

Six Ponds News

December 1999

An Occasional Publication Of The Six Ponds Improvement Association

Year 2000 Dues

We are asking in this newsletter that everyone pay their year 2000 dues (\$5 individual, \$10 per family) now so that Six Ponds will have funds available in the year ahead to continue to protect and advocate for our area.

During 1999 this newsletter was sent to everyone living in the Six Ponds area so that all would be aware of what was happening. However, the Board feels that it is only fair hereafter to make the newsletter a benefit for DUES-PAYING members.

Please send your dues now in the enclosed envelope, and include your preferred mail address and email address if applicable. We will use your response to update our Year 2000 mailing list.

Makepeace Property

On November 29, representatives of Makepeace met with the Planning Board to file definitive subdivision plans for their land south of Halfway Pond, and along West Long Pond Road and Halfway Pond Road. It was made clear at the meeting that this action was taken in order to complete the process of grandfathering the land from the building permit cap. Preliminary plans were filed earlier this year and the definitive plans had to be filed by now or it all would have been for nought.

This does not mean that development is imminent, and in fact, Makepeace would be expected to file further subdivision plans showing smaller buildable lots if and when they intend to move forward with development. The Planning Board disputes that this action "grandfathers" the land and have asked Town counsel for an opinion.

Representatives of Six Ponds, The Wildlands Trust, and The Philosophy Foundation attended, as did many area residents. Concerns varied widely from quality of the roads to preservation of land around the Halfway Pond, and Makepeace was encouraged to involve local residents and organizations in the process as it moves along.

It was also noted that the Town has placed a high priority on preserving this land from development. A workshop is to be scheduled in early January for further discussion.

Green Development

The Planning Board is continuing its discussion of whether or not to close or restrict Old Sandwich Road.

Six Ponds representatives have stated to the Board that any plan which restricts the use of Old Sandwich Road going north will tend to push the traffic back to Exit 3. If Exit 3 becomes snarled in traffic, a lot of local traffic will use Long Pond Road when proceeding north instead of trying to get out to Exit 3. (Traffic has already increased on Long Pond Road some 45% between June, 1998 and June, 1999.)

For this reason, Six Ponders and other neighbors of the development have strongly advocated that the only real solution is construction of a new Route 3 exit between Exits 3 and 4.

The Planning Board voted to set up a Board subcommittee to pursue the idea of the new Exit, and Six Ponds should be determined to bring this up again when the Green Co. comes to the Board for their next special permit.

Land South of High School

The 206 acres south of the Schools were accepted by the November Town Meeting, and the Town should be getting the deed shortly. Pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw, a conservation restriction is to be placed on this land so that it will be forever kept in its natural state and OPEN for hiking and other passive activities by area residents.

New Fire Station

The land swap was approved at Town Meeting whereby the 10-acre site on the corner of Long pond Road and Clark Road will be swapped for a site in the new "Village Green" to be constructed by the Green Company across (east side) of Route 3.

The Long Pond Road-Clark Road lot would then be added to the 206 acres south of the Schools and be kept forever natural. Six Ponds would thus be assured of a permanent rural "entry" into our area.

Please Contact Us!

The Executive Committee meets monthly so please contact us with your concerns:

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

Or drop a note to:
P.O. Box 1580
Plymouth, MA 02362

Jet Skis

The new Town Bylaw Committee has held two hearings on a proposed bylaw that would prohibit jet ski use on most Plymouth ponds.

Six Ponds representatives attended and provided statistics on both pollution and the poor safety records of personal watercraft.

The Committee was also made aware of the successful implementation of restrictions in other Massachusetts towns and in other states

It now appears that the Committee will propose a new bylaw that will ban jet skis on ponds of less than 250 acres. Long Pond and Halfway Pond are under 250 acres and would be covered by the bylaw. Great Herring Pond (376 acres), White Island (292 acres), and Billington Sea (269 acres) would still be open to jet ski use, as would Plymouth Harbor.

Environmental Police

We are lucky in the Six Ponds area that we don't need them more often, but if you should have a need for the Environmental Police, they are easy to reach. Their phone numbers are 800-632-8075 for dispatch, or 508-224-2264 to leave a message in the Plymouth office.

The Buzzards Bay Greenway

In May, 1999, The Coalition for Buzzards Bay helped dedicate the first 5-mile link of the Buzzards Bay Greenway in the Freetown/Fall River State Forest.

The Greenway is a proposed open space corridor and walking trail connecting Fall River to Plymouth across the Buzzards Bay watershed. When completed, it will cross 10 town lines and 7 major rivers, and will link more than 25,000 protected acres by a nearly 75 mile trail corridor, extending into the Myles Standish State Forest and the Six Ponds Area at Halfway Pond.

If you are interested in helping build the Buzzards Bay Greenway, call Michael Labossiere at 508-999-6363 at the Coalition for Buzzards Bay.

Six Pond Improvement Association Membership

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

Mail to:
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