

# The Quorum Review

Official Newsletter of the Brownstone Quorum, Inc.  
Published in Portland, Connecticut since 2002

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February 2002

**Next Meeting: Monday February 25, 2002 at the Storefront 239 Main St.  
Topic: 2002 Project Planning**

**See you there! Jeanne Dilworth, President**

Welcome to the first issue of "The Quorum Review". The intent of this newsletter is to provide a mechanism for keeping the membership informed of Quorum news, events and committee activities. The information included is intended to foster communications on current issues, which can be discussed at meetings.

## History and Background

The Brownstone Quorum, Inc. is an outgrowth of an informal group of Portland residents who gathered at the Portland Library in late 1999 following the Town's acquisition of the brownstone quarries and riverfront property. The group's goal was to provide assistance and support to the town government as they determined the ultimate use of these properties.

Three important events occurred in 1999 and 2000 that affected decisions about property use.

First, The National Park Service authorized John Monroe of the NPS Rivers and Trails Program to assist Portland in the planning. He began work with the volunteers in December 1999 on an ambitious program of information-gathering, visioning and information-sharing.

Second, The Department of the Interior, in May 2000, declared the Portland Brownstone Quarries a National Historic Landmark. The volunteers commenced site work and presented the first Quarry Focus Day to introduce residents to their newest park. In July, they participated in a planning Charrette organized by John Monroe. In October 2000, the volunteers, now known at the Brownstone Quorum, hosted the ceremony and reception dedicating the quarries as the Portland Brownstone Quarries National Historic Landmark.

Third, in October 2000, the Portland Board of Selectmen authorized the Quorum to make modifications to the properties, to use the properties for public events, and to participate in the formal design process to be funded by a \$50,000 grant from the State of Connecticut.

Following the action of the Board of Selectmen the Quorum began the process of becoming a non-profit corporation with 501c3 status which was completed in January 2002.

**Have you visited the site yet?  
Come on down and check it out!  
Walk the trails, enjoy the views!**

## Brownstone Quorum Mission

- To preserve and enhance the features designated as a National Historic Landmark as a Regional Attraction.
- To complement and be connected to a revitalized Main Street.
- To provide waterfront access and community open space.
- To stimulate economic opportunity in and/or adjacent to the park.

## 2001 Accomplishments

This is a list of some of the projects we were involved with this year:

- Guest Speakers
- Radio and TV interviews/panels
- Quarry Cleanup
- Riverfront trail cutting & blazing
- Presentations/tours for civic groups
- Concerts on the Promontory
- Quarry Focus Day II
- Historic Preservation Week
- Renovation of storefront
- Tours for school children
- Display at the Portland Fair

## Goals for 2002

These are the four major goals we will be working toward this year:

- Goal #1: Make additional area of the quarry/riverfront property usable by the public.
- Goal #2: Involve community in park development through additional events on quarry/riverfront property.
- Goal #3: Develop education opportunities relating to the property
- Goal #4: Establish financial plan to fund BQ activities related to park development and use including needed material and purchased services.

## Tentative 2002 Calendar of Events

Feb-Dec	Regular Meetings (4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)
Feb-Dec	Board Meetings (1 <sup>st</sup> Monday)
Mar-Nov	Work Days Monthly, weekdays and weekends
April 27	Peter LeTourneau Geology Tour of Portland
Apr-Oct	Open Information Center
Apr-Oct (Sat)	Canoe Rides on Quarry
May-Jul	Concerts on Promontory
September	Quarry Day
October 11-13	Portland Fair

**Portland Riverfront Park Brochure**

Sue Fiedler of the Design Committee, developed a brochure for the Riverfront Park, with a map and interpretive key to help you understand and appreciate the different aspects of the area. We have included one with this "Review".

**January Meeting**

Our annual meeting was held from 7-9pm at the Portland Library on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Nick Bellantoni, Connecticut State Archeologist, and a dynamic speaker, held the audience enthralled and entertained as he provided insight into Portland's early Indian and settler history with anecdotes and slides. We elected the following slate of officers for 2002:

- President** Jeanne Dilworth
- Vice President** Jim Tripp
- Treasurer** Mike Troderman
- Recording Secretary** Mary Ann Pettiross
- Corresponding Secretary** Eunice Wiseman
- Member-at-large** Wayne Andrus
- Member-at-large** Bob McDougall

**Brownstone Quorum Committees**

These are our five standing committees and some of their functions:

**Design Committee** - deals with physical design of sites and their relationship to Main Street; works with professional designers to determine feasibility of design concepts.

**Organization Committee** - manages meeting and event logistics, develops volunteer roster, maintains mailing list, produces press releases, monthly agendas, event publicity.

**Promotion Education Committee** - spreads message of the Quorum through newsletters, interpretive programs, radio, TV and print presentations, and active relationship with tourism agencies.

**Property Management Committee** - works with the Portland Public Works Department to prepare properties for public use, develop maintenance programs, deal with public safety and rules for visitors, and establishes job functions for both paid and volunteer staff.

**Economic/Finance Committee** - deals with economic viability of the organization and financial questions relating to Brownstone Quorum goal achievement by membership development, fundraising, grant writing, and tourism promotion.

**How to Contact Us**

Email: [BrownstoneQuorum@Yahoo.Com](mailto:BrownstoneQuorum@Yahoo.Com)  
 Web: [www.BrownstoneQuorum.Org](http://www.BrownstoneQuorum.Org)

**Meeting Schedule**

All Brownstone Quorum meetings are open to the public. Participation is encouraged and welcomed.

	Regular 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.	Board 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon.
January	28	7 - SF
February	25 - SF	4 - SF
March	25	4 - SF
April	22	1 - SF
May	20 - SF	6 - SF
June	24	3 - SF
July	22	1 - SF
August	26	5 - SF
September	23 - SF	2 - SF
October	28	7 - SF
November	25	4 - SF
December	TBA	2 - SF

*Meetings are at the Portland Library unless otherwise noted.*

Location: SF - Store Front, 239 Main St.,

**Membership, now open for business!**

Now that the Brownstone Quorum has non-profit status, and has ratified bylaws, we have opened a bank account and are now able accept membership dues.

Individual Membership dues are \$10.00, annually, checks should be made payable to Brownstone Quorum, Inc. Dues help fund park development and membership mailings. Additional contributions are welcome.

Membership is open to anyone who wishes to support the organization goals. Anyone paying dues before July 1, 2002 will be considered a *Charter Member* of the Brownstone Quorum. Please complete a membership application and return it with your payment to:

Brownstone Quorum, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 402  
 Portland, CT 06480-0402

2002 Membership dues are now due. The following is the list of members in good standing as of February 6, 2002.

- Cynthia Andrus
- Wayne Andrus
- Charles Coe
- Margaret Coe
- Susan Desina
- Jeanne Dilworth
- Barbara Duey
- Herbert Duey
- Sue Fiedler
- Ruth Freeburg
- Elsie Hale
- Buddy Hernandez
- Marion Kollias
- John LeShane
- Bob McDougall
- John Monroe
- Nancy Mueller
- Philip Nanfito
- Mary Anne Pettiross
- Howard Rosenbaum
- Sari Rosenbaum
- Suzanne Schultz
- Alice Schumacher
- Chris Sullivan
- Bill Supinski
- Mike Susca
- Elizabeth Swenson
- Jim Tripp
- Mike Troderman
- Bruce Tyler
- Dick Wiseman
- Eunice Wiseman

**Join Now!**