



Fire Place

Brookhaven Village Association

Fall 2012

Published for the residents of Brookhaven Hamlet.

Goodbye to Hugh Needham Brown

Brookhaven bids farewell to long-time resident Hugh Brown, of Beaver Dam Road. He died at his residence on August 25. A hamlet resident for fifty years, Hugh was one of several young Brookhaven National Lab scientists to settle and raise his family in the area starting in the early 1960's.

A native of Urbana, Illinois, Hugh quickly took to the Brookhaven locale. He taught himself to sail his wooden *Lightning* from a book, took his family fishing off of Bellport dock or from their motorboat, and enjoyed many excursions to Old Inlet, from the days of the Old Inlet Beach Club to its present incarnation as part of Fire Island National Seashore. In 1984, Hugh and his wife, Virginia, bought the *Puffin*, a 23-ft. replica of the oystering workboat, the Chesapeake Skipjack. Area residents enjoyed seeing her sailing on the bay, with her raked mast and tanbark sails.

An avid astronomer, Hugh built his own telescope in the 1960's and for three decades he set it up in the front yard to gaze at the moon and stars, even as growing light pollution made it increasingly difficult. When his son gave him a new telescope with a built-in tracking device, he was able to photograph events such as the recent transit of Venus across the sun.

Hugh dearly loved Squassux Landing, even though it claimed his wedding ring one weekend day as he prepared the *Lightning* for a sail with his new bride. He spent many futile hours diving for the ring in Carmans River's infamous mud. Hugh also suffered the indignity of a temperamental outboard

motor transmission that would occasionally only work in reverse, forcing him to drive the family home from Old Inlet backwards.

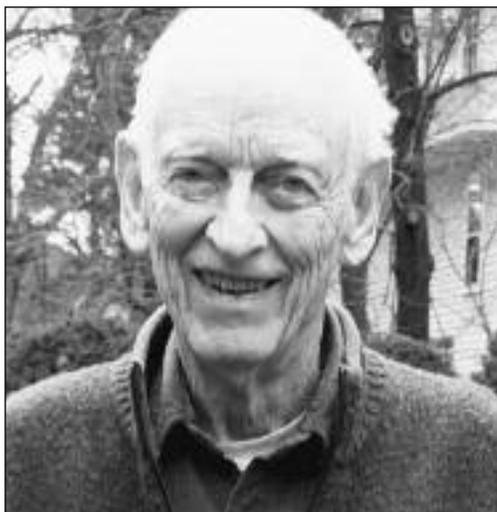
His two children, Alex and Elise, grew up to love the hamlet, its river, and bay. Many hours were spent sailing, motoring, and kayaking in every nook and cranny, as well as tromping through the marshes looking for signs of wildlife or coveted whole clay pigeons from the many skeet shooters who once practiced their marksmanship at the end of Mott Lane.

In the early 1980's Virginia became active in the Brookhaven Village Association, serving on various committees and on the board. She was especially active in landfill, water quality, and zoning issues. Upon her death in 1992, the Virginia Brown Memorial scholarship was

established by the BVA to support higher education for area youth who have demonstrated an interest in and commitment to the Brookhaven community and environment.

In the 1990's, Hugh took up the mantle of serving the Brookhaven community. He served as a Director of the BVA board from 1998 to 2006. Prior to his death, he had recently joined the Advisory Council of the Carmans River Maritime Center, and was a strong supporter of the Post Morrow Foundation.

Hugh was a kind and gentle man with a dry wit. Many in Brookhaven will miss seeing him on his daily walks throughout the hamlet and stopping to exchange observations on life. In his memory, the family encourages contributions to the Virginia Brown Memorial Scholarship.



Hugh N. Brown

Squassux Committee Chairman's Report

October! Already? I say it ever year but, next year, I'm going to use my boat a lot more. As another season winds down, I look back and with very few exceptions, there were a lot of good times. Docks are continually being replaced and all electric work should be completed this fall. After we were able to trial the new de-icing system during the mild winter last year, the Ice Eaters should be ready

for whatever Mother Nature throws at us this coming winter. For better or worse the sun has set on our summer days. It's time to forge on through winter and into the next boating season. And I know I've said it before but, next year, I'm going to use my boat a lot more.

John Curiale – Squassux Committee Chairperson

A Message from BVA President

A Note on Squassux Rules

Lately there have been questions which reflect some confusion about the rules down at Squassux Landing. We admit that many of you may not be fully cognizant of the Regulations, though if you are a boater with a dock space you would have received a copy along with your dock rental or renewal agreement. We agree that the updated rules should be posted clearly both at the Landing and on our website, and we regret that this has not been consistently done before now. By the time you are reading this, I pledge that it will be done.

