

Oral History Cover Sheet

Name: Christine Gault

Date of Interview: July 8, 2015

Location of Interview: Mashpee Area, Massachusetts

Interviewer: Christine O'Neill

Brief Summary of Interview: Ms. Gault discusses her background and how she came to work for WBNERR and her involvement in renovating the buildings and setting all the programs up. She also talks about some of the land acquisition's that took place and shares stories concerning the establishment of WBNERR and the refuge.

[Picks up in conversation]

MS. GAULT: ...one organization and 300 Committee is another; 300 Committee is just for Falmouth really, and the Compact is Cap wide. But the 300 Committee, sometimes you got money for the land acquisition but then there would be other costs like appraisers and things. And like the Child's River Property, they paid for the appraisals. And sometimes they bought the property and then the state would buy it back from the 300 Committee, in one instance, they did that. So they were an important player. But you know, Trout Unlimited also, have they come up?

MS. O'NEILL: Oh yeah, yeah.

MS. GAULT: Fran Smith was very involved. And the Wampanoag Tribe, have you interviewed anyone there?

MS. O'NEILL: Well I'm trying to get in touch, fruitlessly trying to get in touch with Chuckie Green.

MS. GAULT: He's the one.

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah, but that's okay. I mean I've definitely read a lot about that that and everyone else has mentioned it, so I mean people I've spoken too. I do have the idea; that's definitely something I want to empathize. It's a remarkable story about how it was such a grass roots thing, everyone was just kind of like concerned. But I think what's also really cool is that this is a very unique, first of its kind with partners and stuff. I didn't really understand it fully until I had really dug into; MaryKay Fox gave me this binder of newspaper clippings, which is

awesome. But I think that's fantastic and I think Congressman Studds said something like this is a model for the future. So I the collaboration thing is something I definitely something I want to explore.

MS. GAULT: I think the Bufflehead Bay piece, now I don't remember why that triggered thoughts of a national wildlife refuge except that—[looking for something].

MS. O'NEILL: I think the person who suggested it was actually someone in the government, and the reason he suggested it was for eco-tourism. So that would like appeal to the [looking for documents], but he definitely mentioned something about that. Here we go, John Friel, "General Service Administration (US Government) and member if the Mashpee Zoning Board of Appeals, suggests a national wildlife refuge for eco-tourism."

MS. GAULT: I've never even heard that name. And he was with state, town government or what?

MS. O'NEILL: Town government, I'm pretty sure.

MS. GAULT: Mashpee Town government.

MS. O'NEILL: I'm pretty sure, yeah. And I think this is because George Costa, he, I guess walked through New Seabury every day and when he heard that the Bufflehead Bay property was at risk for being developed, I guess he probably talked to people in the government and this was a suggestion of, "Well, if you want to save it, something that's appealing t, also to us

as a government, would be like an eco-tourism point of view with a visitor's center. So you can collect money," and stuff like that.

MS. GAULT: Oh yeah. But it turned out to be us that had the money to purchase it.

MS. O'NEILL: Right.

MS. GAULT: So I could see right away the benefits of overlapping things, other people were concerned about losing identity when you overlap it. But I really do think, in the long run, it was a benefit because I think it helped us buy more land. Because I made a list of all the land we purchased that's in the refuge. You know the Quashnet River property was already in, we already owned it and that became part of the refuge.

MS. O'NEILL: And when you say we, you mean WBNERR right?

MS. GAULT: Yeah, yeah, well no. It's part of the reserve, but it's owned by Fish and Wildlife.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay, so it's a state—

MS. GAULT: It's was state; it was owned by the state already and it was part of the reserve already. No, but I don't remember is why when we did the boundary, you know the refuge boundary, because why we didn't put in South Cape Beach and Washburn Island, that's what I don't remember. I was trying to recall that. Yeah, it's just not part of it; this is boundary and that's not there. Although then when we added this parcel later, that was in it. And all the other purchases after it was designated, I think all of them except for the one on

Caleb Pond are in the refuge. And I'm not sure why we didn't put those in. Someone's got to remember that. Did someone give you the name of Brendan?

MS. O'NEILL: Yes, he was the aide right, to Congressman Studds right?

MS. GAULT: No, no, no, Brendan [Annett] was the Stewardship Coordinator here. I'm trying to remember his last name.

MS. O'NEILL: I'm sure I have it somewhere.

MS. GAULT: He wasn't there in the very initial founding of it, but he was involved in a lot of the land acquisition afterward.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh he wasn't there on the initial founding?

