

## Six Ponds Annual Meeting - June 13

Add your smiling face to this window!



Yes, we are still on Zoom this year. For the last time, we hope. The business meeting will start promptly at 5 pm, but please log in at 4:30. We will use that half hour to count the participants (we need a quorum of 50 members) and deal with any Zoom issues that might arise. **See you at 4:30!**

### Annual Meeting Agenda

- Call to order, welcoming remarks and voting instructions
- President's Report
- Approval:
  - Secretary's Minutes
  - Treasurer's Report
  - Annual Budget
- Nominating Committee Report
- Election of 2021/22 Officers and Board Members
- Presentation:
  - Plymouth Environmental Issues
  - David Gould – Director Division of Marine & Environmental Affairs
- Old Business
- New Business
- Closing Remarks

As a member of the association, you will be asked to accept or reject the minutes, the Treasurer's report and budget, and vote on the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors and the officers. All of these documents are on the Six Ponds website at the link below. Come and let your voice be heard!

**Zoom link for the Annual Meeting is on the Six Ponds website.**

<https://sixponds.org/events/june-13-six-ponds-annual-meeting>



## President's Corner

My tenure as the president of the Six Ponds Association ends this month. It has been a rewarding three years for me. During that time, we brought the bylaws up to date, continued the pond water testing, started the Firewise project and continued to be an advocate for all things Six Ponds within the Town of Plymouth. We have watched tremendous growth in South Plymouth and worked hard to mitigate the inevitable impact.

Our community continues to be amazing because our residents communicate, participate, and care. Together we recognize the value of our ecology and environment and work together to protect it and enhance it as we grow and change with the times. I will continue to support the various activities of the board, and in particular, I'll be an active participant and advocate for the Firewise program. I hate to think what a wildfire could do to our beautiful area.

I have been blessed with three wonderful executive boards to work with as well as a strong support group within the general membership. Thank you all.

Pompey

KEEP IT UP SIX PONDERS!

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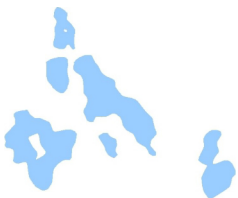
## Firewise Assessments



*Pine needles on a shed roof...a fire hazard*

The Six Ponds Improvement Association is pleased to again offer **free forest fire preparedness inspections** to anyone in the Six Ponds community. You may sign up to have your yards inspected – free of any charge – by a team of fire protection professionals led by Alex Belote, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Fire Program Coordinator. The team will then send you a report suggesting ways to reduce the chances of fire damage to your property and buildings. You do not need to be home for the inspection, and you are not committed to take any action as a result of the inspection. This is simply a service for your information and use. The inspections will be done in the late summer/early fall. If you wish to sign up or have questions, contact Pompey at [pompey43@aol.com](mailto:pompey43@aol.com). Be sure to include your name, address and contact information. We will let you know when the inspections are scheduled so that you can be prepared for the team to arrive.

**We live in a forest fire prone area!**  
**We hope you will take advantage of this service and spread the word to your friends and neighbors.**



## Rural Roads Opinion Survey

Many thanks to the 24 residents of West Long Pond Road and Cornish Field Road who participated in our recent survey. The Rural Roads Committee will use the responses to help us understand what issues are important to the residents and other users of West Long Pond Road. Over the next year we will work on strategies to address the issues raised by the respondents. Top-line results are:



### Increased traffic on the road

|                |     |     |    |                      |
|----------------|-----|-----|----|----------------------|
| 1              | 2   | 3   | 4  | 5                    |
| 57%            | 10% | 20% | 0% | 15%                  |
| Very Concerned |     |     |    | Not at all concerned |

### Speed of traffic

|                |     |     |    |                      |
|----------------|-----|-----|----|----------------------|
| 1              | 2   | 3   | 4  | 5                    |
| 57%            | 10% | 20% | 0% | 15%                  |
| Very Concerned |     |     |    | Not at all concerned |

### Frequency of scraping

|                |     |     |                  |     |
|----------------|-----|-----|------------------|-----|
| 1              | 2   | 3   | 4                | 5   |
| 33%            | 14% | 38% | 0%               | 19% |
| Too frequently |     |     | Too infrequently |     |

