

Six Ponds News

An Occasional Publication of the Six Ponds Improvement Association, Plymouth Mass.

(www.sixponds.org)

January, 2013

Breaking News: Curbside Trash Pickup

A special Precinct meeting has been called for Monday, January 14 to talk about the Town's proposal to close the solid waste transfer stations and switch to curbside trash pick up.

Though a number of public meetings have been held, Precinct 12 Town Meeting members felt a neighborhood meeting was necessary because such a change will have a more substantial impact on residents in this area than on residents in other more closely settled parts of town.

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Closure of Little Long Pond



Responding to a complaint from a Little Long Pond abutter, the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection came to Plymouth last summer to test a significant algae bloom in that pond. They advised the town that it was a health hazard that warranted closing the pond until the toxic bloom had passed.

There are many factors that determine when these blooms come and go so they are very difficult to predict. However, one main cause is an abundance of nutrients. The principle nutrient is the phosphate found in many products in daily use; soaps, car washes, lawn and garden fertilizers, pet fecal matter, poor septic systems, house spray washing, etc. Little Long Pond is ultra eutrophic (nutrient rich) and will continue to see algal blooms in years to come.

The quality of the water in our six ponds will not improve until residents in the watershed change their ways. The only solution is to have everyone limit fertilizing gardens and lawns and discontinue the above mentioned practices. Most runoff comes from Thatcher, Clark and Oar & Line Roads but there may be some stormwater surface flow from residences on the west side of Little Long Pond as well.

Halfway Pond Conservation Event

Governor Deval Patrick came to a large celebratory event at Halfway Pond in Plymouth to announce a major land protection achievement. With the purchase for conservation purposes of the Halfway Pond property from the A.D. Makepeace Company, the Commonwealth achieved its goal of protecting 100,000 acres in five years. This is another achievement in protecting significant lands in the Six Ponds area.



Get Involved.....Get Happy!

It's true. Research shows that people involved in community service are happier and feel more connected and fulfilled.

It's logical. People who do community service meet new people, have fun, give their life a sense of purpose and help to make their community a better place to live.

It's important. No community can function well without the hundreds of thousands of hours of volunteer service offered by its members.

So... what to do? Fortunately there are dozens of opportunities to help in areas that interest you. Like books? There's the library. Like history? There are museums. Like art? There are a number of art venues,

including the Plymouth Art Guild and the Plymouth Performing Arts Center. Care about education? Volunteer at a school near you. Care about the elderly? A beautiful new senior center would welcome your support. Care about the environment? There are dozens of opportunities to make a difference.

If you are concerned about town government, there are many committees that could use your help.

Go to the Plymouth Town Government website where you will find a list of current committee openings:

http://www.plymouth-ma.gov/Public_Documents/index

You are needed. Please help.

The **Six Ponds Executive Committee** meets monthly and any area residents that want to get involved are welcome to come to one of our meetings. Contact Charlotte Russell at 508-224-2007.



A.D. Makepeace River Run Development

Makepeace officials attended the Six Ponds Executive Committee meeting in October to provide information on the River Run project (CEO Mike Hogan, Jim Kane and Tom Berkley).

The Makepeace project is located just south of the Six Ponds area on Wareham Road and traffic from the project will pass through this area.

The River Run Village Green based development will include single-family homes, apartments plus commercial and retail areas. It will probably be a 12 – 15 year project.

There are four primary traffic mitigation areas: the intersection of Clark and Long Pond Roads; Long Pond and Ship Pond Roads; Long Pond and Halfway Pond Roads; and Halfway Pond and Bourne Roads. There are other traffic calming measures planned farther south on Long Pond Road.

The traffic mitigation design is well ahead of the construction triggers. Makepeace submitted the full package of designs and project management to the DPW. All new intersections are designed to reduce travel speed to 35 mph.

The trigger for mitigation construction at the Clark and Long Pond Road intersection is the 200th certificate of occupancy (CO) that is probably 3 years out. Other triggers are at the 400th certificate, etc.