Compliance with the rules is another matter altogether. A few of you do not like the requirement that you close and lock the gate each time you go in or out. Like it or not, it is one of the rules that you agreed to comply with when you sent in your payment for your dock space. You may not be aware of the several thefts we have had when the gate was left unlocked, as well as complaints from boaters that non-members had been fishing or crabbing from the docks or even the decks of their boats. It was for this reason and others that we elected this year to extend the hours that the security guards are on duty. The security guards' job is to ensure that people driving through the gates do indeed have the right to be there, and to keep an eye on the property and visitors in order that no untoward activity is taking, or has taken, place. Despite rumors to the contrary, they are not there to lock or unlock the gate for us. The Board of Directors would appreciate it if you show your respect and appreciation of the job done by the security guards, Dock master, Andy Rubin; Squassux chairman John Curiale, and many other of our neighbors who contribute freely of their time and expertise to keep our landing a safe and pleasant place for all.

President's Report

If you follow the local news at all you know by now that the Brookhaven Community Coalition (BCC), of which the BVA is a founding member, filed a lawsuit against Brookhaven Town in August regarding their operation of the Landfill in noncompliance with their permit. There has as yet been no response from the Town, due to the resignation of Town Supervisor Mark Lesko. We expect things to move forward quickly after a new Supervisor is in place following the November elections. 18 months ago we were successful in stopping the dumping of sludge at the landfill, which, as you all know, created an unbearable stench that was apparent from every corner of the hamlet, and also sickened children at the Frank P. Long School. We had a second success in convincing the DEC to withdraw the variance which allowed Long Island Compost (another dust and odor nuisance) to operate an unenclosed facility. Unfortunately the owner of LIC appealed the decision, which has been in the hands of a DEC judge for a year. Last week the executive committee of the BCC travelled to Albany and met with the DEC to plea for an expedited decision on the appeal, given what we know about contaminated groundwater plumes and other dangers posed by the facility. As this Newsletter goes to press, the attorney for the BCC, Chris Murray, is drafting a second lawsuit which will be served on the Town next week. As it is early yet, I will not speak of that lawsuit or the charges contained within, but it is sure to get everyone's attention. The BCC will be holding another public meeting at the Brookhaven Firehouse to fill you all in on our progress and our plans. Please come and show your support on Monday, November 5th at 7:00 pm. There will be a special guest speaker.

Kathleen Scheibel – President
Fall 2012



Dock Master



Shorter days, no bugs, and comfortable cooler temperatures. It is the best time of the year. And oddly, boats are already being put in storage. Not really so strange as the kids are back in school, vacations are over, and many boaters have returned to their city homes.

This is my favorite time of year. Also, I have not begun the next billing cycle yet and my phone has been quiet. The next "thing" for me is getting the ice eaters ready for early December. So again for this year, please make arrangements to remove your boat by November 15th, the close of the 2012 season. Expect the gate lock to be changed as well, so drive in access to Squassux Landing will be restricted.

A few items come to mind as I think ahead to next season. If you plan on replacing your boat with a bigger headache, let me know! Space, especially width or beam, is at a premium. Also, the BVA board

is not allowing any new second slips at this time so we may accommodate new community boaters. If you would like a second slip and there is one available after everyone has been placed, this possibly could be done on a temporary basis. Also, should you have any dock concerns or want a different slip, you must contact me. Once slips are assigned, it is often difficult to effect a move. If you are aware of any damage to your slip, please let me know so this information can be passed along to the dock builder for next season.

Another problem I have recently encountered occurs when a dockline "lassos" the mooring pole between slips. If it is loose fitting and allowed to slip down to the water, successive tides lifts the boat, and the buoyancy will pull the post out of the mud after the line snags the pole.

Andy Rubin – Dock Master



Hamlet Fall Clean-up

Saturday, October 20th at 9:00 am
Meet at the Brookhaven Fire House

Sunday, October 28th at 9:00 am
Meet at the Brookhaven Elementary School

Brunch served to all volunteers on Sunday, courtesy of Jim's Deli!

*Please Come Out
and Lend a
Hand*



Fall Bulb Planting in the Hamlet

On Saturday, October 27th at 9:30 a.m. the BVA and the Post Morrow Foundation are sponsoring a daffodil bulb planting at the Edgar Avenue Preserve in Brookhaven. At 9:30 am, Dava Stravinsky will lead a walk and identify native trees and flowers along the newly established walking paths. Jeff Jensen, a local arborist and Director of the BVA is designing one of the entrances to the nine acre Preserve. The Foundation has established walking paths to help control invasive plants in the Preserve. After the walking tour we invite you to plant daffodils along the Edgar Avenue entrance to the Preserve.

