

# Six Ponds News

An Occasional Publication of the Six Ponds Improvement Association, Plymouth Mass. (www.sixponds.org) October, 2017



Aldis Russell captured her son Huxley enjoying a moment of sheer summer exuberance, celebrating the beauty of life in Six Ponds!

## **Update on Proposed Town Well**

Environmental impact documents for the proposed new Town water supply well in our neighborhood have not yet been issued. Pump tests of the aquifer have been completed, as well as soil investigations along potential routes to connect the new water supply to the existing water distribution system.

We have learned that the well installation also would include a large water tower, an “elevated tank”, to facilitate water storage and transport to the water distribution system. However, we have also learned that the proposed well site, a Town-owned property between Long Pond Road and Route 3, north of Clark Road and south of the South schools known as “the 200 acres”, is encumbered by at least two previous commitments that may disallow installation of the well and associated structures. The Wildlands Trust holds a conservation restriction that does not allow for any structures on the property, and the land, given to the Town by the Pinehills, is designated “reserved land” under the Open Space Mixed Use Development (OSMUD) zoning bylaw that allowed the development of the Pinehills. Conservation restrictions may be changed on application of the holder of the restriction, if approved by the state Division of Conservation Services, but no request has been made to the Wildlands Trust. Reserved land under the OSMUD may be used only for passive recreation; we don’t know if the reserved land status may be transferred, if the Pinehills owns other land to transfer the designation to, or even if the Pinehills would be willing to do so.

Recently a public records request was made to the Town for all documents about the potential new well; the requester was informed that such records are sensitive. If the well project does move forward, the potential impact on our ponds will require careful study, and the Six Ponds Association will keep track of the progress and will inform its members when the environmental impact review commences.

## **Six Ponds – Where We Began and Where We Are Today**

*A love letter from Executive Committee member Susanne Lucas, Bloody Pond*

Sixty-six years ago, a group of concerned neighbors met together at a home on Long Pond Road in Plymouth. Eighteen people were there, many who were local, year-round residents, but others were part-time residents, coming from as far away as New York City. These 18 people had a profound connection to this beautiful area, and were worried by the threats that came with a booming economy and population growth. For those of us who live here now, it is almost unimaginable to think that Long Pond Road was unpaved a short distance south past Halfway Pond Road, that many houses still used outhouses, and there was only general mail delivery. Route 3 did not exist. Mail delivery was via Buzzards Bay. Telephone lines were party lines. Ice blocks were purchased at the Nunes' shop on Long Pond Road, as many summer residents had no refrigerators. The site of the Wildlands Trust headquarters was a working farm, producing local food for local consumption. The population of the entire town of Plymouth was little more than 13,000 in 1950. Today the town boasts almost 60,000.

Discussion at that first meeting in 1951 was of a "Five Ponds Improvement Association." Round Pond was added a few months later, and the first official meeting of the Six Ponds Improvement Association was held on July 5, 1952. Interestingly, the word "Improvement" was agreed on after considerable discussion -- it was felt that "improvement" sounded less selfish than "Protective."

For over six decades the Six Ponds Improvement Association has stood firm to advance and preserve the quality of life in this close-knit group of neighboring ponds: Bloody, Gallows, Halfway, Little Long, Long, and Round Ponds. In close proximity to one other, the ponds are physio-graphically different: Halfway Pond gives rise to the Agawam River, which flows into Buzzards Bay, with Long Pond and Little Long Pond also in the watershed. Bloody Pond is in the Herring Ponds watershed, flowing into the Cape Cod Canal and then on to both Cape Cod and Buzzards Bay. Bloody, Round and Gallows Pond are true coastal plain ponds, with no surface inlets or outlets.

The Six Ponds area includes many acres of protected open space and is home to the Wildlands Trust, southeastern Massachusetts' premier nonprofit land protection organization ([www.wildlandstrust.org](http://www.wildlandstrust.org)). Together, both groups strive to preserve the fragile pine barrens environment, protect the water quality of the ponds, and maintain the rural aesthetic and natural beauty of the area.

