

Bill Abbott honored at the Annual Meeting

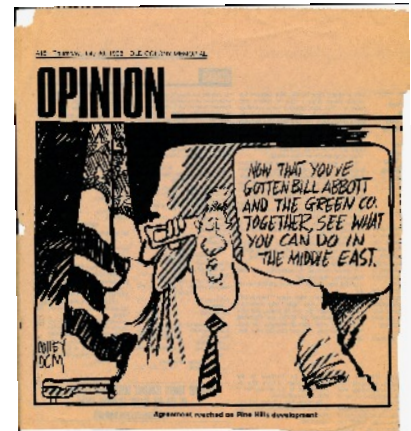
At the Annual Meeting of the Six Ponds Improvement Association in June, Bill Abbott was presented with a special award with the following inscription "For over 50 years of service to the Six Ponds Community". Bill has been worked to benefit our community in many ways, for instance Bill

- helped form PCNIC and fought against the expansion of the Plymouth Pilgrim Plant
- fought for 3 Arce Zoning in our area
- helped in the incorporation of the Pinewoods Camp
- worked with Laura Cushman to put Wildlands Trust on a sound financial footing, eventually resulting in the location of their headquarters at the Douglas Davis Farm here in the Six Ponds area
- worked to shape the Pinehills development
- preserved land at the intersection of Clark and Long Pond Roads to prevent unwanted development there.
- guided the Town into the dark sky legislation
- fought against cell tower development and
- fought for 50 hp limitation on Long Pond.

Bill is one of the longest serving Town Meeting Members and has been honored by every level of Government from the Town to the White House for his work. Nowhere has this been more important than right here in the Six Ponds area. We were so honored to be able to honor Bill with this award.

Much appreciation goes to Frimma & Richard Buckman for the beautiful artwork and framing of this presentation and to Charlotte Russell for her work on the presentation.

Pompey Delafield, President



Bloody Pond – Gallows Pond – Halfway Pond – Little Long Pond – Long Pond – Round Pond

SIX PONDS VOLUNTEER DAY

Our first Firewise Volunteer Day took place on Saturday, September 12, with a very great turnout of neighbors helping neighbors. The Six Ponds has been working with Alex Belote, the Fire Program Coordinator for the MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation, towards becoming recognized as a Firewise Community, and this day proved our true dedication.

The Firewise Program is all about educating ourselves to be prepared in the event of a forest fire, a very real threat here in the pine barrens of southeastern Massachusetts. Working with Alex Belote, we have learned new ways to better protect our properties in the event of a forest fire. You may recall he was our guest speaker at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Fifteen Six Ponders showed up to help an elderly neighbor, armed with brush mowers, a small chipper, chain saws, pole saws and true grit to get done what Alex outlined needed done. The aim was to clear out as much overgrown vegetation as possible along the foundation of the house, removal of dried debris, (to reduce the risk of fire spread) and improve the driveway access for emergency vehicles. The weather was perfect for the heavy workload, and the group practiced social distancing despite the camaraderie and group effort.



Huge progress was made, with much thanks to Ross Randlett of White Horse Lawn and Tree, who provided two crews to cut trees and chip all our debris! Ross and his family live in the Six Ponds neighborhood and owns the very reliable White Horse Lawn and Tree company. Read about their services on their website, www.whitehorselawnandtree.com We could not have achieved our goal without Ross' generous donation of services!

And a special thanks to Susanne Lucas for organizing this special event.

For more information about the Firewise program, check out the website <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

ANY SUGGESTIONS ON A NEIGHBOR WHO NEEDS HELP? Chores include picking up downed branches, gutter clean-outs, brush-mowing, etc. Please let us hear from you and we will schedule another Volunteer Day!

A big THANK YOU to the contributors to this issue of Six Ponds News:
Love Albrecht Howard * Meg Carver * Margi Delafield * Pompey Delafield *
Susanne Lucas * Leighton Price * Hampton Watkins

Bloody Pond – Gallows Pond – Halfway Pond – Little Long Pond – Long Pond – Round Pond

Six Ponds Water Quality Testing

Since its inception in 1952, Six Ponds has focused on the health of the ponds that give us not just our name, but also this beautiful place we call home. As the ponds throughout Plymouth have become more densely populated, concerns about water quality have increased.

