January 6, 2014

Cape Elizabeth Town Council

Ralph Gould Award Presentation

On behalf of the Cape Elizabeth Town Council, I am delighted to present the 2014 Ralph Gould Award for Community Service to Michael Duddy.

Since moving to CE in 1999, Mike has been involved in service to our community, in many ways.

For 9 years Mike coached Community Services youth basketball, Cape Youth Football and Cape Elizabeth Little League.

At St. Bartholomew’s Church. Mike taught various youth liturgy and ministry programs for 10 years.

From years 2000 through 2010 Mike served the Town on the Conservation Commission and also served a term as Chairman.

To highlight just a few of his many contributions to the Town during his 10 years on the Conservation Commission, I’d like to list the following:

Mike was one of the authors of the 2001 Greenbelt Plan which shifted emphasis to improving public access to open space through trail development.

Mike was very “hands-on” with the following efforts which significantly improved and expanded our Greenbelt trails., and these years of volunteer service have directly enhanced the quality of life for so many Cape Elizabeth citizens.

* Helped draft the Gull Crest and Winnick Woods management plans,

including working with the DEP for permitting.

* Helped design and build boardwalks and bridges and trails at Great Pond trail, helped to design and build the Great Pond boat racks, and worked with the Sprague family to clarify and define the public easements providing access to Great Pond from Fenway Road.
* Helped to design and build the trails at Winnock Woods, the Gull Crest connector at Fowler Road, and the wooden pedestrian bridge linking the Stonegate system to Fort Williams. He helped design and build the initial bridges and boardwalks for the Highland trail, and also helped design and construct the greenbelt system at Cross Hill.
* He has led dozens of volunteer crews over the years with all of these efforts.

Mike is currently serving as the town’s Tree Warden. In this capacity he responds to countless calls regarding trees in public easements, and on town owned land. He answers numerous resident questions about tree diseases, hazard tress, tree selection, tree care and planting. He directs tree resource maintenance at Fort Williams, and on school and municipal grounds.

As tree warden he has obtained a grant from Project Canopy to promote restoration of the Shagbark Hickory tree in Cape Elizabeth. In addition he has obtained a grant from a national nonprofit to promote habitat for the New England Cottontail.

Congratulations on being the 2014 Ralph Gould Award recipient and many thanks for your years of dedication and service to Cape Elizabeth.

Jessica L. Sullivan, Chairman

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