

# S.O.S.-MAINE SHORELINES

APRIL 2006



## "SHORELINES"

is the official publication of  
SAVE OUR SHORES-MAINE  
P.O. Box 1785  
Wells, ME 04090

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### *Long Time President and Board Member Bob Foley Announces His Retirement*

Serving in some capacity since the beginning days of S.O.S.-Wells (now S.O.S.-Maine), long-time Board member and President Bob Foley announces his retirement. Bob noted that when the organization was first founded his boys, Patrick and Peter, were just three and one year-olds. Now Patrick is heading off to college in the fall and Peter will be a high school sophomore. Bob stated in his decision to the Board last January, "The timing is right to make this move. The organization is strong both financially and in its membership, and there are no pressing issues before us, having just completed the two-year, state-sponsored beach management plan and adoption of the new Sand Dune Rules. Having Patrick in college and Peter attending Cheverus High School in Portland has added new demands on us and I need to concentrate on getting them through these next few years."

Bob also noted the need to bring on new people with fresh ideas as the organization plans for the future. He added, "Coastal issues will always be at the center of the political debate, both locally and in Augusta. S.O.S. Maine has been a prominent player in those decisions--one of our greatest accomplishments over the years. In the past, decisions were made and most of our members found out after-the-fact. Today we are consulted on a regular basis on our feelings and impressions of proposed rules or legislation that impacts our members. This is a huge step in the right direction."

A replacement for Bob will be announced at the annual meeting in July, as well as the new Board members. Anyone wishing to serve on the Board is encouraged to contact any Boardmember to express your interest.



S.O.S.-MAINE P.O. BOX 1785 WELLS, ME 04090

[www.sosmaine.org](http://www.sosmaine.org)

## State of Maine Beach Management Taskforce

For the past 2 years Katy Kelly and I have been part of a State task force attempting to come up with a beach management policy for the State of Maine, which Katy will report on, and a new set of regulations for coastal development that includes new Sand Dune Rules and a first time Beach Nourishment policy for the State of Maine.

Much of our discussion on regulations centered on the Sand Dune Rules. Having fought over them for the past 4 years, all sides agreed it was time to work towards consensus on formulating sound coastal regulations that improve the habitat for all while not being punitive to the property owners. For the most part, the rules continue to favor the property owner. Additional rebuilding criteria were added that enhances mitigation from future damage and also looks at potential habitat restoration to improve the natural processes. Property owners are still able to rebuilt after damage from a coastal storm with improved flood proofing standards, elevated buildings, and set back requirements, similar to the new FEMA regulations and standards.

The one issue that became a lightning rod, which we reported to the membership in December with a request for financial support to hire Lobbyist Ted Johnston, was the seawall repair provision. The state departments and environmental groups wanted to limit the placement of material for only 18 months from the date of placement and added several new criteria before placement of the material could happen. The current law allows the placement of the material if the property owner and local officials determine that the action is necessary to protect the property and the material remains in place until the problem is resolved. The state agencies also initially wanted to eliminate the statute and include the seawall repair provisions in the Sand Dune Rules. These are the issues we fought against.

At the hearing we argued for removal of the seawall repair language from the Sand Dune Rules and to incorporate all seawall repair provisions within the state statute, 480W. Two reason for this: 1) Rules can be changed through the rule making process which takes out the legislature from oversight; statutes can only be changed by legislative action. We are better protected having the language in statute versus rules. 2) We were able to incorporate the entire "Permit By Rule" standards in the statute, which insures that any seawall can be replaced under the law rather than the rule. "Permit by Rule" basically states that you can replace what you had by simply notifying the DEP what you are doing and then going ahead and completing the work as long as it is replacing or repairing it in the same location, with the same dimensions and at the same height.