MS. GAULT: No.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay, I think that's what I'm kind of focusing on so he might not have been mentioned.

MS. GAULT: Why are you focusing on the initial founding?

MS. O'NEILL: Because that's kind of the project, the history project is how it started.

MS. GAULT: For you or, as defined by whom?

MS. O'NEILL: Myself and MaryKay, mostly MaryKay, I'm kind of just taking her direction on this. Because if we're doing a whole history of everything on the refuge, I think that's going to be very, very long and I'm not that's what

she wanted. Like what she gave me as an example, for instance, is, who knows where any of it is now, but it's, have you ever seen those little brown books on Washburn Island by Donald Keay?

MS. GAULT: Yeah.

MS. O'NEILL: Like she gave that to me as an example.

MS. GAULT: Yeah, but he did the history right up to present.

MS. O'NEILL: Right, but it was also like 15 pages, so I don't know that; I easily have enough information already to fill up 15 pages. But that is something that you can talk to, or I'll talk to MaryKay about it too.

MS. GAULT: It's just that I think, for instance there's a piece of land adjacent to the Quashnet Woods that used to belong; now this did not happen at the inception, this happened afterwards. And I think that's part of the story is how it was a need, definitely the inception is a story but it just sort of begins there because so much additional land protection was possible because of what happened at the inception. And I think the NSTAR property is such a great story to describe, is such a good example of the kind of collaboration and creative thinking. Because NSTAR, you know the electric company, they had a piece of property right adjacent to the Quashnet Woods property for a substation. But they soon realized that, because all this land was being projected, and it's never really a populated area that it was bad place for substation. And we approached them and said, "Well can we buy it from you?" And they said, "Well we can't

really sale it, but if you could find us another piece of land closer to people, closer to population, maybe we can give it to you." And Tom Fudala was very instrumental in this.

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah, he did talk about this a bit.

MS. GAULT: And we used to have meetings here, most of the meetings always took place here, and had everyone around the tables downstairs. So he heard about this, and meanwhile, as his role as town planner, he had some developer coming in; do you know where the clinic is and all that behind Marshall's? You know that shopping center with Marshall's and—?

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah, I do know.

MS. GAULT: There was someone developing back in there.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh, yeah, yeah, right. Oh like where it's industrial and commercial and merchandise.

MS. GAULT: Yeah, and Tom, the planning department, was making them have a land set aside somewhere. They had to provide open space in exchange for their permit.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay. So wait, that's the town right? The town had to provide—

MS. GAULT: No, the developer had to provide this open space in order to get their permit to develop.

MS. O'NEILL: Do you know around when this is happening?

MS. GAULT: It was one of the later ones, it was probably 2004, maybe, 2003, somewhere around there. But I just think it's a fabulous story because Tom knew about this developer needing open space. And he knew we wanted this NSTAR property and NSTAR needed land near a development. So he arranged for, I'm not quite sure how it worked; Tom would know the details. But we ended up with NSTAR getting a piece of property that was provided by the developers.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay, so three parties were involved.

MS. GAULT: Well the town, the developer, NSTAR, us.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh yeah, right. Yeah, so Tom was kind of working for you and for the town. He was like the liaison.

MS. GAULT: Yeah, although he was working for the refuge.

MS. O'NEILL: Right that's what I meant.

MS. GAULT: The refuge too is involved. That's why sometimes I get so confused talking about these things.

MS. O'NEILL: I know, yeah, and that's something I'm kind of concerned about in the writing. I've had lots of experience writing all sorts of different genres, but I don't want this to get too bogged down; it's so confusing sometimes.

MS. GAULT: Yes.

MS. O'NEILL: But I think maybe that's part of the reason why MaryKay and I

kind of stir toward the let's just stick with the beginning, but you're right, these are awesome stories. Tom did mention that.

MS. GAULT: Yeah, I mean there was another one where it was a piece right; I mean this has happened since the inception. Tim Gonsalves, the Gonsalves property, it had a huge dump on it, it was also adjacent to the Quashnet Woods. So I mean that's another sort of distinctive thing about this, is in general it was all little pieces cobbled together; bunches of little pieces cobbled together, but no piece was too small almost. But this piece was adjacent to the Quashnet Woods, again and it was landlocked pretty much, and it had a dump on it, and a guy named Tim Gonsalves owned it. And he didn't want to deal with the dump, but to sell it to us he would have to deal with the dump. Fran Smith got involved in that. It was because he was a personal friend; I think maybe Tim was a member of Trout Unlimited. And there was just a lot of back and forth and meetings, and it took time, but he eventually cleaned it all up and we ended up with that piece. And then there's stories of pieces we missed. Right next to this piece, there was a piece we were given money by NOAA for that we couldn't get and later asked if we could spend it on the Phinney property, and they gave us the okay. So it's all kinds of stories over many years. So a lot, I would share the meetings, meetings would be here; I would share them. And I always felt that part of my job was the making everyone feel; you know if anyone felt they were being overtaken by anyone else or ignored, the politics of it.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh yeah.

