

The Quorum Review

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

Vol. VI No. 1

April 2007

The President's Message

From Jim Tripp:

2007 promises to be a very busy year for The Brownstone Quorum.

In 2006 the development of the historic Portland Quarries entered a new phase when the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park assumed control of the quarries. We in the Brownstone Quorum shifted our focus to the development of the Riverfront Park and are looking forward to implementing some of the planned improvements in 2007.

Our goals for 2007 include the following:

1. Sponsor and participate in the 2007 Brownstone Festival
2. Begin the implementation of improvements to the Riverfront Park
3. Build the Arch Pavilion

Jeanne Dilworth has agreed to chair the Festival Committee and is working with other organizations in Portland to make the 2007 Brownstone Festival a great success. The Brownstone Quorum plans to once again sponsor events at the riverfront. The program for this year is not yet finalized but currently includes a cookout, where we will be serving burgers and hot dogs, and music. Stay tuned for more details. We hope to see you all at the Brownstone Festival in September.

We have many plans for the Riverfront Park this year. We have begun to define the area known to us as Heritage Plaza and plan to begin clearing and cleaning this usage area soon. Our hope is to be able to use this area for the Quorum events we will be hosting for the Brownstone Festival. As always, maintenance and improvement of the existing trails is a priority. Finally, we plan to improve access to the park. Our goal is to relocate the gates at the end of Brownstone and Middlesex Avenues and reinstall the signs at the new entrances. By relocating these gates and signage we hope to provide better parking and better access to the park.

(Continued on Page 2, see President...)

Spring 2007

Pavilion For The Brownstone Arch



ONCE USED EXTENSIVELY IN THE PORTLAND BROWNSTONE QUARRIES THIS PIECE OF EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN AUTHENTICLY RESTORED.

SUPPORT THE BROWNSTONE QUORUM AS THEY BUILD A POST AND BEAM PAVILLION.

ANY CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPRECIATED, SEND TO:
The Brownstone Quorum, PO Box 402, Portland, Ct. 06480
For additional information call 342-0771 or 342-0467.

The plaza will feature an area of bricks engraved with the names of persons contributing \$100.00 or more.

Individuals or groups contributing \$500.00 or more will be honored by having their name engraved into a plaque.

Checks are tax-deductable and should be made out to
The Brownstone Quorum Arch Project.

As most of you know, the Brownstone Quorum has been given the task of developing a civic plaza and building a pavilion to house the Brownstone Arch (or "sling" as we used to call it). The Arch was painstakingly restored over four years by the Chiabrero brothers, Eddie and Joe, and their nephew, Bill Long. It is presently being safely stored out of the weather, but also out of public view. The new pavilion will provide both safe storage and public view.

The plans for the plaza and the pavilion have been prepared. Portland Town Engineer, Geoff Jacobson, has completed the engineering plans for the plaza which will be sited between the Bank of America building and the Police Station on Main Street. Portland architect Rick Staub, has provided structural drawings for the pavilion which will measure twenty feet by forty feet and will be open to view on all four sides so that the arch will once again

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Pavilion For The Brownstone Arch

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be part of the Main Street landscape. Both Staub and Jacobson have donated their professional services to this project. Requests for Proposals have gone out.



Jim Tripp, Mike Susca, State Representative Jim O'Rourke and Howard Rosenbaum, at the site of the new pavilion.

The total cash outlay for this project is expected to be between \$50,000 and \$55,000. Through the efforts of Representative Jim O'Rourke, the Quorum recently received a grant from the State of Connecticut for \$25,000. The Town of Portland has committed \$6,000. The Quorum has begun a fundraising campaign to acquire the remainder of the needed funds. Several local businesses have already come forward with commitments.

The fundraising campaign is now going public. A contribution in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Recognition for special contributions will be available. For a donation of \$100.00, individuals or organizations can purchase an engraved brick to be displayed in the site design. Contributions of \$500.00 and more will be recognized on a commemorative plaque prominently displayed at the plaza.

Donations, which are fully tax deductible, should be made out to The Brownstone Quorum, Inc. and mailed to the Brownstone Quorum, Post Office Box 402, Portland, CT 06480.

For further information, please call Howard Rosenbaum at 342-0771 or Tom Bransfield at 342-0467.