*Please join us
for the walk,
the talk and
the bulb planting.*



An Interview with Mary Knowles

Mary Knowles, resident of Brookhaven Hamlet, serves on the Town of Brookhaven Historic District Advisory Board. Mary has served on the HDAC for 10 years. She is an architect in the firm Knowles Architecture, PC and has worked on many historic structures during her career. We recently had a Q & A session with Mary to learn more about the HDAC. Below is the information she and the HDAC provided, along with links to the Town web site where you can learn more about the permit process for building and renovation projects in historic districts.

1. What is the HDAC and how did it come into existence?

The Historic District Advisory Committee (HDAC) is a citizen committee of volunteers appointed by the Town Board to advise the Department of Planning, Environment & Land Management (PELM) on matters affecting, and proposals within, Historic Districts, Historic District Transition Zones and Historic Landmarks. The HDAC's present operating structure was established more than three decades ago in an effort to preserve Brookhaven Town's Historic Communities. Miller Place was the first to be designated a Historic District in 1978. The Fireplace (Brookhaven Hamlet) Historic District was designated in 1985.

2. How many members serve on the committee and how are they selected?

There are presently eleven appointed Committee members. Appointments are made by the Town Board. Potential committee members may be nominated by current HDAC members, Town Council members, or anyone who is a resident of the Town of Brookhaven who is interested may apply. Members may not be elected or appointed Town officials or Town employees. At least one member of the Historic District Advisory Committee shall be a registered architect, and the remaining members shall be qualified to serve by reason of their interest, training or experience. The Town Historian also serves ex officio on the Committee.

3. How often does the committee meet?

The HDAC meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month unless a holiday occurs, in which case a holiday schedule is announced. You can view the Town Calendar online at the Town Of Brookhaven website (www.brookhaven.org). Meetings commence at 5:00 PM and are located in the Media Room of Town Hall, One Independence Hill, Farmingville, NY 11738.

4. How many historic districts exist in the Town of Brookhaven?

There are fifteen Town Board designated Historic Districts:

Miller Place, Dyers Neck, East Setauket, Old Setauket, Mount Sinai, Stony Brook, Fireplace (Brookhaven Hamlet), Longwood Estate, Yaphank, Eastport, Center Moriches, East Moriches, Moriches, Bethel Christian Avenue Laurel Hill, Terryville Road.

5. What are the benefits of being designated a historic district?

A Historic District is an area containing buildings, structures or places which have a special character and ambiance based on historical value, notable architectural features representing one or more periods or styles of architecture of an area of history or the cultural and aesthetic heritage of the community. It is an area that constitutes a distinct physical section of the town of such significance as to warrant its conservation, preservation and protection from adverse influences.

The main advantage of being designated a Historic District is the preservation of overall character and appearance of the neighborhood. The Town of Brookhaven is one of the oldest settled areas in the United States, and in recent decades has also been one of the fastest growing. Without special attention, significant historic hamlets could potentially lose their unique architectural and cultural heritage. Their historic value and sense of place could be lost forever. In addition, the availability of advice from the HDAC and the Town's Department of Planning, Environment & Land Management (PELM) and potential availability of tax advantages can be considered benefits as well.

6. Is the entire Hamlet a historic district?

The boundaries of the Fireplace (Brookhaven Hamlet) Historic District can be seen online on the Town Of Brookhaven website (www.brookhaven.org). Go to the Committees tab and select Historic District Advisory Committee. Towards the bottom you will find many downloads. Under 'Fireplace' entry you can download a PDF map of the area. The Eastern Boundary is Little Neck Creek and the Carmans River, the Southern boundary is the Great South Bay. The Western and Northern boundaries of the District are roughly Woodhaven (the canal area), Belleview, Beaver Dam, Montauk Hwy to the Railroad tracks. As you can see from the map, although the entire hamlet is not a Historic District, a significant portion of it is. In addition, with every historic district, including the Fireplace District, a Historic District Transition Zone extends for a distance of 500 feet from and adjacent to the perimeter boundary of the historic district. The purpose is to control the effect of potentially adverse environmental, visual, and developmental influences on a historic district.

7. What are the guidelines the committee uses when making decisions on building plans?

The HDAC considers the architectural and historical significance of a proposal and measures its impact according to the following criteria: Character of the area in proximity to the proposal; Mass, scale and height; General Form & Proportion, shape, style; Compatibility with area and architecture; Architectural Detailing; Site plan and landscaping; Exterior construction materials; Type of illumination; and Impacts of traffic & parking, signage (for commercial properties).

