

Six Ponds News

February, 2015

(www.sixponds.org)

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

Changing Six Ponds Neighborhood

The A.D. Makepeace Company's Redbrook development is now well underway. While not visible from the Bourne Road entrance, there is much land clearing and construction going on in the area between Bourne and Wareham Roads, just south of the power lines. When finished, the Redbrook community will consist of approximately 1,200 residential units supported by stores, restaurants and other businesses, a YMCA, and outdoor recreational and other facilities.



One of the major impacts this new community will have on Six Ponds is an increase in traffic.

The project is expected to generate, on average, over 9,300 vehicle-trips per day, with the bulk of that movement between the Bourne Road entrance and Route 3, Exit 3.

Anticipating this traffic increase, the A.D. Makepeace Company has committed to design and fund a series of road and intersection improvements.

Some of those improvements - which, for technical and other reasons are different from what was originally proposed - will have substantial impact on the character of the community. They include a roundabout, new traffic signals, selective road widening and dedicated turn lanes, new signage, and other changes.

The Six Ponds Association has been monitoring the planning process for almost ten years, with the goal of insuring neighborhood awareness and input. Towards that end, the Town of Plymouth and A.D. Makepeace Company, working with the Six Ponds Association, are planning a public meeting to explain the plan and seek even broader community input.

The time and place for the meeting has not been finalized, but because of the meeting's importance, we are alerting you to it now. When the details are finalized, the Six Ponds Association will follow-up with a postcard and a website posting at www.sixponds.org.

The growth in traffic and proposed roadway changes will have substantial impacts on the character of our community and quality of life. The time to become informed of those changes and to share your thoughts and questions is now, so please be alert to information about the upcoming public meeting.



Wildlands Trust Moves to the Six Ponds

After extensive renovation, as seen by many while passing on Long Pond Road, the Davis-Douglas Farmhouse is now the home of the administrative offices of the Wildlands Trust, our region's premier land conservation organization. The Trust took occupancy of their new home in early December, after work was completed on the building and the surrounding grounds. The Trust's address is: 675 Long Pond Road, and the access is now next to the water tower off Long Pond Road.

Davis-Douglas Farm got its start in September 1900 when "The Great Fire," fueled by winds from the remains of the hurricane that destroyed Galveston, Texas a week earlier, burned a large swath of land between Carver and Cape Cod Bay. The Great Fire remains to this day the most destructive fire in Plymouth's history. Howland and Anna Shippen Davis' house, Ashanty, on the east side of Long Pond, was spared by the flames, but their woods above the pond along Long Pond Road were badly burned. The Davises cleared the charred stumps and built a farm, consisting of a large barn, a chicken house, and a home for a resident farmer. Vegetable gardens, orchards, a pig house, and various other out-buildings were shortly added, and the Farm provided food to the expanding Davis family for many years. Charles Redding of Bloody Pond was the farmer in the early years. Percy Douglas of Halfway Pond took over in 1923, and he and his wife Agnes raised eight children in the Farmhouse. The Farm was particularly important during the war years, when many foods were in short supply and the Farm provided food to many in the neighborhood. After the war, Howland and Anna's heirs gave the Farm to Percy and Agnes Douglas, whose grandsons Rob, John and David Bongiovanni sold the property to the Wildlands Trust.



To provide water for the Farm, a pump house was built on the shore of Long Pond and pond water was

pumped up to the water tower, built at the highest point on the property. Water was stored in the tower and flowed by gravity to the Farm and back down to Ashanty. Constructed of native stone with a cypress barrel, the water tower originally had a platform halfway up and a ladder to the top, which the Davis and Douglas children enjoyed climbing. Often they had to run down to Ashanty and let the adults know, when water was flowing out the top, that it was time to shut off the pump!



