

AN INTRODUCTION TO SHADY HARBOR

On August 26, 1948 a thickly wooded, brush and bramble covered parcel of land bordering Quonochontaug Pond was purchased by Lucy and Everett Graichen in partnership with Helen and Sydney Cohn and the "Shady Harbor Land Company" was formed. That parcel of land consisted of 52.9 acres and was the beginning of what is now the Shady Harbor Fire District.

There were no roadways into the property and the bramble was so thick that the new property owners didn't really know what a fine piece of land they had acquired until a pathway to the pond had been hacked out some time later.

Everett and Lucy Graichen were the "active partners" that saw to all phases of development such as cutting roads, surveying and selling lots, etc. while the Cohns were content to tend to the bookkeeping end of the venture. The Graichens built the first house in Shady Harbor on the point. They held it for a short period of time and then sold it to Harvey Buckler. Today that home is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Reid.

The first lot to be sold was to Benjamin and Dorothy Rines on May 5, 1949. Other early purchasers of land were Bob and Margaret Emmet on July 28, 1949, Mr. Hoffman on August 2, 1950 and Lester and Grace Culver, August 14, 1950. Other lots were quickly sold as the area was opened up and it became obvious that the combination of sun, sea, shade and privacy made for excellent home sites.

The Graichens bought out the Cohn half of the partnership, built a new home next to their original home and became permanent residents on May 2, 1954. Mr. & Mrs. Cohn are now both deceased and Everett Graichen passed away in 1971 and is buried in the small Historical Cemetery that is a part of Shady Harbor, the place he loved so much. On April 4, 1955, Lucy and Everett Graichen purchased an additional 25 acres, the Finlayson land that adjoined the original 52.9 acres.

In the beginning there was a Shady Harbor Association made up of the early land owners and Lucy and Everett but as more lots were sold and the development expanded, this group saw the necessity for incorporating into a Fire District. A committee was formed to study this matter and in 1963 the Association petitioned the State General Assembly to incorporate the

combined acreage of Shady Harbor into a Fire District. This Act was passed by the General Assembly in 1963 and the Shady Harbor Fire District was born. In 1976 the Act to Incorporate was amended by the General Assembly to add an additional three and one-half acres into the Shady Harbor Fire District. This last parcel had been purchased by the Graichens in 1966.

The first organizational meeting and annual meeting of the Shady Harbor Fire District was held at the Grange Hall in the Town of Charlestown on July 27, 1963 at 7:00 P.M. Lester Culver called the meeting to order with 60 taxpayers present. The first elected officers of the new Fire District were Moderator – Robert Emmet, Clerk – Helen Dick and Treasurer – Virginia Whitcomb. These officers and all succeeding officers and committee people have all served on a volunteer basis. No one has ever received any compensation for serving.

Today, 54 years since its humble beginning, the Shady Harbor Fire District is a thriving community of 84 homes, with approximately two miles of paved, private roadways and community water system. In 2000, the Shady Harbor Fire District voted to purchase the wellhead property from Lynn Kent, thereby ensuring Fire District control over our most precious commodity, water.

In 1998, Shady Harbor celebrated its 50th anniversary. The party was organized by Nancy Gilbert and was held on the Meyerand's lot. A time capsule of Shady Harbor history and memorabilia was buried to commemorate the occasion.

Shady Harbor is unique in that it has always been maintained by a totally volunteer board of officers dedicated to preserving our community and its way of life. In addition to the Executive Board, Shady Harbor operates with several volunteer committees. For those who have yet to volunteer, everyone is encouraged to participate in maintaining and preserving the beautiful community we all share!

The Fire District has basically the same powers and rights, granted by the State of Rhode Island, as any other town or Fire District in the State. It is suggested that time be taken to read the Act to Incorporate, the By-Laws and the Agreement to Buy that was signed by all original purchasers of land so that everyone will be familiar with all rules and regulations governing the Fire District.