

Six Ponds News

May 2000

An Occasional Publication Of The Six Ponds Improvement Association

Pine Hills Project

The Green Co. has proposed a fast-tracked zoning change which will be voted on at Town Meeting on June 7, 2000. **IT AFFECTS OUR SIX-PONDS AREA.** It goes far beyond simply rendering them free of citizen appeals (of course, it does that too). This drastic zoning change:

1. Increases the height limit to 55 feet from 35 feet for buildings within Village Green (just off Clark Road to the left between Route 3 and Old Sandwich Road). So far, only the Industrial Park was allowed this new height limit (like Quincy and Brockton) by the recent Town Meeting. Now buildings right off Clark Road would rise to 55' Who even can guess what the increased building height will do to the traffic flows!
2. Increases the size of the one permitted "large" building in Village Green from 40,000' to 55,000', which is approaching "Big Box Retail" size.
3. Reduces the buffer on Clark Road from 500' to ONLY 200'.
4. Allows a gasoline station - this was previously a prohibited use. The gas station could go anywhere, including along either side of Clark Road.
5. Allows the Green Co. to MULTIPLY BY 4 TIMES the size of signs otherwise prescribed by our sign bylaw.
6. Further postpones the date that the Town will receive the 200 acres of open space along Long Pond Road despite promises that the land would be given (and the fences removed and trails opened) before construction began.
7. Allow the Town Meeting at any time by a 2/3 vote to completely junk the Master Plan and substitute in its place a "Development Plan" (that could allow virtually any commercial use along Clark Road), thus negating years of work and oversight by the Planning Board.
8. Allows the Green Co. to build any use permitted within our General Commercial zone without any say so by the Planning Board (this was the one change advertised by the Green Co. because of the "appeals" - the rest of the changes are piling on.)

Please think about this and contact your Precinct 12 Town Meeting Representatives!

Makepeace Land

The vast Makepeace land along West Long Pond Road, Halfway Pond Road and extending all the way to Wareham may be developed long before anyone expected.

They plan to come to the fall Plymouth Town Meeting seeking a zoning change similar to what Pine Hills has obtained for a very large mixed use development.

Since all of our pristine Six Ponds water flows to us from the Makepeace lands and since much of the traffic from the northern end of their development will flow through our area, this project is obviously of vital concern to us.

Bi-weekly PUBLIC meetings on Thursdays are currently being held at Carver Town Hall by a "working committee" of officials and citizens from Plymouth, Carver and Wareham trying to deal with this behemoth.

We are trying to save the area at the south end of Halfway Pond and along West Long Pond Road from development, but the fight has barely begun. Pinewoods and the Wildlands Trust are key allies, but citizen involvement at these meetings and in the fall when this heats up will be required if we are to be successful.

Town Election

The Annual Town Election is Saturday, May 13 -- VOTE from 8 am to 8 pm at Plymouth South High School.

One of our own Six Ponders, Larry Rosenblum of West Long Pond Road, is running for Planning Board. With all of the development happening around us, Larry would be a superb choice to help put real reason and sound planning into the process. He needs and deserves our enthusiastic support!

Membership and Finances

We are happy to report that our membership has expanded greatly this year with the year 2000 dues received having reached an all-time yearly high. This is good news as we will need this unified support to face the issues that challenge us.

Jet-Ski Bylaw

The Town Meeting overwhelmingly passed the new Bylaw that will ban jet-skis from all ponds.

HOWEVER, to become effective it must be approved by the State Director of Law Enforcement, and he is quoted in interviews as "inclined not to approve it" because it is too sweeping.

The Selectmen's office is sending a full package to him as to why he should approve it – i.e. safety reasons (they cause a disproportionate number of accidents, pollution (all the unburnt gas going into our ponds), noise and disruption, etc. **BUT WE NEED HEARTFELT LETTERS FROM ALL OF US**, if we are to sway his opinion toward approving this Bylaw.

Please write NOW to

Colonel Richard Murray, Director
Division of Law Enforcement
Mass. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
175 Portland Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Six Pond Improvement Association Membership

If you haven't already, please join or renew. Dues are just \$10 per year.

Mail to:
Six Ponds Improvement Association
P.O. Box 1580
Plymouth, MA 02362

JOIN IN Biodiversity Days Count!

The State is sponsoring the nation's first citizens Biodiversity Days, June 9-11, with special emphasis in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Biodiversity Days is a challenge to citizens to familiarize themselves with the wealth of animal and plant species with which we share our lives and to identify at least 100 species in our backyards and the broader community. Participants will receive checklists to use while they find, record and learn about the many species of flora and fauna in our neighborhoods. Each town is challenged to find at least 200 species; some towns may find 500 or more.

The Town of Plymouth Conservation Commission is seeking volunteers to be citizen participants and field trip leaders. In our Six Ponds area, people with good knowledge of the Bloody Pond conservation property, trails in the local Wildlands Trust preserves, the areas around each of our Six Ponds, and the open space of Plymouth Estates are especially encouraged to sign on for the species countdown.

Anyone especially interested in such things as trees, mushrooms, wildflowers, birds, fish (and fishing), mammals, bugs, turtles, salamanders, and frogs – please consider sharing what you know and love!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and would like more information, please call Linda Kunhardt at 508-224-8415.

Town Meeting Representatives

Precinct 12 (the Six Ponds area) has 8 Town Meeting Representatives. They are: Walter Morrison, Bill Abbott, Dianne Callahan, Meg Morrison, Cindy McIver, Barry Meltzer, Dave Maffini, and Dan Sullivan.

In accordance with the new Charter, the Precinct 12 Town Meeting Representatives will hold a caucus prior to the each Town Meeting (starting with the 6/7 Town Meeting) to which everyone is welcome to come and discuss the issues. We will let you know the date of the caucus.

Join our Email Alert Network!

Already we have some 70 families in our email alert network. This allows us to send emails for fast-breaking news about upcoming hearings, matters requiring immediate action, etc. Future newsletters will be delivered by email, as well as the mails. If you did not receive an Alert email about the Green Company rezoning blitz, then you are not yet in this network. If you wish to join the network, then send an email to our President, Bill Abbott, at Wabbott1@aol.com.

Executive Board

Bill Abbott (President)	508-224-6629
Ed Russell (Vice-President)	781-646-7464
Peggy Briggs (Secretary)	617-479-6132
Walter Morrison (Treasurer)	508-224-8409
David Buckman, Terry Donoghue, Steve Fairchild, Henry Kunhardt, Jean Loewenberg, Doug Post, Janette Somerville	

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