

History of Groton Long Point

Groton Long Point was originally known as the Groton Long Point Farm, a part of the huge farm acreage owned by Governor John Winthrop, which extended from the Poquonock River to Palmer's Cove.

On September 3, 1894, Groton Long Point was sold to a syndicate of local business men who planned to develop the property into a summer colony. The deed, dated Sept. 17, 1894, describes the property as "bounded on the north by the farm of Caleb Haley in part, and in part by land of Amos Gay, on the east by Palmer's Cove, on the south by Fisher's Island Sound, and on the west by Mumford Cove, containing 268 acres more or less".

The only building on the Groton Long Point Farm in 1894 was the Abbe farmhouse, known today as "The Farmhouse Inn", located at 24 East Shore Ave. In the same year, the Groton Long Point Land Company was formed and began selling parcels at G.L.P.

Access to Groton Long Point was a real challenge. Dirt roads were the only way in, and it was 20 years before a road to Noank was constructed. In 1904, a trolley was built from the ferry landing on the Thames River in Groton to Noank and Mystic. This trolley let people off at the Haley Farm and folks had to walk to The Point. In 1914, a trolley waiting room was built at the entrance of GLP and the start of the development began.

It is thought that the first house built on The Point was erected by Bill "Happy" Wheeler, at 112 East Shore Ave., known as "Snug Harbor". Houses next door soon followed and the community started to grow.

A sales brochure from the time proclaimed, "you cannot afford it? Plots from 50' by 125' from \$195 upward. Ten percent down and the balance in 2 percent monthly payments. If you are hard up, we allow you to miss your payments for 6 months or more, so you cannot lose your lot".

By 1914, Groton Long Point had a post office and a small grocery store. A small wooden bridge was built across Palmer's Cove to facilitate access to GLP and the rugged isolation started to erode and the rush to population began. The road from Noank to GLP was accepted by town officials in May of 1915 and once again eased the approach to GLP.

As GLP grew, an Association was formed to govern and steady the growth, preventing the area from becoming a "honky tonk", when a request to extend the trolley line to West Shore and create a resort type location was denied by "The Association Visionaries".

By 1931, most of the building lots had been sold and the Groton Long Point Land Company deeded the remaining land to The Groton Long Point Association, Inc.

When the Association was formed in 1921, it was granted a charter by the state giving it the powers of a borough, which included levying taxes, issuing bonds, providing police and fire protection, making rules and regulations, zoning and construction roads and sewers. The original tax rate was 16 mills in 1922.

During prohibition, Groton Long Point became a haven for lucrative rum runners, who plied their products up and down the coast line. GLP's sparse population and lagoon made it a natural for the liquor pirates to land their product.

For a complete review of our history, please reference the following two accounts:

“Groton Long Point—Fifty Years and Then Some”, Edited by Gardner Colson & Evelyn W. Sharples, Published I 1971 by the Groton Long Point Association, Inc.

“Groton Long Point —Seventy Five Years and then Some”, Edited by Lucy Bartlett Crosbie, Published in 1996 by the Groton Long Point Association, Inc.