MS. GAULT: So part of my job was to moderate and make sure that everyone felt heard and everyone felt seen. And that they were credited; everyone wants credit.

MS. O'NEILL: Tom actually mentioned that the Wampanoag, they had; like you said, this was a collaboration and all sort of partners and stuff. But the Wampanoag had a piece of land, but Tom said they specifically did not ask them for it because one of the partners is being federal and state, they didn't want the Wampanoag to feel like their land, even though it would be protected and everything, was owned by the federal government.

MS. GAULT: Yeah.

MS. O'NEILL: So it's a good example of what you're talking about.

MS. GAULT: I think their involvement, even though, I mean just them saying, "Yes, we want this." Because it was no money or no land or anything, that they contributed, it was just them saying, "This is important to us too." I think that helped a lot. So if I were your MaryKay, boy I would have a hard time; I hear you say, you don't want it to be a mire of who said, who bought what.

MS. O'NEILL: The other thing that gets difficult is that when we go a little further into the future, people have, understandable, have a hard remembering chronological of stuff.

MS. GAULT: See I've got it all.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh, that's awesome!

MS. GAULT: For our property

MS. O'NEILL: That's beautiful, I would, or know if would you mind maybe, or I could do a photocopy.

MS. GAULT: Yeah.

MS. O'NEILL: Because I made a timeline but it's kind of pathetic and it only goes to 1997, so I don't think it's really—

MS. GAULT: And there's two properties I could not find files on; I meant to ask Jim where the files on those are. Because there's a little piece that's in the refuge that belongs to us. Where did I see it, I saw it on one of these maps. It's way up, I did see it, it's in the refuge.

MS. O'NEILL: It belongs to WNBERR?

MS. GAULT: Yeah, or the state. And it's way up north here somewhere. I saw it on the map. Oh here, on this map. You see that piece right there?

MS. O'NEILL: Um-huh, North Quashnet Woods.

MS. GAULT: And this is all protected.

MS. O'NEILL: Uh-huh.

MS. GAULT: This is all protected already, so that little piece is part of that. It's amazing how much is protected really.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh yeah. Well, actually can you confirm this, several people have told me that more than 50% of Mashpee is conservation land.

MS. GAULT: Oh, I wouldn't be able to confirm, I don't know. Tom should be able to know that.

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah, well that's what Tom said. And Tom also mentioned that, I think he said besides the National Seashore, that Mashpee has the largest open spaces on the Cape.

MS. GAULT: Mashpee or the refuge?

MS. O'NEILL: Mashpee Wildlife Refuge.

MS. GAULT: Really?

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah.

MS. GAULT: The refuge, well because it includes things like Crane wildlife management and things like that.

MS. O'NEILL: That's true, that's true. Okay, so not Mashpee, the refuge itself, sure. Do you mind if I just ask you a couple questions, I'm sure you have so much information that you want to tell me, maybe to just like get a few things down and then you can tell me whatever you think I need to know.

MS. GAULT: Sure.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay, wonderful.

MS. GAULT: You know Gerry Studds was very involved, but don't forget that he was responsible for getting this designated.

MS. O'NEILL: Right.

MS. GAULT: So he was very conscious of the relationship. So having the reserve here already probably enhanced

that. And so much land already projected.

MS. O'NEILL: Right.

MS. GAULT: He was here, I mean he designated this.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh yeah, right, right and there was ceremony and everything. So let me ask you a little bit about yourself and your involvement because I want to be able to give background on everybody. I know you were the Director of WBNERR, in what way did you actually first hear about the refuge project and how did you get involved?

MS. GAULT: I can't tell you when I first heard about it. I mean the thing is everything we did here, it was committees and collaborations and Tom Fudala was on several committees.

MS. O'NEILL: Happened slowly?

MS. GAULT: Yes, I think it's one of those things that just—

MS. O'NEILL: Snowballed.

MS. GAULT: Yeah, I think so. I think so; it might have been more specific than that but I don't remember.

MS. O'NEILL: Right. Well that sounds pretty consistent with what I've been hearing. What was the community's overall attitude towards the formation of the refuge?