As recently as the late 1940s the water tower was the only water supply for the Farm. Today, the pump house is gone, although its foundation remains, and the remains of the iron intake pipe can still be seen in the pond below the pump house foundation as a rust-colored streak in the shallows. Also remaining are two valve chambers where the water was directed up to the tower or down to the Farm and to the buildings of Ashanty. And, of course, the tower itself remains, a vestige of a bygone time and an icon for the future of the Wildlands Trust.

The next steps at the Davis-Douglas Farm include renovation of the water tower and finishing the Community Conservation Hall, which will serve educational and programmatic purposes as the centerpiece of the Trust's efforts to protect land. Saving land from development helps protect native and migratory wildlife, safeguards our drinking water, provides recreational opportunities, and preserves the rural character of our region and our quality of life.

The Trust owns more than 700 acres of conservation land open to public access in the Six Ponds region, and deserves the active support of all Six Ponders and everyone who enjoys the woods and ponds of our neighborhood. Read more about Davis-Douglas Farm and the Wildlands Trust at the Trust's website, <http://wildlandstrust.org>.

The view from the Six Ponds Annual meeting's new location!



We have decided to shake things up a bit with not only a new location but a new date as well; we will be meeting at **Pinewoods Camp on Saturday, June 13th**. The actual start time is under discussion but it will be in the evening, with a potluck supper served in Pinewood's spacious new dining hall, and yes, you will be able to bring wine or beer to enjoy with your meal.

For those of you who have missed the opportunity to visit Pinewoods Camp you are in for a treat. Their camp is located on Cornish Field Road off West Long Pond Road, there will be extra signs to direct you to the site and rest assured there is ample parking as well as handicapped access to the dining hall.

It just so happens that our meeting coincides with the Pinewoods annual community dance so, after our meal as an extra treat, interested folks can join in the country dancing, otherwise you can just hang out and visit with your fellow Six Ponders.

You will receive a Save the Date card in a timely fashion.

Registration open for “The Future of Water in Southeastern Massachusetts”

Watershed Action Alliance of Southeastern Massachusetts, in conjunction with Plimoth Plantation, has opened registration for its upcoming conference on critical water issues in the region. The one-day conference, “The Future of Water in Southeastern Massachusetts,” will be held on Friday, April 24 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Peabody Pavilion at Plimoth Plantation, 137 Warren Avenue, Plymouth, MA. More information and registration may be found at: www.watershedaction.org, or, for a clickable link, email: dorie.stolley@jhu.edu.

Six Ponds is a sponsor of the conference, which will provide information and networking opportunities relevant to professionals and volunteers working or interested in water conservation, sustainable water management and river restoration. Sessions include the four big areas in water conservation: stormwater, drinking water, recreational water and wastewater, as well as three crucial topics in nonprofit endeavors: fundraising, outreach, and science and data collection.

An exhibit hall will feature displays and posters from nonprofit organizations, government agencies, businesses and students illustrating the latest in research, conservation, river restoration projects and techniques.

The plenary speaker is Six Ponds member Eric Walberg who will speak about the effects of climate change on water resources.

Water is critical to all of us - requiring prudent management, realistic planning and effective regulation to protect our drinking water, waterways, recreational areas and aquatic wildlife. Our water resources are threatened by Increasing population and development

pressures in southeastern Massachusetts. It is imperative that we work now to plan for a future with clean and plentiful water, restored rivers with abundant wildlife, and safe and efficient ways to treat wastewater and stormwater. Join Watershed Action Alliance and others at “The Future of Water in Southeastern Massachusetts” in striving toward this end.

Please register now at: www.watershedaction.org or email dorie.stolley@jhu.edu for a clickable link to registration.

Conference sponsors: Island Foundation, Sheehan Family Foundation, MA Division of Ecological Restoration, Mass Audubon: Shaping the Future of Your Community, MA Cultural Council, Duxbury Cultural Council, Herring Ponds Watershed Association, Horsley Witten Group, Plymouth Area League of Women Voters, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, Mass. Bays Program, Neponset River Watershed Association, North and South Rivers Watershed Association, Save the Bay, Six Ponds Improvement Association, Weir River Watershed Association, Wildlands Trust and the Halifax Cultural Council.