### Quality of scraping

|                      |     |     |     |                |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| 1                    | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5              |
| 25%                  | 15% | 45% | 19% | 0%             |
| Not at all satisfied |     |     |     | Very satisfied |



### Importance of rural character

|                |    |    |    |                      |
|----------------|----|----|----|----------------------|
| 1              | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5                    |
| 86%            | 9% | 4% | 0% | 0%                   |
| Very important |    |    |    | Not at all important |

### Contribution of gravel roads to character

|                         |     |    |    |                          |
|-------------------------|-----|----|----|--------------------------|
| 1                       | 2   | 3  | 4  | 5                        |
| 77%                     | 14% | 9% | 0% | 0%                       |
| Contribute a great deal |     |    |    | Do not contribute at all |

### Willingness to pick up packages at central locations

|              |     |     |    |                    |
|--------------|-----|-----|----|--------------------|
| 1            | 2   | 3   | 4  | 5                  |
| 50%          | 11% | 11% | 5% | 26%                |
| Very willing |     |     |    | Not at all willing |

### Willingness to have a single trash/recycling hauler service the road (only those currently using service)

|              |    |    |    |                    |
|--------------|----|----|----|--------------------|
| 1            | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5                  |
| 66%          | 9% | 9% | 9% | 9%                 |
| Very willing |    |    |    | Not at all willing |



## Pinewoods Camp to Open

Pinewoods Camp (PCI) has announced that its camp season will begin on Friday, June 25, and conclude on Tuesday, September 7. The health and safety of Pinewoods staff and crew, campers, and the residents of the Six Ponds community is their primary concern. All campers, crew and program staff will be vaccinated. PCI's operation of Camp and the camp sessions run by the program providers will comply with the requirements of public health orders issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Town of Plymouth Board of Health. PCI will be monitoring the national, state, and local guidelines and health conditions closely as the season approaches.

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## Flash from the Past

*Davis and Emery kids enjoy a summer outing!*

This boat house was located on the eastern shore of Long Pond. It belonged to Francis Faulkner Emery who had a farm overlooking the pond where he spent summers. He came to Plymouth in 1873 to operate a shoe factory on North Park Avenue. The boat house, built to allow boats to float inside, was located near to what is now the Geer's boat house (formerly Bartol). All that remains in 2021 is a depression on the shoreline plus a tumble of rocks now hidden by a dense growth of grape vines and poison ivy.



Emery Boathouse 1890's

## Muskrat Love...NOT

Round Pond has been invaded by muskrats! Ordinarily, we would welcome any creature that loves the pond as much as we do. Unfortunately, they have become a major nuisance.

First, a bit about Muskrats. Adults weight about three pounds. Females can have two to three litters per year, six to eight kits per litter. They have a life span of three to four years. Muskrats are a favorite food of many denizens of the pond including mink, otters, coyotes, foxes, bald eagles, large hawks and owls, and even largemouth bass.

By harvesting plants for food and den sites, they create open water for ducks, geese, shorebirds and other wildlife. In addition, a variety of animals – including snakes, turtles, frogs, ducks and geese – use muskrat lodges and platforms to rest and nest. Muskrats are, however, considered pests when their burrowing activity damages dams and dikes, and when their feeding activity damages new plantings and crops.



Or when they make their homes in the unencapsulated polystyrene (Styrofoam) under docks and floats. That's what is happening on Round Pond. As muskrats burrow into the foam blocks, Styrofoam pellets float away and end up fouling the edges of the pond. This becomes an environmental danger to birds and other small animal that eat this foam, to say nothing of the eyesore. Plus, it's a real chore to pick up the small pieces, which get smaller and smaller as they are exposed to the elements.

There are a number of solutions to this problem. Substitute polyethylene drums for the Styrofoam. Wrap the Styrofoam with ½ inch wire mesh. Use encapsulated foam. Muskrats are here to stay, so we need to make it easier for them to be good neighbors.