MS. GAULT: Very positive, that's why I think it happened so quickly; we were able to demonstrate so much support. You heard the story about Gerry Studds and Mark Forrest and all those people

coming out walking to see Great Flat Pond property. They were looking at this property.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh yeah, and he came out in a suit and everything.

MS. GAULT: Yeah, but that wasn't the funniest part. The funniest part, we walked on beach and went over the dune, right here at Great Flat Pond, and there was a couple making out.

MS. O'NEILL: [Laughing] That's wonderful.

MS. GAULT: Partially nude.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh my God!

MS. GAULT: Yeah, they thought they were all private, hidden in the dunes.

MS. O'NEILL: Yikes.

MS. GAULT: And here's all this, probably twenty people, all dressed up. [chuckling] It was great.

MS. O'NEILL: Wow, that's, wow.

MS. GAULT: We did a lot of tours, a lot of tours. You know, many caravans of people looking at different property.

MS. O'NEILL: Right. So when it comes to like, if you had the support from the community and you obviously had collaboration from all these different groups, where did the biggest challenges come in? Was it finding the money, were there certain politicians that were just dead set against it, or like, what would you think?

MS. GAULT: I don't think, I can't remember anyone being dead set against it. The pros and cons of being collaborative are that, the pros are obvious. The cons, and I'd say that's one of the obstacles, is that it was hard for anyone to see a distinct entity. It was also overlapping, it confused people, like from the outside trying to get the grasp; I think it's still confusing to people to grasp what this is. But actually there are a lot of other national estuarine research reserves around the country that are made up of different lands owned by different people; different agencies.

MS. O'NEILL: Did that come after this?

MS. GAULT: No, no, that was a model. But we were already designated and had our own lands, so it's different in that; what I'm saying is there's other sites that were designated without the state without having to buy additional land. It's almost like how the refuge was designated, but in this case the research reserve was designated by just saying, "Well this state land, and this town land was going to be part of it."

MS. O'NEILL: Oh, I see what you're saying; the reserve having partners.

MS. GAULT: There's precedent for that.

MS. O'NEILL: Right.

MS. GAULT: Although in this case, we had all our own land, state land, prior to the—[break in conversation]—so the obstacles, I think that is still an obstacle today that it doesn't have a distinct identity. And I think the name is an

obstacle actually, you could say that. In my opinion.

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah, no, that's great.

MS. GAULT: I mean Mashpee really was a huge player in this, so I didn't begrudge them; I understood them wanting to call it that. And then money, yes, money. And the fact that the land was being bought up and developed so quickly, it was hard to stay ahead; I think we did an amazing job. I mean look at all this land we bought just between 1996 and 2006. It's pretty amazing actually, and since I left they bought another piece on Caleb Pond; it's not part of the refuge. The only new land.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay. So can we circle back to your background? So, I don't know, can you just give me a little bio?

MS. GAULT: Well I came here in '98, is that right, no '89.

MS. O'NEILL: But did you become director at that time?

MS. GAULT: Yeah, I moved here for the job.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay. Where did you move from?

MS. GAULT: I was in the Chesapeake Bay area running a wetland sanctuary that later became part of the Jug Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh cool, okay.

MS. GAULT: In fact that's how I heard about this job is because I was in meetings about that one being

designated, and someone said, "They're looking for a director on Cape Cod." And I came up here with my daughter, who was going into 9th grade; boy was that a good move for her. Schools are so much better than they were in southern Maryland.

MS. O'NEILL: I thought it would always be difficult to grow up on the Cape because there's not really a lot of young people.

MS. GAULT: Well, in high school there are.

MS. O'NEILL: That's true, that's true.

MS. GAULT: You're surrounded, it's more college age that it's harder because they disperse. You know what's interesting though, is Martha's Vineyard is the destination for young people.

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah.

MS. GAULT: Yeah, there's a lot of young people. And they come, a lot of, there's so much farming, organic farming.

MS. O'NEILL: In Martha's Vineyard?

MS. GAULT: Yeah, a lot of little farms and young people; it's like a destination if you want a job farming.

MS. O'NEILL: Wow, that's cool.

MS. GAULT: Yeah. And there's just a lot of young people, a lot of them are only there maybe five months in the summer and then go traveling in the winter. They make their bucks, you know.

MS. O'NEILL: Is that, have you ever heard of **Wolf**, like is that they do put there?

MS. GAULT: Yeah.

MS. O'NEILL: Is that what they do it through?

MS. GAULT: No, no.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh, it's just like on their own?