Other items discussed:

Concerns were raised about maintaining the **rural character of the neighborhood** particularly the intersection of Long Pond and Halfway Pond Roads. A roundabout is preferred by neighbors for that intersection but what is now proposed is a signal intersection because the 12” high pressure gas line laid in Long Pond Road affects roadway design. More discussion will be requested on this.

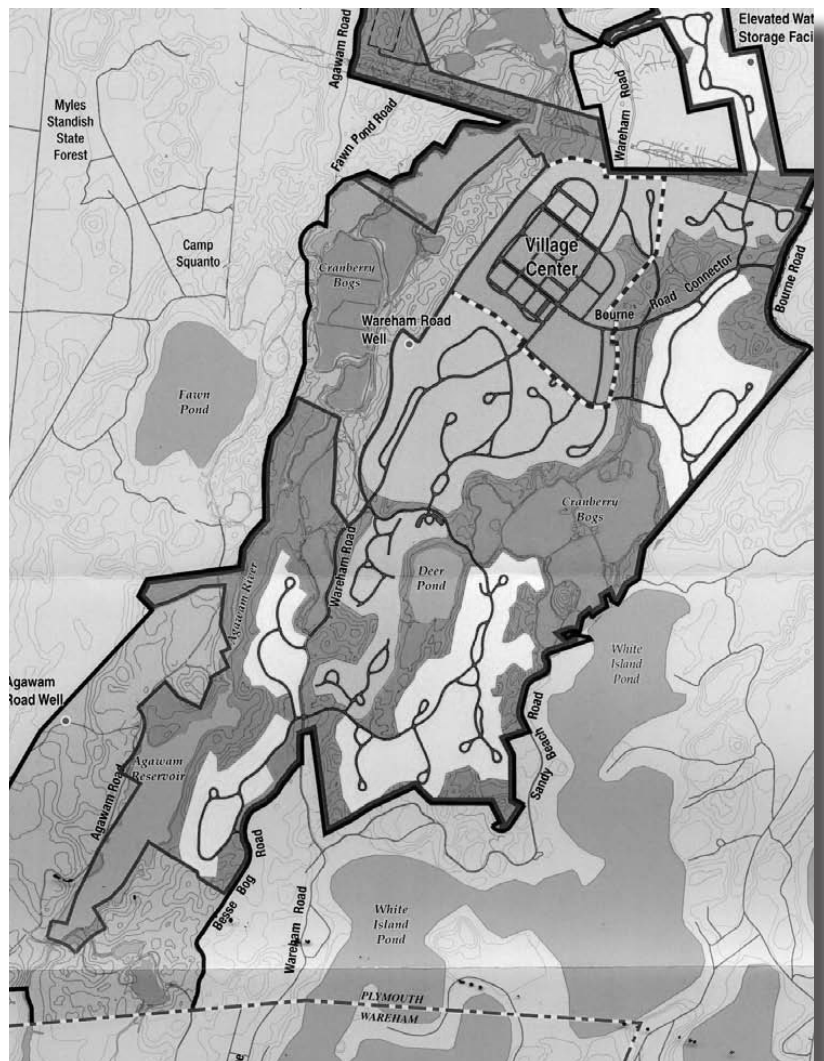
Closure of the Halfway Pond cranberry bogs. Halfway Pond East bogs will be closed and farming rights transferred to an area west of

Myles Standish State Forest. The same is probably true of the Halfway Pond West bogs. Timing is probably 3 – 5 years from now.

When the Halfway Pond bogs are discontinued they would naturally return to a swampy lowland and natural succession. Kim Tower, of Plymouth’s Environmental staff, will help work on a restoration management plan.

Will wind turbines be used at The Village Green? Makepeace has looked at wind, solar and geothermal green energy sources. The wind numbers aren’t good enough so the likelihood of solar or geothermal is much higher.