President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

I am very excited that the installation of the Arch Pavilion is close to becoming a reality. This project has been in the works for over two years. The goal of this project is to install a covering to display the

historic arch next to the Portland police station. The Brownstone Quorum was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for this project. Howard Rosenbaum has taken on the roll of chairperson of the Arch Pavilion Committee. The Arch Pavilion Committee has been working on fundraising, obtaining competitive bids, and finalizing the plans for the pavilion. The goal is to raise the remainder of the required funds and construct the Arch Pavilion in 2007.

I also want to take a moment to talk about membership. We are hoping to continue to build our membership for many reasons. The more support we get from the community, the more we can accomplish at the riverfront property. Support can come in many forms. Some residents are able to give time and others choose to support our efforts financially. Both are very important. If you are a member and have not yet paid your 2007 dues, please take the time to do so in the self addressed envelope we have provided. Your continued support is **greatly** appreciated. Thank you.

In summary, we have set some aggressive goals for 2007. Through the efforts of many people we will be successful meeting those goals. Come on down, see the results for yourself, and enjoy your park. We hope to see you at one of our Quorum events, work parties, or meetings soon.

Quorum 2007 Annual Meeting

The audience at the 2007 annual meeting of the Brownstone Quorum was treated to a mystery story – a real whodunit about the Portland brownstone quarries and how the riverfront park property came to be.

Susan Fiedler, landscape architect/preservationist, has conducted over two years of research into the brownstone quarries and their related “dump” – now Portland's prized park. Using old maps, photos, and land records, Fiedler has been able to chart the growth of the quarry business essentially by charting the changes in land contours and the pace of those changes over time.

Michael Raber, an industrial archaeologist from Glastonbury, concurred with Fiedler's conclusions and with her position that learning the land's story and making that story accessible to the public is vital in

determining new uses for the site. He presented illustrations of ways in which the land's story can be told.

Fiedler's research, and collaboration with Raber, was funded by a 2006 grant from the Rockfall Foundation of Middletown to the Quorum which will prepare the research for public display.

During the business portion of the meeting, the Quorum elected new officers for 2007:

President – Jim Tripp, Vice President – Cindy Andrus, Treasurer – Tom Bransfield, Recording Secretary – Ruth Freeburg, Corresponding Secretary – Jeanne Dilworth. Betty Curley and Howard Rosenbaum were elected at-large members. Eunice Wiseman will serve as Organization Chair; Design Committee will be headed by Frank Winiski; Promotion/Education by Jeanne Dilworth; Membership by Romanie Gussenhoven; and the ad hoc Arch Pavilion Fundraising Drive by Howard Rosenbaum.

Service awards were made to: Rick Kelsey and members of the Portland Public Works Department for their continued support and help as the Quorum works on the town-owned riverfront property to make it accessible to townspeople. Danielle Ambler accepted an award to Girl Scout Troop 2745 for their outstanding work in promoting and presenting "Rockin' on the Riverfront" – a dance for teen-agers – during the 2006 Brownstone Festival. Carolyn Susca was honored for her work as a member of the Festival Steering Committee in charge of the Brownstone Ambassadors, a group of high school and Brownstone Intermediate School students who worked throughout the Festival providing information, guidance and other help to Festival-goers. The Wayne Andrus Award was given to Jeanne Dilworth for her contributions to the protection and preservation of the Portland Brownstone Quarries National Historic Landmark and Riverfront Property for future generations.

The evening closed with a social hour and refreshments provided by the Organization Committee.

3rd Annual Brownstone Festival September 15, 2007

The Steering Committee selected last October at the Festival wrap-up began work on the 3rd Annual Brownstone Festival in February and will be continuing with monthly meetings right up to Festival Day Saturday, September 15th.

At the February and March meetings we focused primarily on strengths and weaknesses of the 2006 event. First off, it was unanimously agreed that we had very few weaknesses, so we took care of them right away:

We need more and bigger signs, put out sooner maybe two weeks before the Festival. We need to find a way of encouraging riders get off the fire trucks and hay wagons at the museums and the riverfront. People have so much fun riding that they don't want to get off. And, we really want to have the art show and sale this year.

We came up with some solutions to these "problems" that will build on 2006 successes. First, Fred Knous of the Portland Economic Development Commission and Mike Elliott of Stor-U-Self will take charge of improving the signage.

Second, Bob Baines, Joe Carlson and John Rzaza of the Cellar Savers will work to get the "smoke house" at the Fire Museum, and they expect to put another fire truck on the road to handle the demand for rides.