In the 1970s, the Town of Plymouth commissioned baseline studies of water conditions and flora and fauna in 41 Plymouth ponds. Four of the ponds in the Six Ponds area were included in these detailed studies, and our other two were included in studies conducted in the 1990s. The health of our six ponds ranged from excellent to poor with the worst two, Little Long Pond and Halfway Pond, being highly eutrophic (degraded by an abundance of nutrients). These two ponds remain highly eutrophic.

For the past few decades Six Ponds volunteers have performed regular water quality testing on all six ponds during the summer months. Equipment used over the years has ranged from very basic to highly sophisticated electronic recording devices. Water sample analyses in some years have ranged from a few basic chemical parameters to a number of years where analyses encompassed a broad array of nearly 25 chemicals, including salts and other contaminants.

In 2014, the Town of Plymouth, under the direction of the Department of Marine & Environmental Affairs, began the Plymouth Pond and Lakes Stewardship Program (PALS) which tracks water quality data in 39 ponds throughout Plymouth. Our six ponds are included in this data collection at various times.

The data typically collected four times each season includes Secchi depth and dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature profiles. The DO-temperature profile is collected with an instrument provided by the Town. Volunteers anchor a boat at the deepest point in the pond as determined by depth sounding and bathymetric maps. The DO-temperature sensor is lowered and readings taken meter by meter until the bottom is reached or the cable length is exhausted (30m or about 100ft). The deepest point in Long Pond is 110 feet, making it the deepest naturally occurring body of fresh water in the Commonwealth.

Secchi depth is a measure of water clarity. Using a weighted disk suspended into the pond on a marked measuring tape, the disk is lowered into the pond until it disappears from view and the depth of disappearance is recorded. The disk is then raised back up and the depth of reappearance is recorded. The average of the two depths is the Secchi depth. Usually the Secchi depth decreases during the spring and summer seasons as water clarity is negatively impacted due to the increase of phytoplankton – algae/cyanobacteria and other plant matter – growing in the ponds.

Under the PALS program, water samples are collected from each of our ponds just once a year. The condition of the water in the ponds can vary considerably from year to year, and the ponds can differ depending upon weather conditions. However, two results seem to stand out. There are years when phosphorus levels have exceeded eutrophic levels in Little Long Pond and in Halfway Pond. and, when this happens, algae blooms and pond weed growths have often occurred.

If there is abundant sunlight, warm temperatures, and plenty of nutrients these microscopic organisms can undergo explosive growth called “blooms.” Some of the organisms can cause severe or fatal toxic reactions and this summer’s active bloom of Cyanobacteria (aka blue-green algae) at Halfway Pond resulted in its closing by the State DEP and Plymouth’s Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs. In addition to eliminating swimming in this pond, no pets should be allowed to drink from the pond, and fish from the pond should not be consumed.

Our ponds are all negatively impacted by chemicals from road and lawn runoff and by septic systems. We can all contribute to improving the health of our ponds by reducing nutrient inputs. Please remember important pond health protocol:

- Eliminate lawn and garden chemicals
- Reduce silt and contaminants by leaving vegetation untouched throughout the protected 100’ buffer to all wetlands
- Pump out your Title V septic system minimally every three years

Six Ponds volunteers will continue testing our pond water every summer season. And we encourage everyone to act as stewards to our ponds. Every bit of effort each of us makes can help to keep our ponds healthy, naturally beautiful, and enjoyable!

Bloody Pond – Unsalted!

The only pond in Six Ponds that has had a problem with salinity is Bloody Pond. When Route 3 was constructed in the 1950s, storm drains were built that funnel stormwater from the highway directly into Bloody Pond, dumping road salts, silt, oils and chemicals into the pond with every rain event.

Reaching out to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) resulted in no action . . . until now.

