



The Barque Hill Association

Dear Neighbor,

As the time of year arrives to think about making your annual dues payment to the Barque Hill Association, we thought it would be a good idea to outline some of the things the Association provides. Our Association offers many benefits to our members, making our neighborhood a more pleasant place to live and enhancing the value of all our properties.

The following outlines some of the things that make living in Barque Hill so special, such as our parks and conservation land, as well our numerous neighborhood social activities. The Association that maintains our common lands, pays the insurance and taxes, and organizes some of the volunteer and social events, is also detailed.

The Neighborhood

Before breaking ground on the first home in 1962, the developers of Barque Hill commissioned a plan by Sasaki, Walker and Associates, prominent site planners and landscape architects, to create a design compatible with the unique history and aesthetic beauty of Norwell. An architectural design board imposed ongoing, exacting standards as development progressed, including a requirement that no two homes should be exactly alike. Today the 106 homes on Barque Hill Drive, Till Rock Lane, and Brigantine Circle comprise one of the most beautiful neighborhoods on the South Shore. Noted for its scenic, historic, and architectural qualities, Barque Hill's charm and character make this a very special place to live.

Social and Volunteer Activities

Social Events

Each year various gatherings are held so residents of Barque Hill can stay in touch with old friends, and get acquainted with new neighbors. Events typically include:

- Spring Annual Meeting
- Fall Picnic at Shipyard Park
- Social events
- Holiday-related activities

Volunteer Activities

Although we employ a professional landscaping company to mow the grass, sometimes volunteers pitch in to clean up fallen branches, trim overgrown growth, etc. Occasionally the call will go out to the members to help out on one of these "clean-up days," which can offer a great opportunity not only to keep the neighborhood looking its best, but also for us to spend a few hours getting to know each other better.

Barque Hill Parks and Conservation Land

The natural setting of our neighborhood is enhanced by our numerous parks and conservation land. In 1983 the Barque Hill Association deeded 6 parcels, totaling 60 acres, to the Town of Norwell to be held in conservation, and for the use of association members. This arrangement allows the residents

of Barque Hill to enjoy the rural and natural character of the area, while paying property taxes at a reduced rate (25% of the rate of buildable land).

With the exception of the North River Conservation parcel, each of these areas is marked by sections of split-rail fence. Please take advantage of them – they are yours to enjoy!

- **Barque Hill Common**
4.36 acres extending from Barque Hill Drive to Till Rock Lane. This field is said to have been the mustering ground on which Captain Thomas Church trained his troops during the Revolutionary War.
- **Barque Hill Trail**
1.54 acres extending from the top of Brigantine Circle (at the intersection of Barque Hill Drive) to the bottom of the circle.
- **Landing Green**
10.10 acres of conservation land at the bottom of the hill on Till Rock Lane
- **Till Rock Park**
4.51 acres overlooking the river on Brigantine Circle, and the site of what some call the “Mystery Boulder” a large rock of glacial origin sitting atop the hill.
- **Shipyards Park**
At 10.20 acres, Shipyards Park contains a large field, and a backstop for softball games. It also has a large amount of wooded river frontage, with a marker that commemorates the historic Fox Hill Shipyards, for which the park is named. There is also an unpaved drive down to a boat landing at Shipyards Park. This area is available to association members for launching small boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. Because this is association property, the entrance to the drive is locked. Each of the directors has a key. If you'd like to use the ramp, please contact one of us.
- **North River Conservation Land**
An additional 33.2 acres of riverfront land between Brigantine Circle and the North River has been put into conservation.

Website and Email List

Website

The Barque Hill Association maintains a website at www.barquehill.org, where you will find a wealth of in-depth background material, including area history, a map of the neighborhood, and the information on our conservation land. It will also keep you up-to-date on topics from the current social calendar to the latest association financial reports and you can send an email to any of the members of the Board by clicking on their name.

Email List

To communicate as quickly and inexpensively as possible, the association has built an extensive neighborhood email list. This is used primarily by the president of the association to send official announcements, such as annual reports, etc. to the membership. It is also sometimes used for communication of a more urgent or personal nature, such as to alert neighbors of a missing pet, or suspicious activity in the area. See the website for details and to sign up.

Finances and Dues

Association dues are an extremely small price to pay for the many benefits they provide. They are really a reinvestment in your neighborhood, making it a nicer place to live today, and making your home more valuable tomorrow. Dues are currently set at \$200.00 per year.

Although Association dues are voluntary, participation from all 107 residents of the neighborhood is critical. Dues are essentially our only income, and are used to pay for:

- Real estate taxes on our 60 acres of common land
- Insurance
- Maintenance, such as lawn mowing, fence repair, sign painting, etc.
- Planting of flowers
- Social events, like the ever-popular fall cookout at Shipyard Park
- Police details when necessary, such as Halloween

Bills are sent out annually, and your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for being a part of this great neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Your 2010-2011 Board of Directors
Barque Hill Neighborhood Association