Martha Lutecki, President of the Historical Society, mentioned that the Society has an abundance of wartime memorabilia with which they could mount a very special display at the Ruth Callander House. They would like to work with the local Veteran's Commission to make it outstanding. Bill Willinsky, Veteran's Commissioner, said fellow Commissioner, Reg Farrington, owns an old military ambulance and army truck which he would be willing to display for the Festival.

With offerings like these, people will get off to visit the museums and the fire engines can really be shuttles not taxis.

The Quorum will create some great new activities at the riverfront to get people off the hay wagons and into discovery at the riverfront and quarries. Last year, Jeff and MacKenzie Kelsey operated packed hayrides from 11:00 AM through 7:00 PM when the town picnic ended at the river. The Kelseys will be back this year and are planning a slight change in the post-picnic shuttle that will make the ride even more fun. The Quorum will repeat the free town picnic, and the music, but will add guided walks, new displays and activities for all ages. Mike Susca and Jim Tripp are in charge here.

Third, Frank Winiski of the Quorum and Linda Ginter of Colonial Framing and Design are working with a newly formed Brownstone Arts Association get the Art

Show and Sale up and running. They like the idea of moving the show to the front lawn at the Brownstone Intermediate School to ease crowding on the Green. The Steering Committee will talk with Dr. Doyen, Superintendent of Schools about this.

With "art" in Mind, Fred Knous is investigating the possibility of sponsoring a "palette" contest to involve "artists" in creating local art. And we might try to save some of the student art work currently on display at the library for display at the Festival.

Family Day will again fill the Town Green with activities for young children. There will be crafts, games, and information about services available to young people and - their families. The Police Department will again hold a "Bike Road-E-O" to help young children develop good riding skills and bike safety awareness. Dr. John Mormile will be on site with bike helmets. Mary Pont, Director of Youth and Family Services and coordinator of activities on the Green will contact Pedal Power about doing bike inspections.

The Janet Nocek, Library Director, and Debbie (Daisy Duck) Martin, Children's Librarian, are planning another storybook event with a special character on hand to greet the kids. Bernice Zampano said that the Junior Women's Club will be at the Green with cameras to record the event. The Senior Center "is planning something special, we don't know what just yet, but last year they worked with the Ecumenical Youth Group to serve delicious pancakes.

The Farmers'/Crafters' Market will round out activities at the Green. The Market will be the "opening event" of the day when they start at 9:00 AM.

The Portland Volunteer Fire Department will participate with displays and activities at Fire Company #1 (possibly a second smoke house). Bob Ziegler of Portland Emergency Management Services will have a display and provide information about what the EMS does and possibly recruit new members, while also helping the Police Department with traffic management as needed.

Last year, Trinity Church was the site for several events. Church members offered tours of the very beautiful church interior and the ancient burial ground in back of the church. The church also provided display space for the Flower Show sponsored by the three combined Portland garden clubs, and allowed the church parking lot to be used for the antique car and truck show. With all of this, church members provided cool drinks and cookies to refresh visitors.

Ruth Freeburg, representing Trinity said they will be discussing just what the Church will do this year.

This year, Joanne Luppi and Rose Bucheri of Portland River Valley G. C., said the 2006 show had been a success, although they had no entries in the children's class. This year, they will again sponsor an adult show, but they are also considering holding an on-site class in flower arranging for young people. They have the instructors, they will need flowers to teach with. Perhaps townspeople will donate flowers from their gardens, to help out. You will be hearing from about this.

The antique vehicle show has been very popular for the past two years and we hope to make it bigger and better this year. Hazel Robinson, owner of an antique car and member of several antique car clubs will be helping to pull this together for 2007.

Cindy Varricchio, Chair of the Republican Town Committee, said that she will contact the Democratic T.C. Chair to see if they can set up a Voter Registration booth and possibly provide information to townspeople about the new voting process.

Betty Curley offered her advertising space in the Middletown Pres.s H-C3IEstate. section to promote the Festival. W~'ll De adceptrrffgrfils offer gra1efuily.

Letters have gone out to local clubs and other organizations inviting them to participate in the 2007 Festival. The Economic Development Commission will be encouraging local businesses to join the fun. If we have missed you, we apologize, and ask that you contact Jeanne Dilworth at 342-2260.

A general meeting for all Portland individuals, organizations and businesses that would like to take part in the 2007 Brownstone Festival will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, May 21st in the Mary Flood Room at the Portland Library. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us. This meeting will help us get all participants located to the best advantage, as well as giving everyone a chance to know what is going on throughout the day.