MS. GAULT: Yes. And the reason I think is because there's so many wealthy people that come here in the summer that the people farming can charge and get what they need in order to, you know. So anyway, I came here from Jug Bay in Maryland, which became a National Estuarine Research Reserve. And when I came, none of these buildings were usable. This building was boarded up and had animals living in it and kids breaking in and doing weird things. The boat house was usable, and I stayed in, Miciah and I stayed in what's now the dorm even though it was not, it's been renovated since. So it was pretty funky. So there was someone that they hired to run it prior to me, but she never got it off the ground.

MS. O'NEILL: Got it.

MS. GAULT: But I have to oversee, you know, the renovation of all these buildings, the development of the programs, you know everything. It was myself and a part-time secretary to begin with, so I had to get together the research program, the education program, the stewardship programs, everything.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh wow!

MS. GAULT: —the stewardship programs, everything. In fact when I first came and went into my office in the boat house, I had to step over the sleeping bodies of researchers because they were using it as a dorm, sleeping on the floor.

MS. O'NEILL: Wow! Oh my God!

MS. GAULT: Yeah, it was, yeah. So I really developed the program and land acquisition was always an important component, land protection. Well it's all connected with the research, because it's all about the nitrogen loading. Have people talked to you about that?

MS. O'NEILL: Absolutely, yeah.

MS. GAULT: I mean our research shows the sources, so then you have to do something; you have to address the sources. And one of the sources was developments, getting land out of developments. But also I just have a land ethic myself; I grew up on Sanibel Island and—

MS. O'NEILL: Where's that?

MS. GAULT: Sanibel Island is off the west coast of Florida.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay.

MS. GAULT: And something like 70% of that island is protected, open space, and it was one of the very first National Wildlife Refuges; the Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge. So I grew up with everyone trying to protect land and protect species. I have the educational background that's perfect for this job in

that I have an undergraduate in art and design, so it came in very handy for the exhibits.

MS. O'NEILL: Right, okay.

MS. GAULT: I have a graduate degree in education and I have another graduate degree, masters in environmental policy and another one in environmental science.

MS. O'NEILL: Wow! Where did you find time; oh my God that's incredible! Okay so education, environmental policy, environmental science. And those are all masters degrees?

MS. GAULT: Yeah. So it really prepared me for this job, for any of the reserves because that's what they do. And what I was interested in, in graduate school was how to transfer the science to policy, that was my focus. And so land acquisition is an example of doing that. It's so much fun to talk about this myself.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh, no it's great. Keep it coming. And what sorts of projects are you involved with now, are you totally out of the, I guess, refuge and reserve?

MS. GAULT: Yeah, I got pretty burnt out.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh, I'd imagine.

MS. GAULT: And you know the part that was the burn out.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh, that's exciting.

MS. GAULT: Yes, I've been writing a novel. It takes place on a small island

off the southwest coast of Florida. And my husband and I do biological illustration, which is interesting because full circle back to that undergraduate degree in art design. We've been doing it for about six years, we have a teacher and we go a couple times a week during the fall, once a week in the spring.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay, what's it called, biological illustration?

MS. GAULT: Or natural history illustration.

MS. O'NEILL: Are you going to include illustrations in your book?

MS. GAULT: I've thought about it.

MS. O'NEILL: That would be awesome.

MS. GAULT: And then we also have a substantial garden out on the Vineyard. My husband grew up on the Vineyard and so we have a place there and I kept my house here and we've got a major garden; he's really a master gardener, not in a formal sense, but people come to him to learn. And we live off the garden all year. We have a big freezer and we dry food and we sell our food and so you know a lot of my time is spent with food as is his as well because you have to put all that food up. But it's so rewarding because, you know you go into the grocery store to buy chard, and just compared to your own chard.

MS. O'NEILL: That's awesome.

MS. GAULT: So you know, and then I've got an elderly mother that I take care of and grandkids. Little projects now and again, travel to Costa Rica. My sister and brother-in-law have 250 acres

in Costa Rica; we go down there for about a month every year.

MS. O'NEILL: Wow.

MS. GAULT: Yeah. So we keep very busy.

MS. O'NEILL: No, that's wonderful. Okay, cool. Why don't I let you take the wheel again and tell me anything else you want to tell me.

MS. GAULT: Well I'm trying to think, you know I almost feel like what would be useful is if you got Tom Fudala and me and George Costa, you know, some people sitting around the table together.

MS. O'NEILL: I think George Costa passed away.

MS. GAULT: Oh, did he?

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah, and it's a shame too because he was really one of the driving forces and would have been excellent to interview.