muskrat tracks



muskrat lodges

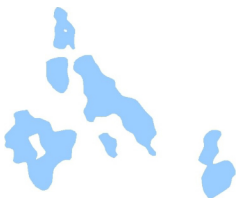
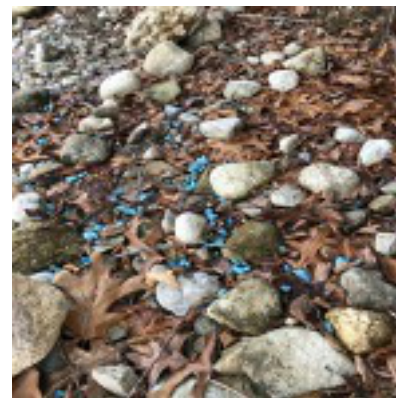


leaking dams



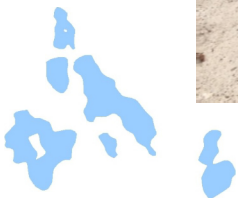
collapsed banks

Styrofoam pellets on the shores of Round Pond



## Plymouth Spring Cleanup

On Saturday, May 8th, Six Ponds continued a long tradition of cleaning up litter along our roads, woods and ponds. In the past ten years we have been joined by the Town of Plymouth and supplied with purple bags which the DPW collects from designated drop spots. Thank you very much to the almost 40 people, both adults and a few children, who came out and collected multiple drink containers, nip bottles, food wrappers, a set of tires and a red canoe. YOU ARE THE BEST!



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## Short Cuts

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**The Six Ponds spring membership drive** is currently underway. A big THANK YOU to all who have already renewed or joined! Annual memberships are \$25 per household. You can renew or join at <https://sixponds.org/about/join> or by mail at Six Ponds, P. O. Box 1580, Plymouth, MA 02360. Please include name, address, phone, email and let us know if you would like to receive a Six Ponds sticker for your car. Thank you for your continued support of SIX PONDS!

**Congratulations** to Bill Abbott and Betsy Hall for their election to the *Charter Commission*. Congratulations again to Betsy and Bill as well as Ed Russell on their re-election to Town Meeting representing Precinct 12. Did you know that seven of the nine Town Meeting members for Precinct 12 live in Six Ponds? We are well represented!

**Changing of the Guard.** The current Six Ponds Association Board of Directors is completing its 2020/2021 tenure. Many thanks for your commitment and energy over the last year:

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Pompey Delafield Pres. | Barry Dolan    |
| Hampton Watkins VP     | Sherm Geller   |
| Les Leslie Tres.       | Susanne Lucas  |
| Lois Post Sec.         | Kathy Marks    |
| Al Baum                | Leighton Price |
| Meg Carver             | Ed Russell     |
| Emily Davis            |                |

**Thank you** to the contributors to this issue of Six Ponds News:

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Meg Carver      | Pompey Delafield  |
| Emily Davis     | Charlotte Russell |
| Margi Delafield | Ed Russell        |

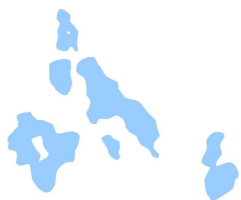
**The Summer edition** of the Six Ponds News will be all about WATER. If you have an idea for a story (animal, mineral, vegetable, anecdote, photo) send it to Meg at [mcarver93@comcast.net](mailto:mcarver93@comcast.net)

**Stay tuned!** Lots happening around the ponds.

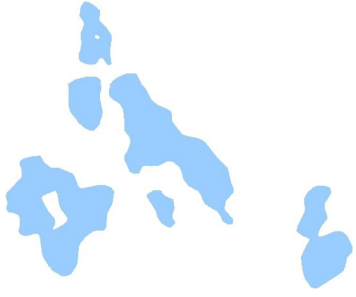
- **June 19** - Firewise Good Neighbor Cleanup - contact Pompey if you would like to volunteer. [845-705-4421](tel:845-705-4421) email: [pompey43@aol.com](mailto:pompey43@aol.com)
- **September 11** - Potluck Supper, Douglas Davis Farm - our first in-person get-together
- **September TBA** - Town-wide Road Cleanup

**Makepeace Cranberry Bogs.** You may have noticed that water lines, culverts and pumping equipment have been removed from the bogs around Halfway Pond. At this point we do not have any definitive information on Makepeace's plans, but we will continue to communicate with them and keep you posted.

**Pond Mystery.** What the heck? Who did this? Three times now, Morgan Road has been anointed with bagels and other miscellaneous baked goods! One dozen bagels to the person who solves this mystery.



Six Ponds  
PO Box1580  
Plymouth MA 02360



*Annual Meeting June 13*  
*See details inside*