Our bylaws charge the Association to focus on the following:

- Building laws, zoning laws and permits;
- Road maintenance, road signs and traffic control;
- Health, water, safety and sanitation;
- Fire laws and regulations;

- Matters and activities affecting the comfort and quiet enjoyment of property and property rights;
- Collection and dissemination of information to all members concerning any matter affecting the Six Ponds area;
- Such group or community measures as may, from time to time, be for the benefit of the Six Ponds area; and
- Representation of the Association before any agency, board, body, authority or commission of the Commonwealth, or any town or county, when matters affecting the area are under consideration, said representation in no way to limit any appearance or action by any individual or Member of the Association.

Six Ponds membership is open to all area residents. The four Six Ponds officers administer the Association along with nine Members-At-Large; this constitutes the all-volunteer Executive Committee who are elected yearly at our annual meeting. This Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Association, and reports to the membership via meetings and newsletters. Currently the Executive Committee meets monthly at a member's home.

I think we are fortunate to have the Six Ponds Improvement Association. Unlike a home owner association, our Association is a group of well-intentioned neighbors who are collectively concerned with maintaining the natural character of the area, keeping our ponds clean, and our neighborhoods safe and quiet. We collaborate for improvements in keeping with these goals, focus on general advocacy and community events, and promote outreach and education. Many of our neighbors are active in town government, either as town meeting members or committee members.

Our neighborhood has changed significantly since the 1950's. Change is inevitable, but without the Six Ponds Improvement Association, many changes would have had adverse effects on our quality of life. With careful oversight, the SPIA has worked to preserve the natural environment on the ponds. Since the early 60's member volunteers have done extensive water quality sampling in each of the ponds, and members also clean up roadsides, represent the Association to other conservation-minded groups, and attend town department meetings at Plymouth Town Hall.

Sixty-six years ago, those original 18 neighbors undoubtedly did a good thing. I'm sure they hoped their actions would see that our neighborhood would remain a beautiful and desirable place to live decades later. In honor of my father-in-law, Walter Morrison, and my mother-in-law, Joan Morrison, I will hold fast to their commitment to help the Six Ponds area continue to provide natural beauty, healthy recreation, a safe refuge and peaceful living. I want it to be a place where people get to know and respect their neighbors. I can only hope that 66 years from now, the future residents of the Six Ponds area will be grateful for our efforts, and feel fortunate that the Six Ponds Improvement Association has been paying attention to the needs of our community since 1951.



## **Eastern Box Turtle**

Round Pond denizen John McGannon reports “My wife, Anne, and I, and of course our Boxer Emma, met this colorful fellow along the cranberry bog path near Halfway Pond. He was lumbering about as slowly as I do when he spotted us and stopped and just stared. When my dog and I got closer, he decided to keep his face a bit nearer to his home but continued to watch us. His shell was about 9-10” long, incredibly patterned, and in perfect shape. When we headed back home along the same path, he was gone to other adventures - hopefully not a meal for our resident bald eagles!”

The Eastern Box Turtle is listed as a species of Special Concern due to loss of habitat and high predation in the state of Massachusetts.



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## **Ship Pond Road Realignment**

Have you driven the new Ship Pond Road / Long Pond Road intersection yet? As of this writing, the realignment of Ship Pond Road for greater safety is nearing completion. The traffic tie ups to accommodate the construction have not been inordinately onerous and they will soon end. Road widening and telephone pole relocation are nearly done, wood guard rails will be installed in the coming weeks, and the traffic calming median strips and signage will be added. Planting of trees and shrubs will be in the early Spring of 2018.

This is one of several intersections required to be upgraded by AD Makepeace as a condition of their permit to build the Redbrook development off of Bourne Road. Additional intersections that will be reworked include Bourne Road and Halfway Pond Road, Halfway Pond Road and Long Pond Road, and Long Pond Road at Clark Road, and anticipated completion for all road construction is by the end of 2019.