MS. GAULT: But he was a driving sort of behind the scenes, Tom was really important.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh sure. I think they worked very closely together.

MS. GAULT: Yeah.

MS. O'NEILL: Apparently they both met President Clinton, did they tell you this story?

MS. GAULT: Oh, no.

MS. O'NEILL: Apparently they were at some function and George and Tom,

both, were in line to shake hands with President Clinton. And Tom handed him an envelope and the Secret Service people were like freaking out, but Clinton just put it in his pocket and the envelope was like kind of a proposal for this refuge and a month later they got a response from Fish and Wildlife.

MS. GAULT: Oh really!

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah, isn't that cool.

MS. GAULT: I've never heard that story.

MS. O'NEILL: That's why writing this is so fun, because there are so many little stories like that that are awesome.

MS. GAULT: Yeah, that's great. Clinton also played with my husband's band.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh really! Oh my God, that's awesome!

MS. GAULT: Out on the Vineyard at the fair, the county fair.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh my gosh, that's so cool.

MS. GAULT: So it seemed that there were a lot of meetings, but people hung in there; the energy was really high. Everyone shared a vision, there was definitely a vision, and everyone shared it. And the collaboration, protecting land was definitely the main thing, but doing it in a collaborative way helped fuel; I mean that was part of the vision that we're doing this but we're doing it in this really cool way.

MS. O'NEILL: So when you mention that one of the biggest challenges was that people don't understand this entity; that was really people from the outside. But the people involved with the group all did have a very solid—

MS. GAULT: I think so. And I think, you know, the funders, but I even think the funders saw that, understood that. The reserve system, probably, easier because there were these precedents of other reserves that were made up, so they could; it was sort of reverse in that we were the reserve and had all this land and then added the refuge on. Whereas in the other situations, the refuge was there and they came knocking and said, "Can't we put the reserve boundaries around yours too." I think everyone pretty much; I would wonder what Tom would say about that; a lot of this stuff I would like to bounce off him and see what he thought at the same time. Who else was always at the table? Chuckie was always, mostly always, especially in the beginning.

MS. O'NEILL: Well the people I'm interviewing are you, Tom, Chuckie, Carl Melburg, Nancy Soderberg, and Mark Forrest.

MS. GAULT: Carl was the Fish and Wildlife person right?

MS. O'NEILL: Yes.

MS. GAULT: Yeah. Now that's interesting because, I wonder if there's any of this land that was actually purchased by Fish and Wildlife. Was there any? Was there any federal Fish and Wildlife money spent?

MS. O'NEILL: I'm almost positive that there was, because they worked with Fish and Wildlife so much, I feel like—

MS. GAULT: But that was to get the boundaries and they had to manage it, but was there actually Fish and Wildlife money spent?

MS. O'NEILL: I'm sure Tom would know in a heartbeat.

MS. GAULT: Yeah, I'm sure he would know.

MS. O'NEILL: And he probably mentioned somehow here.

MS. GAULT: Because it seems to me that they were there but they were like; and for years after it was designated, no one did much from Fish and Wildlife. And in fact it was Brendan that got the signage at the Martin Road that said Fish and Wildlife; that was our guy.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh, okay. So I guess after the general designation, they didn't—?

MS. GAULT: Oh well, there was some signage, I think, along here, there was signage but that might have been the town that put it up. That would be a good question to ask Tom; two questions. Was there Fish and Wildlife land acquisition money put in here? But I'm talking about National Fish and Wildlife, not state.

MS. O'NEILL: Right.

MS. GAULT: And two, what did they do, did they do signs? My impression, I haven't been involved for quite a few

years now, but my impression is they did not.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay. I can ask him that.

MS. GAULT: So Carl Melberg, it's funny, I remember him but I don't remember him as a; I mean there had to be a Fish and Wildlife person there but I don't remember him as a big player. And then who was the other one, Gene?

MS. O'NEILL: Nancy Soderberg.

MS. GAULT: Who was she?

MS. O'NEILL: Nancy Soderberg, I think was involved a lot with the Friends when they started, but right now she's the Chair of the Historical Committee for Mashpee. So she, I think, I'm not totally sure of her involvement.

MS. GAULT: I probably would recognize her, the name's so familiar. The Friends Group, it's interesting, you know, we started the Friends Group here, we started here and had our staff. And then it became obvious that they should be independent so we tried to get, from the ranks, someone to be chair. And I talked, I asked, what's his name?

MS. O'NEILL: David Palmer.

