

Six Ponds News

August, 1998

An Occasional Publication Of The Six Ponds Improvement Association

End of Summer Social

Six Ponds' traditional AUGUST POT LUCK* SOCIAL is scheduled for SATURDAY, AUGUST 29th at 6:00 P.M. Charlotte & Ed Russell will host the social at their hall at 81 HALFWAY POND ROAD, directly across from Justine Road.

OLD AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Please join us and learn more about Six Ponds. We'll provide hot coffee, ice water and desserts. BYOB if you'd like other beverages. If your last name begins:

A-M bring a main dish
N-Z bring salad.

* Please bring food for eight so that no one goes home hungry!

We'll have two guest speakers. Ken Tavares, Chairman of our Board of Selectmen, will talk about the new positive spirit of the Board of Selectmen and the local issues that impact the Six Ponds. Joe Gallitano, our local representative in Boston, will describe briefly initiatives he is working on to improve our area. Also, Mettie Whipple, President of the Eel River Watershed Committee, will talk about watershed issues affecting the area.

State Dock Permits: Amnesty Program Over

According to Chapter 91 of the Massachusetts General Laws, if you have a dock over the waters of a great pond you need a permit from the Commonwealth to occupy that publicly-owned space. The well-publicized amnesty program is over, but there are two classes of permits that pondfront property owners are eligible for: a regular waterways license and a new, simplified waterways license.

The regular waterways license is applicable to any size dock. The application requires professional engineering drawings of your

dock, and you must have certified surveyor's plan of your property. The regular license is good for 99 years. The simplified waterways license is applicable if your dock is not over 300 square feet (or 600 square feet if your dock has been there since 1984). The simplified license application may be prepared by a homeowner, as it requires only sketches of your property and your dock, and is good for a period of ten years with an automatic renewal.

Both regular and simplified licenses carry application fees and "occupancy" fees that are assessed according to the size of your dock. Both are transferable should you sell your property. The waterways license program is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. - Sam Chapin

Executive Committee Meetings

The Six Ponds Executive Committee meets regularly throughout the year on issues in which we believe Six Ponds residents have an interest. A sampling of items discussed in 1998: possible widening of Long Pond Road by the Town, development of the Digital property and other area properties, Home Depot, dock permit fees, water quality, pond use (jet skis, seaplanes), Long Pond Boat Ramp, Plymouth's new Rural Center Task Force, and research of environmental concerns relating to new golf courses.

We hope you will share your views on these and other issues at the August 29th member meeting.

Spring Social A Success

In spite of the rains, more than 60 members turned out for the Six Ponds Spring Social on April 26th at Camp Wind in the Pines.

Bill Abbott welcomed members, introduced the Board, and provided a short history of the Six Ponds Improvement Association. Several candidates for Plymouth elections were present and were given a few minutes to share their views. We then heard from guest speakers Karl Honkonen and George Zoto, D.E.P. Basin Leaders for the Buzzards Bay and South Coastal Watersheds. (Interestingly, while five of the Six Ponds are in the Buzzards Bay watershed, Bloody Pond is a part of the South Coastal watershed.) Karl and George expressed a real interest in working with our membership to understand the issues in this area. Their goal is to build watershed partnerships to protect the environmental quality of the area through the "three c's" of:

- 1) Comprehensive environmental management
- 2) Coordinated and integrated actions (of DEP, DEM, Food and Agriculture, Division of Fisheries, State and Federal EPA, etc.)
- 3) Collaborative community based environmental decision making.

Next, Larry Rosenblum provided an update on the activities of the CAC (Citizen's Advisory Council) relative to the development of the Digital Property. Those present voiced strong support for Larry and for Bill Abbott to continue to represent the Six Ponds Improvement Association to the various Town committees, and great appreciation for their efforts.

Henry Kunhardt reviewed water quality testing of the six ponds. Sampling is done once each spring, with care taken that methods are scientific, credible and repeatable. Nitrogen, phosphorous, pH, alkalinity, temperature and transparency are analyzed. This year's testing was done on March 28th when the temperature of Long Pond was 39 degrees -- the "magic mix" temperature for pond water! (Note that this water testing is separate from the bacteriological sampling by Lois Post's teams.)

With good discussion and an amazing assortment of potluck desserts, the spring social was a great opportunity to meet with old and new neighbors and friends, and to catch up on Plymouth news. Please join us at the on August 29th for the next Six Ponds membership gathering!

Shoreline Stewardship Brochure

We have a brochure from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (Ontario) which provides simple reminders about what pond front homeowners can do to help protect lakes and ponds. Copies will be available at the August meeting.

Six Pond Improvement Association Membership

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

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