Steering Committee members are: Bob Baines, Joe Carlson, Betty Curley, Jeanne Dilworth, Mike Elliott, Ruth Freeburg, Jeff Kelsey, MacKenzie Kelsey, Johnny Kmiejzneski, Fred Knous, Martha Lutecki, Mary Pont, Carolyn Susca, Mike Susca, Hazel Robinson, Jim Tripp, and Frank Winiski.

Design Committee

The Design Committee has an ambitious program of goals for 2007. Frank Winiski, Chair, presented the committee's to-do list at the March meeting.

First are the priority goals for the spring and summer:

1. Clear and grade an area for park events. Using Sue Fiedler's concept plan, the committee will work on the area recommended for the Heritage Plaza. This is a natural amphitheatre which backs up to the escarpment - the brownstone wall that forms the eastern edge of the park property.
2. Build a performance stage/dance floor in the cleared area.
3. Build arena type seating around the performance space.
4. Open scenic vistas across the Right-of-Way trail opposite the amphitheatre.

To accomplish those goals, the committee will do the following:

- I. Designate trees to be protected and areas to be cleared.
- II. Schedule work parties to accomplish the work noted 1 through 4 above..
- III. Publish the work schedule and invite community participation in the activities
 - A. clearing and grading
 - B. building the performance space and seating.
 - C. seeding and planting as appropriate.
- IV. Work with other groups - Scouts, garden clubs, schools, churches, civic organizations etc. which have specific interests. in any of the above work activities.

Future projects to be considered are the location and design of a labyrinth and a "standing- stones" circle garden.

Willing workers are always welcome and with the days getting longer, it will be possible to hold work sessions late in the day as well as on week-ends, so we should have a day or two to satisfy everybody's schedule. Now all we have to wait for is some drying out.

Organization Committee

The Quorum Organization Committee, chaired by Eunice Wiseman, has set involving "more community members in Brownstone Quorum activities" their goal for 2007.

Committee objectives are:

- I. To meet on a regular basis to create a list of ways to get people involved.
- II. To contact and inform people of what is going on at the Riverfront.

- III. To solicit help and involvement from members and the community.
- IV. To support the Executive Board regarding meetings and activities.
- V. To work with other committees.
 - A. Membership
 1. develop a new membership card, which includes members interests and availability, and include it in newsletter.
 2. create a call/e-mail list for informing members.
 - B. Publicity
 1. encourage inclusion of projects, worksite locations and times in newsletter and newspaper articles.
 2. help with newsletter mailings.
 - C. Design
 1. create a schedule for work parties and activities. develop a list of specific ways members can be of help.

Committee members: Eunice Wiseman, Chair, Cindy Andrus, Jeanne Dilworth, Ruth Freeburg, Romanie Gussenhoven, Ruth McGowen, Sari Rosenbaum, Gert Scully

By-Laws Committee

The Brownstone Quorum has completed its fifth year of incorporation as a 501c3 organization and has met all of the requirements for retaining that status. To the organization it means that if we continue on our present path, we will be exempt from any taxation on monies we collect. To our contributors it means that they can continue to receive tax deductions for any goods or funds that they give us. To professionals, we are a legitimate recipient of pro bono services.

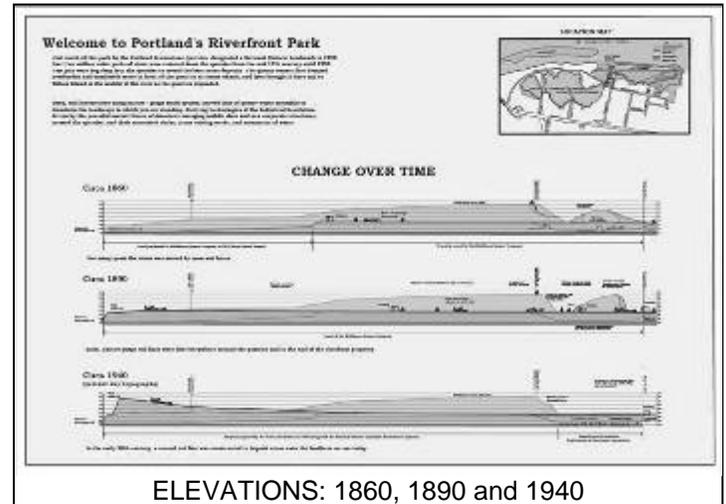
The 501c3 status is important to all of us, especially to the Quorum as we embark on our ambitious plans for building the Brownstone Arch Pavilion and Plaza and begin work on new improvements at the Riverfront Park.