MS. GAULT: David, no, David, the town moderator for Falmouth, David Vieira. Dave Vieira was chair for a while, and I talked him into that because we wanted to get that Friends Group strong.

MS. O'NEILL: And then David Palmer came in right. According to Tom and MaryKay and stuff I read, he was a big

driving force behind it, he was like older, he was retired, and he took over the presidency of the Friends Group and would like encourage people to go to meetings. He didn't do anything in terms of like talking to the Governor, but he organized—

MS. GAULT: He died, I wonder, I'm trying to get the timing because he died quite a while ago.

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah, most of the work I've done already is about the inception so it's—[phone is ringing]—

[Break in tape]

MS. GAULT: He's now a representative you know. [Talking about David Vieira]

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah.

MS. GAULT: State rep. So I might be getting my timing, because it seems like Dave Palmer would have had to been like towards the beginning of it.

MS. O'NEILL: Yes.

MS. GAULT: So maybe it's when Dave Palmer died and then maybe; I can't remember the timing but I know Dave Vieira I got him to get involved and he was for a while. [break in tape] I was trying to find someone to lead the Friends and not think about it anymore, so my memory of that.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh sure.

MS. GAULT: But Dave Palmer was involved in many things so I can see him play that role. But Dave Vieira, who is alive, also was the president for a while.

And I know for years it was just really hard to get any energy going. So I'm really pleased to see, now, what MaryKay is doing.

MS. O'NEILL: She's awesome.

MS. GAULT: Yeah. She is, and she gets people.

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah, she does. I mean she's got a great spirit about her. Okay, so, I mean is there anything else that you wanted to share, again I'm going to try to focus on the beginning more than the other parts. I mean after the designation, it's not just going to be an epilogue and I'll certainly talk about of what happened than the land acquisition or maybe if you like—

MS. GAULT: You could do it in a general way, because after it was designated, because it was designated it actually facilitated other land acquisitions because of the overlying.

[break in interview]

MS. GAULT: -- the era at some point because the Friends Group was—

MS. GAULT: Yeah and I talked to David Vieira into coming and being the President, or whatever you call it, the leader; getting some energy into it. That was after Dave Palmer died?

MARYKAY FOX: Well Dave left in 2000. And then I think Carrie Murphy was one of the presidents.

MS. GAULT: So when was Dave Vieira?

MARYKAY FOX: From '04 to 2011.

MS. GAULT: Oh, he was there quite a while, but he didn't do that much.

MARYKAY FOX: No, he didn't do anything. He kept it alive. Actually, it was Mary Scanlan who did the, who was finical fiscal person, she kept submitting the non-profit IRS information. But they had a couple meetings and I remember seeing it in the paper in '04, and I didn't attend but I sent him an email saying I'm interested in doing this. I still work, and same with George Hampson, and—

MS. GAULT: And then he didn't call?

MARYKAY FOX: He didn't follow up, I guess he had over 30 people that attended and they're all enthusiastic and everything.

MS. GAULT: He was really in over his head, he shouldn't—

MARYKAY FOX: He shouldn't have, yeah, I guess he was just stepping in and saying, "Alright I'll keep it alive."

MS. GAULT: Yeah, yeah. But that would have been the time to find someone else to; too bad.

MARYKAY FOX: Yeah, it was too bad because we lost [unintelligible@45:26] and so much time.

MS. GAULT: Because I was also saying, and you might know this, that my memory, of course now I wasn't focusing on that, the refuge, and the management of the refuge. But my memory is that after it was designated, Fish and Wildlife didn't do much for years; nothing, they didn't do anything. One of the questions that I asked Christine to ask Tom, and maybe you

already know this, is did federal Fish and Wildlife actually ever buy any land, did they put any money into it?

MARYKAY FOX: Yeah, they've like; I think they started out with like two or three hundred and they've gotten another hundred.

MS. GAULT: But where?

MARYKAY FOX: Abigail Brook area, because there's sign down there. So it's like right in here. Where they put the new bridge in, they took the culvert out.

MS. GAULT: So they've actually brought—?

MARYKAY FOX: It's right in here, it's about their acreage. And now 300 Committee just bought Conway property, which is Red Brook Road.

MS. GAULT: Oh wonderful.

MARYKAY FOX: In here.

MS. GAULT: On this side or this side?

MARYKAY FOX: That's on the Falmouth, so it must be on this side.

MS. GAULT: So who's the director now of the Fish and Wildlife?

MARYKAY FOX: Libby.

MARYKAY FOX: Director?

MS. GAULT: No, I mean—

MARYKAY FOX: Ashe, Dan Ashe.