In 2016, learning that there would be repaving of the section of Route 3 from Exit 3 to the Sagamore Bridge, Six Ponds reached out to the DOT project manager with a request that the storm drains be upgraded with leaching catchments. The DOT sent their engineering team to assess the existing drainage, and they agreed it did not meet the stormwater best management practices now in place. The design team engineered new leaching catchments for this stretch of Route 3, and these will be installed and the old drainage removed as the repaving happens this Fall.

With the completion of the Route 3 repaving, Bloody Pond will no longer have the relentless influx of stormwater toxins, silt and detritus it has suffered since the 1950's. Blood Pond – soon to be unsalted!

New Neighbors?

Last year, the Board decided to offer a free year's membership to new people moving into the Six Ponds area. If you have a new neighbor who might be interested, please let us know!

Announcements

Hampton Watkins has been appointed the Six Ponds representative to WAA, the Watershed Action Alliance.

Dark Skies for a Brighter Future

The darker our skies, the better we can see the stars and planets and celestial events, and the healthier it is for wildlife . . . and for US!

Please reduce or eliminate your exterior lighting. All fixtures should shine down, and please NEVER shine flood lights on to the ponds!

For more information see www.darksky.org

Fire Pits and Outdoor Fireplaces

During the summer, we've all been doing most of our socializing outdoors. With the Fall, many are turning to fire pits or moveable outdoor fireplaces to extend their options. If you use one,

PLEASE BE CAREFUL! Have a water source at hand. Never use paper, which could go up into the trees as hot ash. Be sure to manually put it out, completely. Six Ponds lies in the Pine Barrens, a very fire prone area.

Membership Update

Six Ponds is a neighborhood organization. To work optimally, Six Ponds needs YOU - our neighbors - to join. The \$25 membership fee gives you regular updates on what is happening in your neighborhood, tips on how to live around and protect our ponds, fire safety and items related to Conservation, Planning, Zoning and other Town Departments. Your memberships are our primary source of funding. If you know someone who would like to join or have a new email address, contact Margi Delafield at margidelafield@aol.com.

Want to Help?

We are looking for a Newsletter Editor. Contact Pompey if you are interested.

Bloody Pond – Gallows Pond – Halfway Pond – Little Long Pond – Long Pond – Round Pond

Rural Roads

What's the best part of living in the 6 Ponds community? There are the ponds, of course, and the woods and the welcoming neighbors. But I find I cherish the dirt roads the most. Turning the corner onto a dirt road releases the cares of the day. It's a breath of fresh air, literally and figuratively! Our dirt roads are fundamental to the character of our community. In addition to providing beautiful places to walk, run and bike, dirt roads enhance the environment by limiting auto emissions in our air and chemical runoff in our ponds.

You may have noticed that the dirt roads in the community have been a bit busier lately. The roads have been a great resource for exercise during the COVID-19 lockdowns. More trucks are delivering packages as we avoid shopping in person, and the arrival of Red Brook and other recent developments nearby have increased traffic on the roads. The rebuilding of the intersection of Long Pond and Halfway Pond roads looms as yet another reason to use West Long Pond and Herring Pond Way as cut-throughs. More vehicle traffic, often at inappropriate speeds, alongside increased pedestrian use has raised concerns. The Association has formed a Rural Roads Committee to look at these issues. We would like to hear your thoughts on this topic. What would you like to see the committee address? Send any comments you have on the use and protection of our roads to me at mcarver92@comcast.net
Meg Carver, Chair

Six Ponds Decals



Bumper sticker for Six Ponds? Sure, why not?

Did you know that bumper stickers have sparked legal issues between people and states. A man in Georgia with a

bumper sticker containing indecent wording was convicted. The man's conviction was reversed in *Cunningham v. State* (1991). The court referenced the First Amendment, stating "the provision regulating profane words on bumper stickers reaches a substantial amount of constitutionally protected speech and unconstitutionally restricts freedom of expression".

Well, we just want to show our support for our neighborhood, and this special region we call home. If you want one, or two, email Susanne Lucas susannelucas@gmail.com and she will deliver! If you renewed your Six Ponds membership recently, you should have received one as a THANK YOU. If you did not, or if you simply want another one or two (many families have more than one car, or have kids who put stickers on snowboards, boats, bicycles, laptops or just about anything else), please email Susanne.