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## **JOIN US**

Six Ponds is a neighborhood association. To work optimally for our neighborhood, Six Ponds need YOU – our neighbors – to join! The \$20 membership fee gives you regular updates on what is happening in your neighborhood, tips on how to optimally maintain properties in and around our ponds, and items related to Conservation, Planning, Zoning and other Town Departments.

Please. Take out your checkbook and update your membership TODAY! Send your \$20 check to:

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

THANK YOU!

## **HOMETOWN CLEANUP ... November 4, 2017**



### **PLYMOUTH NEEDS YOU!!!**

On Saturday Nov. 4 teams will be out all over Plymouth picking up litter and making Plymouth beautiful. Please join us. Meet at the corner of Long Pond Road and Clark Road at 10 AM. Rain date Sunday Nov 5.

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### **The Red Knot – Plymouth’s 2017 Adopted Endangered Species**

Author Deborah Cramer spoke eloquently about how a local effort can have a global influence at a recent event at The Spire, which Six Ponds helped sponsor.

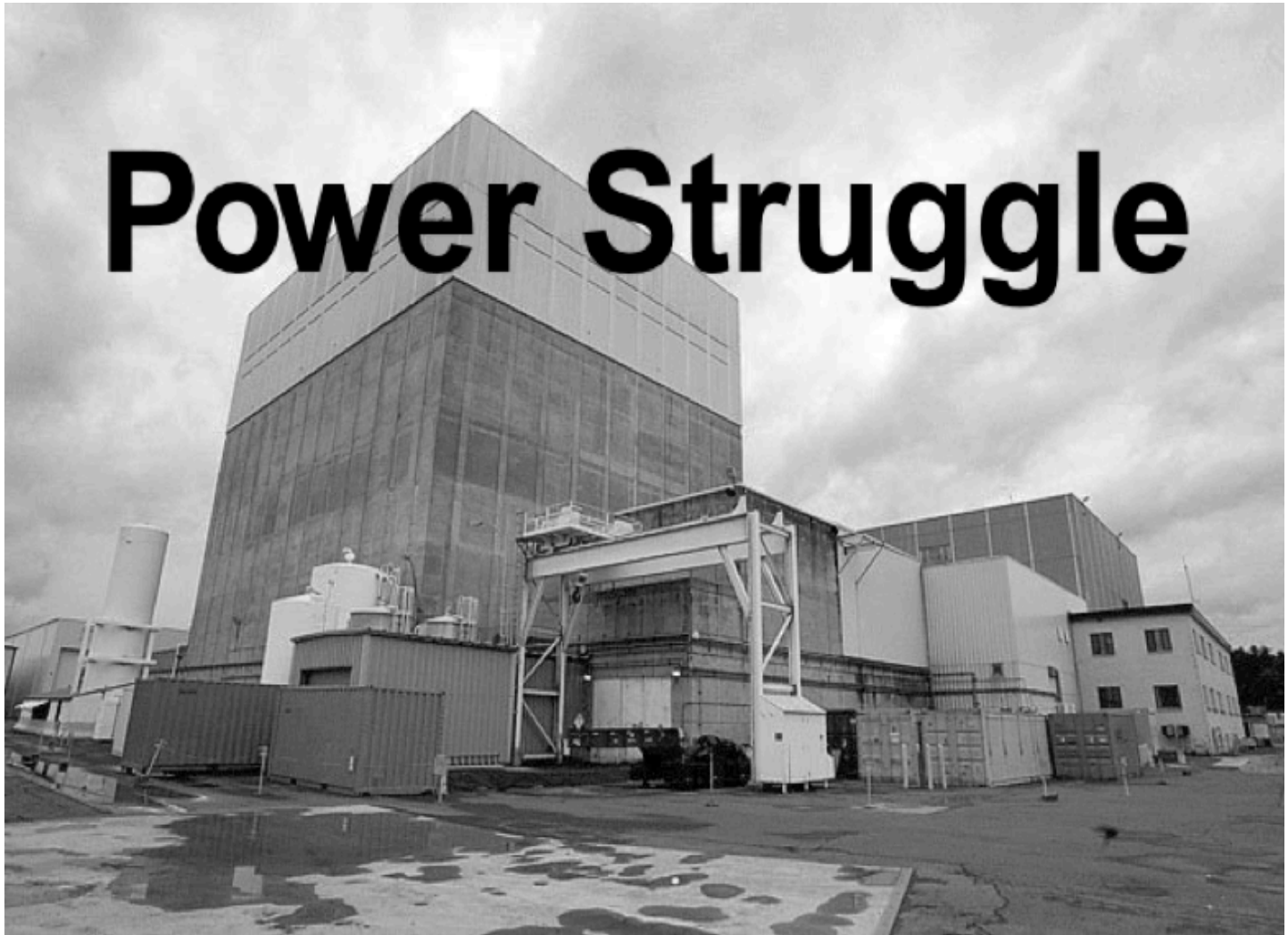
Many of you may remember when horseshoe crabs crawled onto Plymouth’s beaches in the tens of thousands to spawn, and multitudes of red knots (a small shorebird) visited to fuel up on the crabs’ eggs on their epic long-distance migration from Tierra del Fuego and other South American wintering locations to summer nesting sites in the Arctic. Cramer described how overharvesting of horseshoe crabs caused a precipitous decline in crab, and hence, egg numbers, and greatly affected hungry red knots and their ability to fly the next leg of their migration north to their breeding grounds. Sadly, this domino effect has reduced red knot numbers so drastically that our east coast subspecies (the “rufa” red knot) is now listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act.



