town Department of Public Works, the Boy Scouts, the North Andover Garden Club, and interested local residents. The group recently installed a granite marker on the Main Street side of the park. The marker names the park and explains its origin, and that it is a part of Tavern Acres, a National Register Historic District.

Your Improvement Society continues to pursue the work begun in 1885 and invite you to join us in our pursuits. We ask you to renew your membership for 2016 and note that you may now either pay the annual dues online by using PayPal on our website or by mailing your check to our North Andover Post Office Box 212. We are also hoping to update our membership information by gathering email addresses for all our members. Please include your email address with your membership dues. Thank you!

We appreciate your continued support. The Board is open to your suggestions for projects for us to participate in or to lead. We also hope to see you at **our Annual Meeting for our program "100 Years of Harold Parker State Forest" on Monday, June 20, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the Stevens Memorial Library.**

Best Regards,

North Andover Improvement Society Board of Directors

Eva E. Hamori, President
Phila Slade, Vice President
John Graham, Treasurer
Vivian Pangione, Secretary
Glen Aspeslagh
Frances Graham
James McCarthy
Robert Pangione
Richard Slade