

Annual Report May 2021- April 2022

This year turned out to be a period of transformation for EHTPS. Coming out of a year in which COVID-19 adversely affected our activities and regular membership meetings in Ashawagh Hall, we were able to hold hikes every month, increasing the number of activities from 33 to 67 and the attendance from 560 in 2020-2021 to an amazing 1,000 this year! In addition to holding more activities, the boost was partially due to the return of regular Wednesday hikes in September, focusing on places of historic interest in the town such as Springs Woodblock area, Eastville, and the Maidstone Golf Club. In February, a Sunday visit to the woodsy site of a studio built by the artist couple James Brook and Charlotte Park drew a record-breaking attendance we estimate of, at least, 125.

On the other hand, attendance at in-person membership meetings at Ashawagh Hall faltered. The first in-person meeting in April of '21 had the highest attendance (14), but the in-person meetings in October, December, and March saw a decline down to five at the March '22 meeting. (A few meetings were held via Zoom.) With this in mind, the board decided that, starting in May, membership meetings will be held periodically via Zoom, with some in-person gatherings throughout the year. Watch for these events as the year progresses.

In the past few years, we saw that more and more members were choosing to receive our communications via email over postal delivery. In view of this we terminated postal mail in January which has simplified procedure and been financially advantageous.

Under the leadership of VP of Membership Karen Keogh, our membership has had steady growth. As of this writing, membership has surpassed 500 for the first time in many years. A slight rise in dues to \$25 (the first since 1998 does not seem to be impacting renewals which are now coming in at a swift pace. Many are taking advantage of the added option of 5 years for \$100. Lifetime dues remain at \$250. Thanks to Karen, our emailed schedules now include links to printable versions of the monthly schedules and minutes of meetings.

Trails were well tended, as always. Every month, a maintenance team went out every Tuesday when the weather allowed, accruing nearly 500 hours of work compared to 470 during the Covid restrictions. Kudos to the team and co-VPs Lynn and Howard Fine and Laurie DeVito.

Trails Planning VP Rick Whalen was, also as usual, brimming with ideas for improving East Hampton's trails system. Among his accomplishments this year, he inaugurated a project to establish connections for two short sections of trails in the Sag Harbor-North West Harbor area, the work completed with the help of Andy Gaites and Andy Drake of the Town Department of Land Management. Currently, Rick has taken the first steps in creating a brand-new trail in Montauk (the North Neck Trail) that would extend the system from the Stepping Stones trail to the Culloden preserve at Montauk's north end.

April marked another coming season of transformation. In a special election on April 4, I handed over the president's baton to Irwin Levy, who will also continue his exceptional work as VP of Scheduling. I will step into the supporting role of Administrative VP, long unfilled.

I am eternally grateful to members of the board (past and present) for placing their trust in me throughout my four and half disparate terms. And heartfelt thanks to the members who have kept us going and growing for some 42 years. We are planning a remembrance gala to be held in October. More news to come. I hope to see many of you there.

Eva Moore, President

2007-2009; 2009-2011; 2017-2019, 2019-2021; 2021-April 2022