Fortunately, Cramer had a message of hope for us and for the red knot. Among other suggestions, she advocates a local effort to survey, protect, and enhance local horseshoe crab spawning areas. More eggs means more food for red knots. Fat red knots means more successful migration and nesting efforts, and, we hope, more red knots to grace the globe from pole to pole.

Cramer’s award-winning book is [The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, an Ancient Crab, and an Epic Journey.](#)





POWER STRUGGLE chronicles the heated political battle to shut down the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. It follows the unfolding drama as citizen activists and elected officials – alarmed at increasing safety violations – take on the federal government and one of the biggest nuclear power companies in America to call for closure of the reactor. This is a story about democracy in action, about whether citizens’ voices will be heard against big moneyed interests, and what people are doing to make a difference for a safe and sustainable energy future.

The parallels between Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim are dramatic. Six Ponds has helped sponsor the showing of this film at The Spire, and we hope you will join us.

A discussion will follow the documentary with director Robbie Leppzer and a panel of local experts.  
Film trailer: [www.PowerStruggleMovie.com](http://www.PowerStruggleMovie.com)

Sunday, November 19th, 2-4 pm  
Spire Center for Performing Arts  
25 1/2 Court Street (corner of Brewster and Court),  
Plymouth, MA

Tickets: \$10, online [www.spirecenter.org](http://www.spirecenter.org) or cash only at the event

## **KNOW YOUR PRECINCT: BLOODY POND**

In local elections, Bloody Pond residents are in Precinct 14, and the rest of Six Ponds is in Precinct 12. The precincts were changed a few years back to accommodate the increase in population in south Plymouth. We all know how important it is to vote and be heard, and it is important that you know our town meeting members. To reach your town meeting members, take a look here below. Town meeting members are volunteers who are genuinely involved because they care and they WANT to hear the opinions of their precinct members!

