

Six Ponds News

April 2001

An Occasional Publication Of The Six Ponds Improvement Association

New Fire Station

With support from the Selectmen, the Finance Committee, the Town Manager and the Fire Chief, efforts to have the fire station built at Pinehills are going very well. Still, success should not be taken for granted as there continues to be outspoken opposition from some Town Meeting reps.

We need a good showing from the Six Ponds area at Town Meeting! It is expected to come up on either Monday 4/9 or Tuesday 4/10. Watch for the date and then come and support this vital project for our area!

205+ Acres

FINALLY! The Deed to Plymouth and the Conservation Restriction on the 205+ acres south of the Schools has been recorded. The land is ours! . . . to enjoy all types of passive recreation: hiking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, etc. (sorry, no ORVs), on trails to be laid out. Those ugly signs will be coming down. We will be planning a grand celebration to officially open this new natural preserve, with the date to be announced very soon.

If Town Meeting votes in favor of the Fire Station at Pine Hills in April we will have another parcel to watch. The 10 acres at the southeast corner of Clark Road and Long Pond Road will then come to the Town as well to be added to the expanding green belt along Long Pond Road.

Jet Skis

At a March 29th public hearing at the State House on two bills to regulate jet-skis (at which several Six Ponders gave testimony), it was announced that the State Director of Waterways Enforcement would now support a ban of jet-skis on all ponds under 500 acres! This amazing switch in position is extremely significant for our area as jet-skis would be banned from all Plymouth Ponds, including Halfway Pond, the largest Six Pond at 232 acres. In order for this position to prevail in the backroom dealings to come, however, it is necessary to write our Reps (DeMacedo and O'Brien) and State Senator Murray, and the State Senator who chairs the Public Safety Committee, Senator Jajuga, at the following address:

Senator James P. Jajuga

State House, Room 216

Boston, MA 02133

Greenways and the Six Ponds Area

As part of a wider Plymouth effort in Town involving the Planning Board, Master Planning Committee, Open Space Committee, Wildlands Trust of Southeast Massachusetts and others, Six Ponds is helping identify "Greenways" or corridors of contiguous green or open space and continuous public rights-of-way. The Greenways are meant to connect larger anchoring public parcels such as parks, areas of significant historical, cultural, ecological or scenic value in a Town-wide/Regional network of primarily walking trails.

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Greenways (continued from previous page)

For example, one envisioned arm of the wider Greenways is a link between Miles Standish State Forest and Ellisville Harbor State Park. This, of course, would run right through the heart of the Six Ponds area. At present there is a key parcel owned by Plymouth County that is a current focus in helping to complete this arm of the network.

The County property lies west of Rt 3, east of Long Pond Road, south of exit 3 and north of Ship Pond Road and the Wildlands Trust's Emery West preserve. Six Ponds is working with the Town and County leadership to acquire a conservation restriction or public easement on this property. To the west lie a number of other Trust properties that connect the State Forest to the Long Pond Boat Ramp area and, immediately to the north is the 100+ acres that the the Wildlands Trust recently bought from the Bramhall family with the help of the Town and many Six Ponds members. Not far north of this lies the 205+ acre parcel preserved around exit 3 as part of the Pinehills Master Plan which provides a connection to promised Pinehills public pathways. The Wildlands Trust's Emery Preserves provide linkage to the Briggs Reservoir municipal lands far to the east. The Briggs properties potentially link Pinehills, Manomet, and trails south and east to Ellisville. Thus, the County

land on Long Pond Road stands as an important link in the local Greenway web of trails.

Now is the time to secure this and other links. Vision, diligence and creativity today in the face of tremendous pressures on our natural open spaces will hopefully provide a legacy of Greenways that afford people and Nature a sense of larger connectedness. This, in turn, will surely translate into environmental, economic, and quality-of-life benefits far into the future. Your Six Ponds Executive Committee asks that you support these Town-wide and regional efforts.

M a k e p e a c e C o m p a n y D e v e l o p m e n t

In March the Makepeace Co. stepped back from the table and wisely decided to delay their planned presentation to Town Meeting until the fall session. They did so in response to reactions from all three towns (Plymouth, Wareham and Carver) that the details provided by Makepeace are simply too scanty for any town to intelligently judge the impact of the proposed development on town finances and services.

The Makepeace property in the Six Ponds area has con-

tinued to be excluded from any of the current development discussions but continues to be a real concern to area residents and environmentalists who wish to conserve it. The proposed Makepeace development is expected to be the subject of many Planning Board meetings in the months ahead as density, access, etc. are hotly debated. Please come and be heard!

Off Road Vehicles

The State has recommended construction of nearly 30 miles of trails in the State Forest for ORV use. At this early stage it appears that all the legal trails will be north of Alden Road. There remain several levels of State and local approvals to go through as well as a MEPA review, so the opening of the trails may take a year or two depending upon appeals. Reintroduction of ORVs to the State Forest appears to be primarily the result of political pressures -- it runs contrary to the careful studies done by the State when the decision was made five years ago to (continued on next page)

ORV

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ban the vehicles from the Forest.

The Wildlands Trust has contacted Six Ponds to advise that illegal ORV trails have been discovered throughout WTSM properties along Long Pond Road and the 205 acres south of the Schools. WTSM has requested help from Six Ponds members in identifying those who cut these trails through the Preserves and who use them illegally. The Environmental Police and/or Plymouth Police should be notified immediately if ORV users are spotted in these areas -- offenders must be "caught in the act" in order to be prosecuted. Consideration is being given to scheduling a paid police detail to periodically patrol the area.

Gas Pipeline

This project is already underway. Pipes will be laid at the side of the road. Nstar is in the process of contacting Long Pond Road and Halfway Pond Road residents to advise them that gas can be made available to them if they so request.

Old Sandwich Road

Abandonment of Old Sandwich Road has been removed from the Warrant for Spring Town Meeting. A traffic study has to be done, and there remains a question as to the legality of closing the road.

May 12, 2001 Town Election

Larry Rosenblum is running for Planning Board and **David Rushforth** for re-election as Selectman. Both are great friends of Six Ponds and have always supported Six Ponds on issues of concern to us. They deserve our wholehearted support now!

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	Jean Loewenberg
Doug Post	Janette Somerville
Lucy Wilson	

Water Testing

An expanded testing program of all the Six Ponds was conducted in March. Results of this testing will be summarized in the next SixPonds News, and will be posted on our website.

Dues

A return envelope is included to encourage payment of 2001 dues of \$10. Please send in your dues to help protect the Six Ponds and to keep your name on our mailing list. Include your current email address too so we can include you in our Email Alerts!

sixponds.org

Check out our website at www.sixponds.org. Doug Post keeps it updated with NewsFLASH alerts, news of upcoming events, and valuable resource materials. Also, if you are not on our Internet mailing list, please send an email to:

membership@sixponds.org

and we will add you to our **email alert** system.

Long Pond, Little Long Pond, Round Pond, Gallows Pond, Halfway Pond, Bloody Pond

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