To make our organization more efficient, and to use our resources most effectively, we are reviewing our By-Laws. Jim Tripp, Quorum President and Mike Susca, immediate Past President are conducting this review. One change you will notice is that many of our monthly meetings will be work sessions – at the riverfront or on the upcoming 2007 Brownstone Festival - rather than the usual business meetings with guest speakers. To keep everyone informed, we will publish meeting dates, locations and activities in the RIVEREAST NEWS BULLETIN – the one newspaper that everyone gets.

Avenue in New York and all around the world. This was the “money” stone. To harvest this very valuable material, the quarry floor would need to be lowered, the top rock removed and discarded.

Fiedler hypothesized that the reason the riverfront “dump” grew so fast was because the quarrymen decided to go after the prize material. The value of the stone made the replacement of the ox teams by the more efficient, but more expensive, narrow gauge rail system a wise investment. Further research into financial records would prove this hypothesis. That will be the subject for more investigation.

As a landscape preservationist, Fiedler believes knowing the full history of the land is vital to planning for its use. That is particularly true when dealing with property associated with a National Historic Landmark such as the Portland Brownstone Quarries. The related riverfront property has its own historically significant story to tell and Sue believes Landmark designation can legitimately be extended to it.



As a landscape architect, Fiedler believes that the Portland Riverfront Park can be developed in ways to preserve its historic significance, to be an ongoing source of knowledge as well as pleasure and recreation for all ages and interests. Her recommendations are shown in the concept plan she has developed and on which the Quorum Design Committee has based its 2007 goals.

CONNECTICUT OPEN HOUSE DAY 2007

Sponsored by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Connecticut Open House Day is a one-day statewide celebration of Connecticut's fascinating world of art, history, film and tourism!

Organizations throughout the state will open their doors to showcase their unique cultural or tourism assets to the people of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Ambassador Program, the signature event of the day, is a state initiative designed to instill pride in Connecticut citizens and encourage them to share our state's treasures with family and friends.

When: Saturday, June 9, 2007

Where: Art galleries, museums, theaters, historic properties, tourism attractions and other key sites throughout Connecticut.

Why: Thirty to 40% of Connecticut visitors come to connect with friends and family.

To reacquaint citizens with the many cultural organizations and tourism attractions throughout the state; to encourage visitation to these venues; and to build pride among our citizens in all the unique treasures Connecticut has to offer.

To have fun at home.

In the past, Portland has participated in this event with special activities at the Cellar Savers Fire Museum, the Callander House of Portland History, the Quarry/Riverfront Park and at the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park.

Watch TV and newspaper ads and listen for radio announcements sponsored by the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism. They will provide listings for events throughout the state.

Portland events will also be highlighted with signs around town and notices in the local press.

Become an **Ambassador** for our Connecticut Tourism Industry.

The History of Portland, Part 29
The Brownstone Quarries Part VI
by William Van Beynum

(Editor's Note: This is the second part of the 1853 article found in THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE.)

"These quarries were opened at a very early day, and the preservation of the excellent stone there for the use of the rightful owners early engaged the fostering care of the citizens...(and here is quoted the Middletown Town meeting action of Sept. 4 1665 restricting the use of the stone to the inhabitants.)

"The business at these quarries is not immense. For several years past they have employed, during eight months of the year, some fifteen hundred men, and perhaps one hundred and twenty yoke of oxen, and half as many spans of horses, and a fleet of perhaps thirty or forty sloops and schooners have been required to convey the stone to market, and the expense of working the quarries during the season of activity probably exceeds one hundred thousand dollars per month.

"By concert among the proprietors, the hours established for daily labor are uniform and bargains are usually made with the men for the season of eight months. Work begins at six o'clock in the morning, and closes at sunset: two hours being allowed at noon, and a short recess of ten or fifteen minutes in the forenoon for a luncheon. The average, therefore, for the season is only about ten hours of labor per day; and we must not omit saying, that during the summer, an abundant supply of the best water, with ice, is kept in places accessible by the men.

"We have already accidentally alluded to the origin of these rocks, but our readers may expect from us something more on the subject. That all matter was at first called into being by the word of the Creator is the universal sentiment of the Christian world; but whether at the creation he gave the earth, with all its rocky strata, its present conformation of surface, beautifully diversified with hill and dale, continent and ocean, is plainly another question, on which there may not be a perfect uniformity of opinion.