All in all, it was a good process for the coastal property owners -- Bob Foley

### KATY KELLY'S PERSPECTIVE:

Bob Foley and I have been on a legislative committee for the past two years representing the interests of our members as the sand dune rules were revised and a beach management report was developed. The final versions of the sand dunes rules and the beach management report were approved by the legislature this past March. You can find the new rules and reports on the DEP website <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/dunes/index.htm>

The final version of the report was a result of compromises on both sides of the issue. Bob and I are satisfied with the final results. The report develops and integrates rules and policies for the state to reduce the threat of risk or erosion, to enhance the beachfront for habitat, to enhance the beach for recreation and tourism, to improve public safety, to improve public access and to protect existing residential and commercial development and public facilities. The report highlights the importance of Maine's beaches as sources of recreation, critical wildlife habitat, storm protection and as highly desirable residential and business locations. It also highlights future funding sources for protection of the beaches and a timetable to implement an active management program. I would recommend reading this report. It is an important step towards an active beach management program. I am looking forward to continuing to work with this committee to implement the changes that we have agreed upon.

### BOARD SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL SEVERANCE



Michael Severance, of Beach Avenue, Kennebunk, was born and raised on the Gooch family's seaside property at the mouth of the Kennebunk River. A graduate of the University of Maine, Orono, he married Sandra Willis (of Gorham, Maine). They have two daughters and son-in-laws and three grandchildren.

Mike has been on the Board of Directors and was President of the Kennebunk - Kennebunkport Chamber of Commerce and of the Kennebunkport Business Association, is a retired 27 year volunteer Kennebunk Fire Fighter, and is retired as a Colonel from thirty-five years active and reserve US Army duty. Mike is also retired from co-managing with his wife their family innkeeping business, The Seaside Motor Inn and Cottages on Goochs. However, he is still active on the waterfront with his Bay of Maine Boats business, a small boat building company.

Mike and Sandy's youngest daughter, Trish, and her husband, Ken Mason, are the twelfth generation of the "Gooch" family at The Seaside to be the innkeepers managing the property and business since 1667.

Frustrated by decades of trying by himself and looking for ways to stop the federal, state, and local entities who have been enacting and interpreting statutes and rules that are eroding private property rights, Mike has found in S.O.S. Maine the talent, experience and organization that has been making progress against those forces. He said that the expanding S.O.S. Maine organization is successfully working from Kittery eastward along all Maine's waterways so that all shoreland owners will not have to give up their rights to maintain and protect their land and homes.



# Coastal Access Forum

If you live on or near the beach in Southern Maine there will be a discussion forum on the subject of "Beach Access" on June 2, 2006 at the Multipurpose Room at the University of New England in Biddeford beginning at 9:00AM. The panels include a discussion on what would it take to "Redefine Public Rights to Maine Beaches & Intertidal Lands". The forum will focus on broading opportunities for success with coastal initiatives. We encourage everyone with an interest in the "Beach Access" issue to attend this no-fee forum. As stakeholders, our input is vital. For enrollment details contact Kathy Villarreal from Maine Sea Grant at [kvillarreal@maine.edu](mailto:kvillarreal@maine.edu).

## ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, JULY 15 COASTAL HOUSE

(formerly Gabriel's)  
Route 1  
Wells  
9:00 AM

### S.O.S.-Maine & Maine Coastal Coalition Membership

The membership of S.O.S.-Maine continues to grow, with over 300 dues-paying members, and others on our mailing list who are receiving this newsletter. We will not be able to continue to mail the newsletter to these individuals in the future due to the cost of distribution, and ask that if you are interested in receiving the newsletter in the future, please become a member of S.O.S.-Maine. There is a membership form below, or you may visit the web-site [www.sosmaine.org](http://www.sosmaine.org) and print a form for yourself or your neighbor!

The Maine Coastal Coalition is the subsidiary of S.O.S. Maine, which is able to use donated funds to lobby for the interests of coastal property owners.



**S.O.S.-Maine**  
**P.O. Box 1785**  
**Wells, ME 04090**



Yes, we want to be on the S.O.S.-Maine team. Here's our membership:  
 \_\_\_ \$25 Individual \_\_\_ \$50 Family \_\_\_ \$75 Business \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, we want to be a part of the Maine Coastal Coalition. Enclosed is a  
 separate donation to establish my membership. Our taxable donation is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal  New member

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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Street Town Zip

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