Historic Districts are not intended to exist as static museums of the past; they are places in which people live, work, and own property. Each Historic District contains diverse architecture from different periods and styles. It is the purpose of the Historic District regulations to ensure that renovations, additions, and new construction are in harmony with surrounding properties, but not necessarily built according to one particular period or style.

8. Have there been any interesting issues particular to Brookhaven Hamlet that the HDAC discussed?

Due to its rural heritage, the HDAC has found that the Fireplace (Brookhaven Hamlet) Historic District requires a unique approach. It is one of the few historic districts without a prominent commercial zone.

9. What advice can you give to residents in the historic district who want to apply for a building permit for renovations to their house?

On the Town Of Brookhaven website (www.brookahven.org, under Committees tab select Historic District Advisory Committee) you will find many downloads and informative links, including the application itself. Also included are examples of how to format an application and what is to be included. Be sure your application is complete so that anyone who isn't familiar with the area would be able to understand where the project is, what the surrounding area looks like and exactly what is being proposed (please be sure to differentiate proposed from existing improvements). Remember that this is a committee of many people, not all of whom are intimately familiar with the Fireplace (Brookhaven Hamlet) Historic District. If an application impacts a historically significant structure and/or is for substantially new construction, it is strongly advised that the applicant come and talk with the HDAC very early in the design process. An 'informal review' can save a lot of time down the road and make the whole process a lot smoother. Preliminary "sketch" plans are acceptable for this level of initial review. You may contact the HDAC liaison in the Town Of Brookhaven Planning Division, 631-451-6400, for additional information.

Trapping in Brookhaven

The BVA board would like to thank Mrs. Virginia Karanik for expressing her concerns to the BVA and contributing them to the newsletter. Upon discussion the board felt an article explaining trapping would be an appropriate addition in order to fully inform the community.

Trapping of muskrats, weasel, opossum, mink, raccoon has long been a part of our history in the Brookhaven Bellport area. For many Baymen, it was an important supplement to their income. In recent years the numbers of people who still trap on Long Island are few. However, there are still individuals participating in this activity as is evidenced by people coming upon their traps. Traps are typically placed along runs or paths the animals use. To the inexperienced eye these runs or trails may be invisible but to an experienced trapper they are as obvious as our roads. The traps may be covered with leaves, grass or anything else that will conceal it. In the case of muskrats traps are not baited the trapper relies on his skill at placement, traps that are used for fox, raccoons, and opossums are baited with something that will make the animal curious enough to get close enough to be caught. These traps may also be concealed and placed in a location or path the animals use.

Below is a list of the DEC's rules regarding trapping. The DEC clearly spells out trapper's rights and also trapper's obligations in its rules governing trapping.

Trapper must possess a valid license by attending an approved DEC course and obtain a "Trapper Education Certificate".

A license does not give the holder the right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.

No one may disturb a trap lawfully set by another person.

It is illegal for a license holder to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner or lessee while on their property.

No one may harass a trapper while he or she is legally trapping.

All traps must be labeled with the trappers name and address and DEC ID#.

Teeth are not allowed on foot hold traps.

On land foot hold traps must be 5 ¾" or smaller.

Trapper's must check traps once every 24 hours.

No one may remove a lawfully trapped animal from another person's trap.

The trapping season lasts from November, 1st to April 15th. To prevent a problem when walking your dog through areas that may contain traps it would be a good idea to keep them on a leash.

Entrapped Fox

As a concerned resident of Brookhaven Hamlet, I am writing to inform you of an incident that occurred Tuesday, December 6, 2011 on Bay Road.

I was called upon by a rescue organization that I volunteer for to help rescue injured wildlife. The call concerned a fox with a foothold trap on his leg who had wandered into a resident's yard looking for food. He was emaciated and had extreme damage to his leg below the trap. He was still able to walk with much difficulty and I called in the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) officers to hopefully euthanize him to end his suffering.

I was amazed to learn from the officer that the use of foothold traps for fur is legal to licensed, permitted trappers in our area. In this situation the rules and regulations were not followed and that added to the suffering of an animal.

I am hoping to inform other residents who, perhaps like me, would have no idea that this practice is allowed. Most of us have children and pets that could become entrapped and we apparently must be alert to this danger when we walk with them.

Virginia Karanik

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The BVA Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Post Morrow Annex, 16 Bay Rd. Meetings are open to the public.



Fire Place

*A Community Newsletter from the
Brookhaven Village Association
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