"Things are not what they seem," says one of the most popular poets of the present day; but what particular "things" he had in mind, when he penned this line, does not so clearly appear. We will however do him justice to believe he did not mean to affirm it of a suit of geological specimens, or of the rocky strata from which they were obtained! These "things," contrary to the very positive assertion of the poet, must, we believe be exactly "what they seem," and nothing else. What a libel is the opposite opinion upon the works of nature, and their divine Author!: Nature does not thus constantly carry a lie upon her face: with her is not hypocrisy. She is always just what she professes to be.

"Starting, then, with this principle, what internal evidences have we of the origin and history of these rocky strata? "The first thing that strikes us is the regular stratification of the rocks, which we must believe to have been produced in the same manner as in other cases. But no natural process is known, or believed to exist, by which solid matter, like sand and gravel, can be thus spread out in immense strata, but the moving force of water: which is therefore believed to have produced the phenomena before us."

"Our attention is next engaged by the indications we find in the rocky strata of the existence of animal and vegetable life, at the time of their deposition. These are chiefly the footprints or tracks of birds and other animals, and occasionally the occurrence of some portion

of a plant or tree. Things are what they seem! (A number of casts of tracks found on the undersides of slabs of stone were collected in this area during the times the quarries were worked. The real tracks, that is the impressions, were not so easily noticed, and therefore often overlooked. The article has a sketch of a three toed bird like track.)...

"The footprints in our cut evidently belong to the specimens described by Dr. Hitchcock under the name of *Ornithichnite Tuberosus*; and the supposed bird that made them be called the *Bronozoum Sillimanisnum*. The tracks in this specimen indicate a foot about six inches in length and a step of nearly two feet. The species is probably more abundant than any other in the Portland quarries, and perhaps we may say in this vicinity.

"But are these impressions really tracks? That is, are they what they seem to be? The very satisfactory reply to this query is that their character answers every demand required by this supposition. First, when several of these impressions occur in succession, the toes of each separate track point in the same direction; but if the impressions were not tracks, how should this peculiarity be accounted for? Secondly, they severally answer to right and left feet. Thirdly, the distances between successive impressions of the same series is very uniform, just as we should expect in the real tracks. Fourthly, the distance between the impressions, which answers to length of the step, is proportionate to the size of the foot, as indicated by the track. The larger the footprint, the greater the length of the step. Finally, these impressions have always been made downward and not upward. This accords exactly with their proper character as tracks, but would be very strange if the impression were made in some other mode, as by animal or vegetable substances accidentally thrown upon the mud.

"Another circumstance, not a little interesting, is sometimes to be noticed in connection with these impressions, and accords with the view we have taken of their supposed origin. These irregular markings in the cut represent small ridges upon the stone, which have resulted from the shrinkage of the soft mud by the heat of the sun, as we often see in times of drought. Now it often happens that these shrinkage-marks cross the footprints in different directions; and where this is the case, the indications usually are that the footprint was made before the shrinkage occurred.

"We find, therefore, on investigation, that the characteristics of these supposed footprints, in every particular are precisely as we should expect them to be in real tracks.

And it is to be noticed that this is not affirmed of a large majority of the impressions found, (elsewhere?) while it is admitted to be, otherwise, in a few cases; but it is affirmed of everyone of the thousands of specimens that have ever been found. We must, therefore, believe them really to be what we call them, the footprints of animals.

(The author of the article then tells of fossils found in various parts of the world, which was interesting information in 1853, but is taken for granted today).

(This article's text will be continued).

This article first appeared in
The Portland Citizen, Vol. 1 No. 32, October 24, 1958
Courtesy of the Portland Historical Society

Quorum Membership

Membership in The Brownstone Quorum, Inc. is open to all. Dues are ten dollars (\$10.00) per person per calendar year. The Quorum has no paid representatives. All monies received go toward Quorum activities (see below). An interest survey and stamped, self-addressed envelope are included with this issue of the *Quorum Review* for your convenience.

We welcome all supporters and whatever degree of participation they choose. A reading of this issue will apprise you of the variety of opportunities for fun (and service).

Call me if you have any questions. Romanie Gussenhoven, Chair, at 342-7237

The Brownstone Quorum is a non-profit volunteer organization established in 1997 to protect and preserve the Portland brownstone quarries and related riverfront property, to educate the public about the significance of this site, and to determine public interests regarding quarry and riverfront development. In 2000, the United States Department of the Interior designated this town-owned property a National Historic Landmark. The Portland Board of Selectmen shortly after authorized the Quorum serve the Board as advisor

regarding this site with permission to use and develop community activities there.

