

**The Watch Hill Conservancy:
Steward of the Napatree Point Conservation Area**

May 2023

The Watch Hill Conservancy has, since its inception in 1999, been a key steward of the Napatree Point Conservation Area. The role of the Conservancy was formalized in 2013 with the assignment of a Conservation Easement over Watch Hill Fire District properties. The Easement requires The Watch Hill Conservancy fulfill the terms of the Easement to protect Napatree Point and its unique conservation values – plants, animals, and habitats. Furthermore, the Conservancy is obliged and committed to ensuring public access in the Conservation Area in perpetuity.

The State of Napatree Report (www.tinyurl.com/stateofnapatreereport, 2022 is our tenth edition) is a comprehensive overview of the educational and stewardship programs the Conservancy and its collaborators conduct on Napatree. The report provides a history of our stewardship activities, our many partners, and articulates our goals, values and principles; prominent among them are our commitment to protecting the ecology of the site, enhancing the quality of habitats, and informing and educating visitors to Napatree.

In response to the Town's active pursuit declaring Fort Road a 20-foot wide public right of way, the Watch Hill Fire District and The Watch Hill Conservancy have filed a complaint with the Washington County Superior Court requesting a declaratory judgement to fulfill the terms of the Conservation Easement and quiet title on all property on or adjacent to Napatree Point against the actions taken and claims asserted by the Town of Westerly.

Together with the Watch Hill Fire District, The Watch Hill Conservancy remains committed to protecting the 68 acres of conservation property on Napatree Point, providing appropriate public access through that protected property, public education, and ensuring that all visitors have a safe, enjoyable, and informative experience in the Napatree Point Conservation Area. As in years past, the Conservancy has a rich suite of free public programming scheduled for this season including guided horseshoe crab walks, family seine netting events, Saturday morning Naturalist-led nature walks, and the popular Napatree Investigators summer youth education program. Please visit The Watch Hill Conservancy's website for more information.

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