Construction traffic: Construction contractors will be told to use certain roads and to keep trucks and equipment marshaled on site.



Trash...*continued from page 1*

Many of our neighbors have long, steep gravel driveways which makes dragging the large and heavy 96 gallon trash buckets to the road quite difficult and, in many cases, impossible. Though the buckets have wheels they are hard to drag over uneven surfaces.

A number of issues are involved. These range from the ultimate choice of the town-wide trash disposal system to the difficulties individuals will have dragging their bins to the road.

There are two components to the trash disposal question. One is the trash that is incinerated and the other is the recyclable component. With the latter there is an option of moving to what is called “single stream recycling” where paper, plastic, glass and metal is all collected together and sorted at a center.

There are a number of reasons given for considering a change to the collection system. Plymouth’s solid waste disposal contract expires soon and rates for incineration will increase substantially. Plymouth’s recycling rate is very low so the town is paying money to incinerate recyclable material that could otherwise be diverted to the recycling stream. Every pound of trash diverted saves a substantial amount of money.

The Town has been pushing curbside pickup but is considering other options as well:

- Curbside pickup with single-stream recycling
- The status quo – keeping three transfer stations open
- Utilizing Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) at the transfer stations
- Developing one new transfer station and utilizing PAYT



Many residents have expressed a preference for Pay-As-You-Throw because it is more equitable for good recyclers who end up subsidizing those who don’t recycle. Recycling rates increase where Pay-As-You-Throw is used.

There has been a loud call for some alternative for the many seniors and those less-abled that can’t drag heavy buckets up to the road if the ultimate decision is to go curbside, i.e., having one transfer station remain open for special cases.

There is also the financial issue of an exemption from the Town trash fee/tax for those who choose an alternative trash method such as an independent trash company who will pick up at your house.

A decision is expected from the Board of Selectmen in the Spring and the Board is currently divided on the best method of dealing with solid waste.

The January 14 meeting will be held at 7 pm at the Plymouth South Middle School. Representatives from the DPW, Town Manger’s Office, Environmental staff, Finance Dept., and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee will be present to answer questions.



Stormwater grant application

Six Ponds collaborated with the Town of Plymouth Environmental Dept. to submit a grant application to the state DEP to fix the stormwater pollution that flows to the ponds from Clark, Thatcher and Oar & Line Roads.

Unfortunately the application was not successful. The process was very comprehensive and time consuming but all that work can be restructured and resubmitted for a comparable Lakes and Ponds Grant next year.

Davis-Douglas Farm



The Wildlands Trust's plans to relocate their headquarters to our neighborhood are proceeding well. The purchase of Davis-Douglas Farm was accomplished in 2012 but funds are still needed for building renovations. For more information, go to www.wildlandstrust.org,

Those who have not yet contributed to this effort are encouraged to send a check with a note that it is for the Davis-Douglas Farm to The Wildland's Trust, PO Box 2282, Duxbury, MA 02331.

Roadside Cleanup

Six Pond neighbors lent a hand in two town-wide roadside cleanup days last year. During the Fall cleanup, twenty-five local residents joined the



200 town-wide groups and individuals that came out to participate. This photo shows just one of the piles of trash removed from our neighborhood. We welcome your participation next Spring - look for notice of the date that will be placed at Clark Road and Long Pond Road intersection.



Six Ponds Executive Committee 2012-2013

Charlotte Russell - President	Craig Richards
Sherman Geller - Vice President	Roger W. Monks
Love Albrecht Howard - Secretary	Lawrence Silverman
Doug Post - Treasurer	Rusty Briggs
Les Plimpton	Lourdeen Casoni
Joe DeSilva	Walter Morrison - (member emeritus)
Sam Chapin	
Judy Savage	

Contributors to this issue:

Ed Russell, Betsy Hall, Doug Post

Last summer saw the arrival of two fox kits that were born under a boat house on the East side of Long Pond.

They had not yet developed a wariness about humans by the time his photo was taken.