### **PRECINCT 14**

First Name	Last Name	Phone	Address	Email
Simon B.	Thomas	774-131-1636	1636 State Rd/	stthomas@atlanticcompanies.com
Polly E.	Hare	774-413-5268	55 Buckskin Path	pollyhare@comcast.net
Jennifer	Churchill	508-922-3035	4 Fisherman's Lane	jchurchill02@aol.com
Kristopher M.	Houle	413-552-6066	22 Hillside Dr.	kmhoule@gmail.com
Claudette J.	Thomas	774-313-0250	1636 State Rd.	cjbthomas@atlanticcompanies.com
Holly R.	Alberti	508-888-1985	181 Hedges Pond Rd.	
Alexander Lee	Burns, Jr.	240-606-7360	110 Treetop Way	leeburns110@gmail.com
Karen M.	Keane	508-224-4040	87 Ellisville Green	kmcjk04@aol.com
Sharl L.	Heller	508-591-7533	201 Center Hill Rd.	slheller@comcast.net

The Bloody Pond neighborhood of Six Ponds is defined by residents living along or near the stretch of Long Pond Road running the length of Bloody Pond, and people living near the junction of Halfway Pond Road and Long Pond Road, on Bloody Pond Road and Timberline, and along Ship Pond Road on the north end of Bloody Pond.

### **Six Ponds Executive Committee 2017-2018**

**President:** Love Albrecht Howard  
**Vice President:** Sam Chapin  
**Treasurer:** Doug Post  
**Secretary:** Dorie Stolley

Kirsten Atchison, Aileen Brigs, Peter Briggs, Margi Delafield, Kate Harvey, Sanford Leslie, Jean Loewenberg, Susanne Lucas, Judy Savage

### **Contributors to this issue:**

Aileen Briggs, Sam Chapin, Margi Delafield, Henrietta Cosentino, Love Albrecht Howard, Susanne Lucas, John McGannon, Doug Post, Diana Price, Aldis Russell, Charlotte Russell, Dorie Stolley

## **Wetlands Restoration along the West Shore of Halfway Pond**

You can't get to Halfway Pond without passing through or along the edge of conservation land. The pond is 232 acres. 3 miles of shoreline. 150 bird species. Ospreys and eagles diving for alewives that still swim up the Agawam each spring to spawn. Mink. Weasels. A fox den hidden in the woods nearby. A Brown Creeper nest behind the peeling bark of an old dead Pitch Pine. Otters fishing through holes in the late winter ice, bringing up a fish on every dive and then sprawling to hold the fish in their paws while enjoying a fresh, cold meal.

It's not untouched land of course, but nature has been given some space here and space is very important. The West Shore Preserve abuts 18 thousand acres of publicly owned open space, including Myles Standish State Forest and the Plymouth Town Forest. It's a remarkable assemblage of preserved land.

Mast Road hugs the west shore of the pond. In the winter of 2015 there was extensive damage done to the shoreline during a snow clearing operation. As The Wildlands Trust began detailed planning for wetlands restoration on their land, they realized that working cooperatively with neighboring landowners to restore the entire damaged section made sense. Discussions continue, and seem headed in a positive direction.

The planning phase of this project has taken longer than anticipated. But the high level goals remain unchanged: shoreline restoration and long-term protection of land and water; space for walkers, runners, cyclists, and others; and continued access for fishing and boating. The very good news is that we appear to be on a path that will result in an excellent solution for the ecosystem as well as its users.

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**Please. Take out your checkbook and update your membership TODAY :**

*(cut here)*

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## **An invitation to join or renew your membership in the Six Ponds Association 2017**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$20/household per year

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

I/we wish to add  
an additional  
contribution of:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **Winter Gathering**

Six Ponds is doing something new and you are the first to know. We want everyone to get to know our members and friends and neighbors better so we are inviting you to a Winter Gathering!

Please join the Six Ponds Improvement Association for a festive gathering to share food, drink, camaraderie, and to celebrate the lengthening days. If you have neighbors or friends who are not members of Six Ponds, bring them along! The more the merrier!

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2018  
Snow Date: Sunday, January 28  
Time: 5:00 – 7:00  
Place: The Barn at the Wildlands Trust  
675 Long Pond Road, Plymouth

Please make sure we know how to reach you. Kindly send your name and email address to:  
**sixpondspresident@comcast.net.**

Thank you!

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SIX PONDS ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 1580  
PLYMOUTH, MA 02362

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