



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Scenic Aquidneck Coalition Celebrates the Completion of Burying Utilities Along Middletown's Third Beach and Paradise Valley**

*Project benefits the community by increasing resiliency and enhancing the landscape's scenic and historic qualities*

MIDDLETOWN, RI (August 24, 2021) — On Thursday, August 19, the Scenic Aquidneck Coalition celebrated the completion of a project to bury power and communication lines along Third Beach Road and Indian Avenue in Middletown, Rhode Island. Inspired by the 2017 Second Beach project, the Scenic Third Beach Project removes the rest of the poles on Sachuest Point along Third Beach and up Indian Avenue, promoting coastal resiliency, restoring the historic landscape and enhancing the area's scenic appeal.

The project area, located in Middletown's south coast, has been known as "Paradise Valley" since the 18th century. The region is nationally recognized for its history, beauty and wildlife. 77 utility poles and associated wires were removed along the 1.2-mile stretch of roadway in this most recent phase.

The Scenic Third Beach Project is facilitated by the Scenic Aquidneck Coalition, a collaboration of nonprofit partners working on projects that enhance and preserve the visual quality of Aquidneck Island's natural and cultural resources. The Coalition is led by Preserve Rhode Island, The Preservation Society of Newport County and the Aquidneck Land Trust.

The full cost of the nearly \$4 million project was funded through private donations raised from philanthropic individuals as well as a grant from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation. Dwight Sippelle, a resident of Middletown who spearheaded the project, and Hope "Happy" Van Beuren were honored for their contributions and were congratulated by U.S. Senator Jack Reed who helped obtain federal funding for 2017's Second Beach project.

*"The successful completion of this project is a testament to the power of collaboration between committed non-profits, private citizens, and local government. Protecting and beautifying our public open spaces benefits everyone and it's a thrill to see the results of this joint effort."*

Charles B. Allott, Esq.

Executive Director, Aquidneck Land Trust

*"Nearly 100 people contributed gifts, large and small, as this effort was entirely supported by private charitable contributions. Restoring the historic landscape of the Paradise Valley, one of*

*Rhode Island's most special places, is a legacy project appreciated now and for generations to come."*

Valerie Talmage.

Executive Director, Preserve Rhode Island

*"I can't wait to see what's next in store for the Scenic Aquidneck Coalition. The completion of this project proves that, with our common concerns for historic places and our fragile environment, we can accomplish goals that will have a positive impact for generations to come."*

Trudy Coxe

CEO and Executive Director of The Preservation Society of Newport County

### **About the Scenic Aquidneck Coalition**

*The Scenic Aquidneck Coalition is focused on enhancing and preserving the visual quality of Aquidneck Island's natural and cultural resources. A collaboration of three nonprofit partners – Preserve Rhode Island, The Preservation Society of Newport County and the Aquidneck Land Trust – the Coalition brings together resources to execute projects for the benefit of the island's communities. Learn more about their work at [ScenicAquidneck.org](http://ScenicAquidneck.org)*

#### **Media Contact:**

Tom Peterson

Preserve Rhode Island

cell (917) 626-4049

[tpeterson@preserveri.org](mailto:tpeterson@preserveri.org)

Gretchen Markert

Aquidneck Land Trust

(401) 849-2799, ext. 13

[gmarkert@ailt.org](mailto:gmarkert@ailt.org)

Gary Ruff

The Preservation Society of Newport County

office (401) 847-1000, ext. 128

cell (401) 439-7804

[GRuff@NewportMansions.org](mailto:GRuff@NewportMansions.org)

Learn more about the project and the Scenic Aquidneck Coalition at [ScenicAquidneck.org](http://ScenicAquidneck.org).

**Photos of celebration event and before and after photos of the project are available upon request. Contact [tpeterson@preserveri.org](mailto:tpeterson@preserveri.org).**

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