



## NEWSLETTER

January/February 2023

***“You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”***

***C.S. Lewis***

We hope you are enjoying a good start to 2023! We have had some changes to the board this new year, and would like to thank founding members **Kathy Pennoyer** and **Chrissie Twombly** for their commitment, focus, and effort that guided us in our first two years. We welcome Beth Prince, Diana Gertsch, and Kristen Almquist-Cevallos to our board. We thought it would be nice to introduce you to our new members, and share a little information about what motivates us to work for positive change in our community. We are looking forward to a productive year and hope to see you at some of our upcoming events (see below). Thank you for your continued support!



### **Shelly Bradbury: President**

Shelly has lived in Essex for over 15 years. She loves the beauty of the Great Marsh and the many areas of Essex that have been protected through conservation. Shelly is focused on safeguarding the environment through activism, policies and government participation. She is a sculptor who is commissioned for private and public works of art.



### **Diana Gertsch: Director**

Diana has lived in Essex for nine years and is a nurse practitioner. Her love of the environment and marine ecosystem started young while growing up along Narragansett Bay. This influenced her to join the US Coast Guard Reserves and become a staunch advocate for environmental protection, outreach and education. She enjoys running through Essex, and sharing her love and knowledge of the outdoors, marshes and ocean with her family and friends.



**Beth Prince: Treasurer**

Beth grew up about 40 miles north of Detroit, in a small town similar to Essex. She values the close-knit community and connection to nature that Essex provides. She believes that protecting the local environment is critical for ecosystems, such as the Great Marsh, to thrive and be enjoyed for generations. She enjoys all types of research, and is a board member of the Essex Society of Genealogists. She lives in Essex with her husband and their daughter, who attends Essex Elementary.



**Ingrid Renzi: Secretary**

Ingrid has lived in Essex since January 2005--moving in shortly before the arrival of a record-making blizzard. The abundance of open space and the facile opportunities to observe nature in Cape Ann are a daily source of inspiration for her art and writing. A longtime supporter of several organizations that protect natural resources and foster responsible stewardship of our land, Ingrid is delighted to be on the board of SEL.



**Kristen Almquist-Cevallos: Director**

Kristen is a resident of Salem but grew up at her grandparents' house in Essex and hopes to relocate back to Essex in the near future. A former attorney, Kristen has been an urban educator for the last 19 years in the Chelsea and Boston area, focusing on Early College and Work-Based Learning education. As an avid traveler and lifetime North Shore resident, Kristen has a special interest and appreciation for all environmental and conservation efforts in our area.

## Supporters, what do you want to see from us this year?

**Your feedback is greatly appreciated!**

**Here are some of the events that we are planning for 2023:**

- April 22: 2nd annual trash cleanup event at Cox Reservation for Earth Day 🌍 82 Eastern Ave, Essex MA  
Last year it was very well attended! Patricia Hanlon, author of *Swimming to the Top of the Tide*, was our guest speaker.
- Movie night at the Essex library to show *The Biggest Little Farm*, a 2018 American documentary film directed by John Chester

## Essex History

### Did you know?

Essex is home to Cogswell's Grant, a seventeenth-century farm with an antique colonial home built in 1728. It is located at the end of Spring Street and has tremendous views of the Essex River. Cogswell's Grant was purchased by the Littles in 1937 who proceeded to restore the home. Now owned by Historic New England, it serves as a working farm and a folk art museum. As stated on the Historic New England website, it is "...one of the largest land masses remaining in the Town of Essex that originated as a seventeenth-century land grant, and with extant landscape features on the property dating from each of its ownership periods, it is an extremely significant historic agricultural landscape." Cogswell's Grant came to be from a land grant to John Cogswell in 1636. While the original grant is noted as 300 acres, some acreage has been sold or given to heirs over the years. However, the remaining 165 acres has been kept intact since it was owned by John Cogswell Jr. in 1717.



*Special thanks to Historic New England for information regarding Cogswell's Grant. Visit them at [www.historicnewengland.org](http://www.historicnewengland.org)*

*Fair use photo by Beth Prince*

## On Our Radar:

Please go to [www.essexma.org](http://www.essexma.org) to follow the updates about our town zoning with MAPC

We want to hear from you about Essex zoning!

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has assisted the Town with a study of the Town's zoning bylaw and whether amendments should eventually be made. In 2022, supported by \$45,000 in grant funding, MAPC hosted two public forums and conducted a community-wide survey. This first phase of work culminated with a [comprehensive zoning diagnostic report](#). MAPC is presently assisting the Town via \$90,000 in new grant funding to bring specific proposals for zoning bylaw amendments to the Fall Town Meeting of 2023. Please check out the [dedicated website](#) that MAPC has set up for this project to view work products, to review the schedule of meetings and events, and to register your input or ask a question. Thank you!

<https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/essex-zoning-bylaw>

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Save Essex Landscape, Inc. - [www.saveessexlandscape.com](http://www.saveessexlandscape.com)

127 Eastern Avenue - Suite 236 Gloucester MA 01930