Contributors to this issue:

Aileen Briggs, Sam Chapin, Doug Post, Larry Rosenblum, Craig Richards, Ed Russell, Dorie Stolley

Six Ponds Executive Committee 2014-2015

Craig Richards - President	Nat Nichols
Sam Chapin - Vice President	Larry Rosenblum
Love Albrecht Howard - Secretary	Charlotte Russell
Doug Post - Treasurer	Lawrence Silverman
Rusty Briggs	Kit Warren
Lourdeen Casoni	Walter Morrison -
Dotsie Davis	(member emeritus)
Meg Harding	

2014 Annual Meeting

At last year's annual meeting, we had a program that encouraged us to talk to each other (especially neighbors we hadn't met or didn't know very well), to discuss issues of concern about Six Ponds and the neighborhood.

At one point, we had the group come together to brainstorm some of the issues that were discussed in pairs or small groups. I mentioned at the time, and I would like to repeat now, that I see my job as president of Six Ponds as facilitating people to work together on issues of concern, especially those they personally are concerned about. The Executive Committee tries to identify important issues affecting the neighborhood and to take appropriate action, but all of the Six Ponds residents are collectively responsible for the results.

If you are passionate about a particular issue, my goal is that Six Ponds will help you to take the appropriate steps towards resolving a given issue. Perhaps it's finding like minded people with the same concerns,

perhaps it's finding ways to educate others, perhaps it's figuring out how to navigate town government to push for a resolution or improvement. There are lots of involved people in our neighborhood who want to help make it better, and are also willing to help others get involved as well. So if you feel strongly about a particular issue of importance to our neighborhood, talk to your neighbors to help determine a course of action.

Let me know if there are things I can do to help, or if you feel stuck and need help taking the next step. Together we can accomplish a lot.

To keep up to date on issues of interest to SixPonders, get on our email list. Just send an email to:

president@sixponds.org

with "email list" in the subject line.

Craig Richards, President

Brrrr !

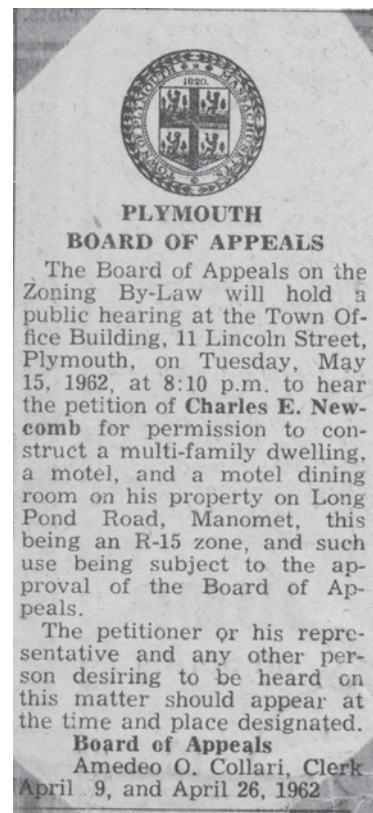


First swim of 2015

January temperatures don't deter Sarah Cavanaugh from swimming. No matter the season, you might find Sarah in Gallows or Long Pond. That includes the first ten days in 2015 - and all without a wet suit!

Sarah described the water then as feeling "thick," and, no wonder, as it was about to freeze.

1962



Close Call for Six Ponds !

Six Ponds has a page on Facebook



Members are invited to post news or photos that would be of interest to the whole Six Ponds community.

If you live within the Association's area and are not already a member you may log into Facebook, search for "Six Ponds," and click "Join." Perhaps you have a story about activities, animal or bird encounters, or community issues that need addressing.

Recent posts have featured photos of the Wildlands Trust's move into their new building on Long Pond Road, news about AD Makepeace plans for traffic improvements, the Fall roadside cleanup and the cutting of diseased Red Pine trees in this area.