Over the intervening years, the Quorum has performed clean-up throughout the area; established a network of 3+ miles of walking trails; conducted monthly canoe rides and annual Quarry Focus Days; provided guided walks for the public and education programs for the Portland schools; published canoe and walking trail maps; established a Tree Trail, identifying and labeling 35 notable trees on the riverfront property and creating an educational map of those trees and their locations.

The Quorum has held programs to provide public education in quarry history, geology, and park development; and conducted surveys of townspeople regarding uses for this land. They have cooperated with the Town and the Hayes brothers with regard to leasing the quarry for the water park.

The Quorum focus now is on the development of the riverfront park into a full community park with the interests and needs of all Portland individuals, families and community groups considered.

Quorum Calendar

All Quorum meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at the Mary Flood Room at the Portland Library. They begin at 7:00 PM and are open to all.

Events To Think About And Dates To Remember

Tag Sale: The Quorum will participate in the Historical Society's Town-Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, May 12th, from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM at 29 Prospect St. We need things to sell and people to sell them. We have a lot of fun working together on this. Come join the fun for an hour or two – or all day. Call Jeanne at 342-2260 for drop-offs, pick-ups, or volunteering.

3rd Annual Brownstone Festival: Saturday, September 15th. This is our biggest project

and our biggest gift to the town. See the article about the 2006 and 2007 Festivals in this issue.

Portland Agricultural Fair: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 5, 6, 7. This is going to be the year of three days of sunshine, with warm, dry evenings, perfect for riding the rides, listening to the music, visiting the exhibits, eating delicious food and having fun with our neighbors. The Quorum will be there in the Pole Barn with a Riverfront Park display.

Newsletter: Jeanne Dilworth & Bob McDougall

THE PORTLAND BROWNSTONE/RIERFRONT PARK

The Town of Portland has retained 37 acres of the riverfront property (seven acres have been leased to the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park for a campground) to be a community park. The site is exquisitely beautiful, with a great deal of history, but there is room for improvement.

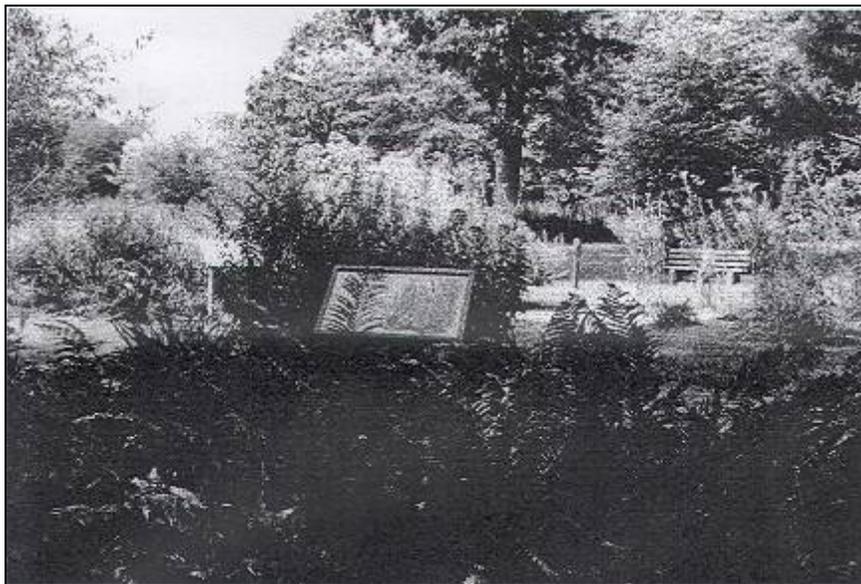
The side is overgrown with various invasive plants that kill many of the trees and that often make the paths impassable. A community park needs to serve the community. Much of

this site is accessible only to the hardest. The property runs 2000' along the river, but the river is visible at only a few spots.