MARYKAY FOX: The big wig.

MS. GAULT: No.

MARYKAY FOX: Libby Herland is District Regional Director.

MS. GAULT: So she's the one that's managing this in theory. Or do they have someone else.

MARYKAY FOX: Tom Eagle is Deputy Director.

MS. GAULT: And so they don't have anyone here, they're doing it from a regional.

MARYKAY FOX: And that's what the Friends are going to try and fix that Martin Road House and make that into housing for the staff because they drive three hours.

MS. GAULT: So there is staff?

MARYKAY FOX: Yeah.

MARYKAY FOX: Well they use the staff from the other refuges.

MS. GAULT: To do what?

MARYKAY FOX: To come down and they're doing habitat work for the rabbits.

MS. GAULT: Oh, they are finally are doing stuff.

MARYKAY FOX: Oh yeah, big time. And they're working, they've burned the tribe property, a lot of Mashpee conservation lands.

MS. GAULT: Oh, because for years it seemed like they didn't do anything but I might not know.

MARYKAY FOX: I mean they're trying to change the restoration on the refuge. And then they restored, on Abigail Brook, the culvert that finally collapsed; it used to be all boat traffic. So they took that out, restored the stream, and then Jim and crew, Jim Rassman, they built a bridge, a walking bridge over that. Oh, so it was collaboration kind of thing.

MS. GAULT: Oh nice, I should really go walking around there. This map is incorrect because when we bought that property, there's another little piece that we bought at the same time. And I wonder if Jim knows that; I only remember it because I recently went through this.

MARYKAY FOX: What, you'd go through your files then?

MS. GAULT: Yeah.

MARYKAY FOX: I guess they are going to buy an Atlantic White Cedar Swamp right down in there, the Andre property.

MS. GAULT: They are?

MARYKAY FOX: Yeah.

MS. GAULT: Cool.

MS. GAULT: Oh, I don't have the Bufflehead Bay property in here. How did that happen? Oh here, Bufflehead Bay, yeah two parcels, non-contiguous. It's a 35 acre piece and there's another 7.4 acre, just a sliver of land barely separated from this one. It might be included in this, but the print is so small they couldn't separate them.

MS. O'NEILL: Do you mind if I make a photocopy of this?

MS. GAULT: Yeah, I mean, I don't know; I wouldn't say to trust it 100%.

MS. O'NEIL: Okay.

MS. GAULT: Because the files, like some of the amounts in one file, the amounts were all over the place.

MS. O'NEILL: Okay, so the amounts, I guess I'll mention them, but they're not as important to me as the chronology like what happened when and who was involved. That's great, thank you so much.

[break in tape]

MS. GAULT: Were you aware that there are two pieces of property there? I had forgotten, you'd probably know because you've been involved. But this one, there's actually two pieces there, with a little strip of land in between them that's not.

JIM RASSMAN: Yeah, I've seen that on the GIS there, and I wasn't sure if that was accurate or not.

MS. GAULT: Yeah, and look at this, one said 7, one said 8.3, one said 12. 8.

JIM RASSMAN: Yeah, I believe it's 12.8 because when you run it in GIS that's what it comes out at.

MS. GAULT: Oh. And it reminded me of all the players the 300 Committee, how much of a role that they played at various times in acquiring those lands. And you know where that money came from? We had applied to NOAA for another piece of property that we lost.

JIM RASSMAN: That fell through, yeah.

MS. O'NEILL: Yeah.

MS. GAULT: And then we had to apply again to use the money for Phinney.

JIM RASSMAN: I will take a look this week for those other ones, but literally I just saw [unintelligible@51:13] on Monday when I got back.

MS. GAULT: So yeah, yeah, here's the lot adjacent to Quashnet River; I'd gotten confused about that too. Three lots there?

JIM RASSMAN: Three lots.

MS. GAULT: And there was like a deed for lot 3 and lot 4 for 300,000 and then there was not—

JIM RASSMAN: I think the other lot is the one the house is on.

MS. GAULT: Oh, that could be.

JIM RASSMAN: Because I don't think we were too crazy about that lot, so that may have been; it was kind of like the eleventh hour, fine take the whole thing.

MS. O'NEILL: Awesome. Is there anything else that you want, actually what I would like to do is look over these notes and your notes and I'll probably have a bazillion questions, so I'll email you with those and then hopefully you can clarify a little bit.

MS. GAULT: But don't hesitate to call.

MS. O'NEILL: Oh sure.

MS. GAULT: Sometime emails, you go back and forth, when you call just—