Thanks go to Long Pond Road resident Karl Stier of Watershed Media for his logo design.

2020/21 Six Ponds Board of Directors

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Please feel free to contact your Board with ideas and questions. The Board meets the third Sunday of each month except in December when there is no meeting and in June when we hold the Annual Meeting. We meet by Zoom and if you would like to receive an invitation to attend, please let Pompey know.

Reduce single-use plastic and Support the Six Ponds

There’s no question Six Ponds members are concerned for the environment and reducing trash. Our participation in Roadside Cleanups is evidence of this, and many of us practice recycling as much as we can.

Show your support and reduce your single-use plastic “footprint” with this set of custom-made Bamboo Utensils! Next time you purchase “take out” meals, go on a picnic, or take your lunch to work, reject the convenience of plastic utensils and pull out these wonderfully crafted bamboo sets of fork, spoon and sipping straw!



Made by artisans in Chiapas, Mexico, from sustainable locally-sourced native bamboo, these utensils are strong and durable, easily cleaned with soap and water, and come attractively packaged in cotton sacks for storage and transport. Keep a set in your car, in your purse, in your briefcase, and never use single-use plastic utensils again! No doubt these make a great gift for a family member, a neighbor, or friends who share your concern for a cleaner planet.

SUPPORT SIX PONDS WITH YOUR PURCHASE OF THESE UNIQUE SETS

\$10 set / \$18 for two sets

Send a check made payable to Six Ponds Improvement Association to our Treasurer, Sanford Leslie, c/o Six Ponds Improvement Association, P.O. Box 1580, Plymouth, MA 02360.

We will deliver your purchase to your home, or if you prefer to have it mailed, please add \$3. for postage, per set, and provide the address to where you would like it shipped. Please indicate how many sets you want, and the address for delivery or the Ship To address.

Thank you for your support and your concern for our environment!

Website

Over the last year, Susanne Lucas has been working with Karl Stier and Carol Strickland to update our website. This will always be an ongoing process, but we are more than appreciative of the work that has been done. Take a look! sixponds.org.

Bloody Pond – Gallows Pond – Halfway Pond – Little Long Pond – Long Pond – Round Pond

Notice

When doing work outlined below, please record
the work on a copy of this Volunteer Work Sheet and send it to Pompey
HELP US BECOME A FIREWISE COMMUNITY



FIREWISE USA®
RESEARCH TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

Volunteer Hourly Work Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Community Name: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: _____

Hours Worked	
_____	<p>Dwelling Unit/Home Examples include: Removing pine needles and leaf litter from roof and gutters, replaced vinyl gutters with metal gutters, ignition-resistant exterior improvements, installing screening on vents, flammable items removed from under decks and porches, inspect roof and replace missing shingles, etc.</p>
_____	<p>Landscaping (0–100 ft from base of dwelling unit) Examples include: Installation of hardscaping, replacing combustible mulches with stone/gravel options, tree and shrub removal, raking and removal of pine needles, leaves, ground litter/debris, tree trimming/limbing, moving firewood, lawn and native grass maintenance, etc.</p>
_____	<p>Common Area (HOA or other Homeowner jointly owned property within the site boundary) Activities include: Tree thinning, mastication and brush removal, grass maintenance, fire break construction, etc.</p>
_____	<p>Miscellaneous Meetings, presentations, program administration, home site visits, etc.</p>

Money Spent	
\$ _____	Chipper Costs: Purchase/rental, fuel & oil, disposal fees, etc.
\$ _____	Other Equipment Costs: Chain saw purchase/rental, power equip. purchase/rental, hand tools, protective equipment, etc.
\$ _____	Contractor Costs: Arborists, landscapers, professional forestry services, debris removal, etc.
\$ _____	Home Improvement Costs: Roofs, decks, windows, vent screening, retrofits, etc.
\$ _____	Landscaping/DIY
\$ _____	Miscellaneous
_____	Vehicle mileage

Additional Notes: _____

SIX PONDS

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Plymouth, MA 02360