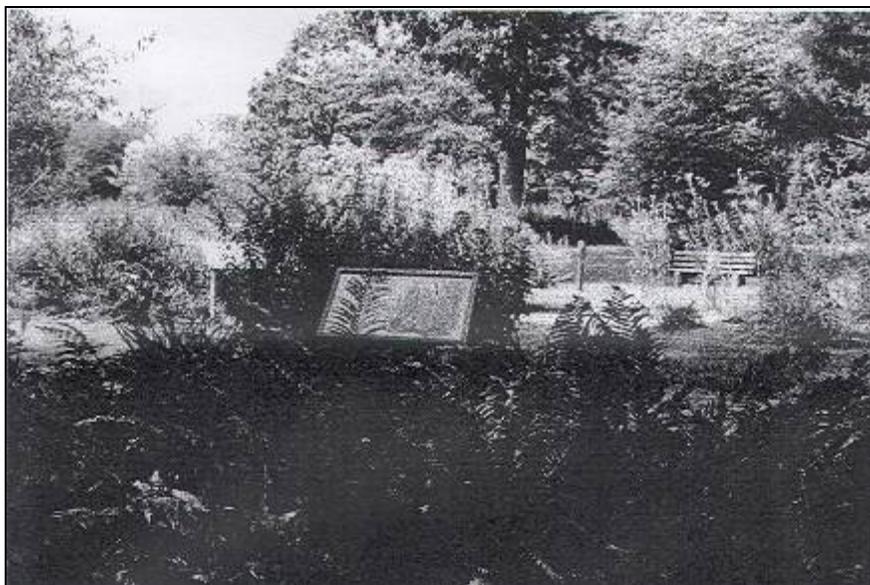
The Quorum has a concept plan for park development, which was positively received by the Board of Selectmen, and the Quorum is working to accomplish certain elements of that plan, but residents need to offer their suggestions. Below are some photos showing what we have, and some of what we might have.



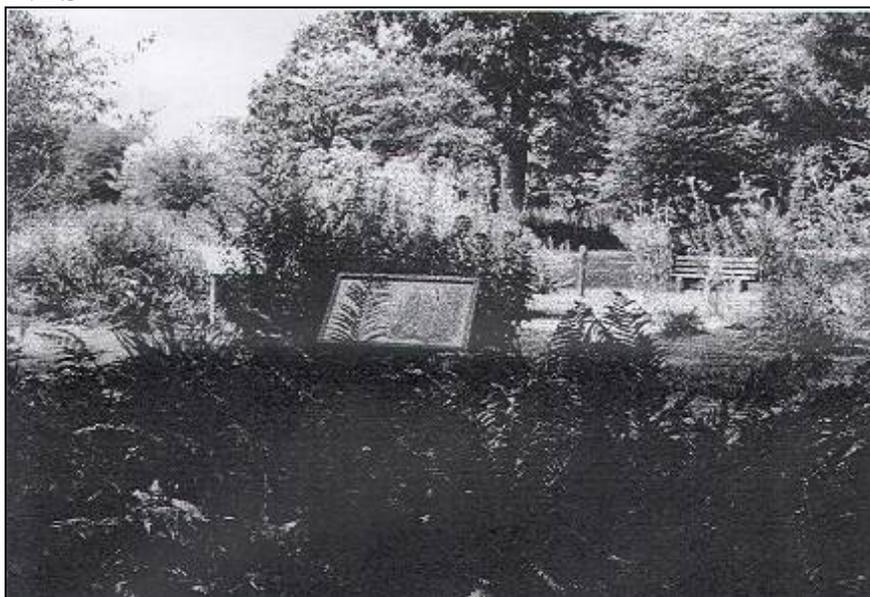
River Views



A WALK ALONG THE RIVER



GARDENS OF NATIVE PLANTS



A COMMUNITY PICNIC AREA

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-September 15, 2007
- Design Committee
- Organization Committee
- By-Laws Committee
- Riverfront Archaeology,
-A Rockfall Grant Study
- Brownstone Quarries Part VI
- *Quorum Membership*
- *Quorum Calendar*

The Quorum Review

April 2007

Next Meeting:
April 23, 2007
7pm Portland Library

Brownstone Quorum Survey

We are in the process of updating our membership list. Please take the time to respond to the survey below, fill out the membership form on the envelope and drop it in the mail.

Your continued support will ensure that you will receive the BQ newsletter several times a year. More importantly it will help us realize our goal of improving the riverfront property.

Please indicate if you would like to remain a member.

- Memberships dues enclosed in stamped envelope
- I would like to be an active member
- I prefer to just be a supporter of the BQ organization
- Please remove my name from the membership list

As an active member I would be interested in:

- being notified of BQ meetings and programs
- participating in riverfront activities
- work parties at the riverfront
- helping with the BQ part of the Brownstone Festival
- participating in the booth at Portland Fair

Comments:

Thanks for your participation

Name: