

Miller Hill Rd.
Provincetown, Mass.
Jan. 1. 1961

Dear Brig,

Have been here a week and plan to stay on another. There is a lot of news about the local land grab, but of most importance is that it seems likely to go thru the Mass. legislature soon---slippery John Snow is running back and forth to Boston and who knows to what means he is going to achieve his ends.

Mollie is keeping me posted with as much as she can find out, and she thinks it imperative to stop its going thru the Mass. legislature if possible----because once it is thru, then it has to be voted upon at the town meeting, probably the one in March, as to whether the town will accept the gift of land---and talking to the locals, most of them are not going to turn down anything that looks like a gift.

So the immediate thing we can all do, is to write to Rep. Albro, as she says, good intelligent letters stating the various reasons why we think it is wrong. She knows Albro personally and says he will heed the letters---the more we get to him the better, especially if they come from intelligent property owners. So I really feel that we should have another meeting in N.Y. as soon as possible after the 10th of Jan., and try to get everyone in our property organization to write, not only to Albro, but Keith, and Saltonstall, and Aspinwall in Wash. too.

There will definitely be a hearing on this in Boston, before it is passed there---it may not be announced, but Albro has promised Mollie to pick up the phone and call her, letting her know the date of that hearing---and at that time, someone from the N.Y. group must appear, as Fritz did at the last hearing here. It should be a strong talker like you, if it is at all possible, or else Pinkerson, or even Al Manacher---or how about Nat Halper?

This can be discussed at the meeting---if you don't feel up to having it, we can arrange it at our house. I am enclosing the list of N.Y. people to notify---still have about 8 to get addresses on---the local P.O. will not give them to me, but said if I write cards, they'll be forwarded---so I will. You can call Fritz about the date of the meeting, he is in N.Y..

Now about the local feelings---I am all around talking to garage men, ladies in the A.&P., church, streets---and there certainly are a number who feel as we do, particularly some of the Finance Committee, most all the P.O. employees, some feel very strong, and will perhaps get up and talk against it when it comes to a vote at Town Meeting. The large majority are lethargic, don't care, can't make them see, perhaps don't get out and vote anyway; if they do, they're apt to go along with John Snow's smooth talk about its going to help

everyone have more work, make more money. The annual Town Meeting of importance is March 13th, and it looks as tho they are hurrying this thing along so it will be passed in Boston, and be able to be voted on for acceptance at that time. So if we can't stop it before then, any N.Y.ers who vote should come up then too.

As an interesting sidelight, I have heard that Mr. Gleason of the police force, also owner of new boat shop in old Paige Bros. garage, is saying---let it go thru, then he's going to come forward, backed by a big syndicate of some sort, to prove that this land in question belonged to his great-grandfather originally, was not legally given to the Province Lands, he will pay the back taxes, and he wants it, they can't have it.

Also of interest is the fact that Chester Peck just acquired a new tract of 75 acres adjoining his 25 across from the Moors---that corner where he's been removing sand.

Mary Heaton Vorse is staying on, to keep up the fight---she is marvelous, and so old and shaky, but she invited them all in the talk about this, and she pursues constantly.

Well, lets see what we can do about a meeting in N.Y. soon---know you are tied up with your teaching, and don't have much time, but we must do what we can. Was just able to borrow this machine, so my list isn't typed.

and Jane
Best regards for a most happy new year to Ann and yourself,

Jeanne

p.S. In the letter to notify people of the meeting ask them to either phone me, or drop a card if they are with us, so we can use their names---if they can't come to the meeting.

J.