

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Foster's Pond Corporation. Thank you for joining us.

I'm Steve Cotton, President of the FPC.

It's great to see everyone back together for our first in-person meeting since COVID hit. One of the purposes of the FPC is to enhance the sense of community among all who treasure the Pond -- whether you live on it, or near it, or just occasionally visit.

So, in that spirit, let us begin.

# Agenda

- Welcome & Some More History
- Brief (!) Business Meeting
  - Adoption of Minutes
  - Adoption of Treasurer's Report
  - Election of Directors & Officers
- The Main Event:
  - 'Bringing Back the Buzz: Fostering Biodiversity Around Foster's Pond' - Amy Janovsky
- Updates on the Dam and the Pond
- Looking Ahead to 2023
- New Business, Questions, & Comments

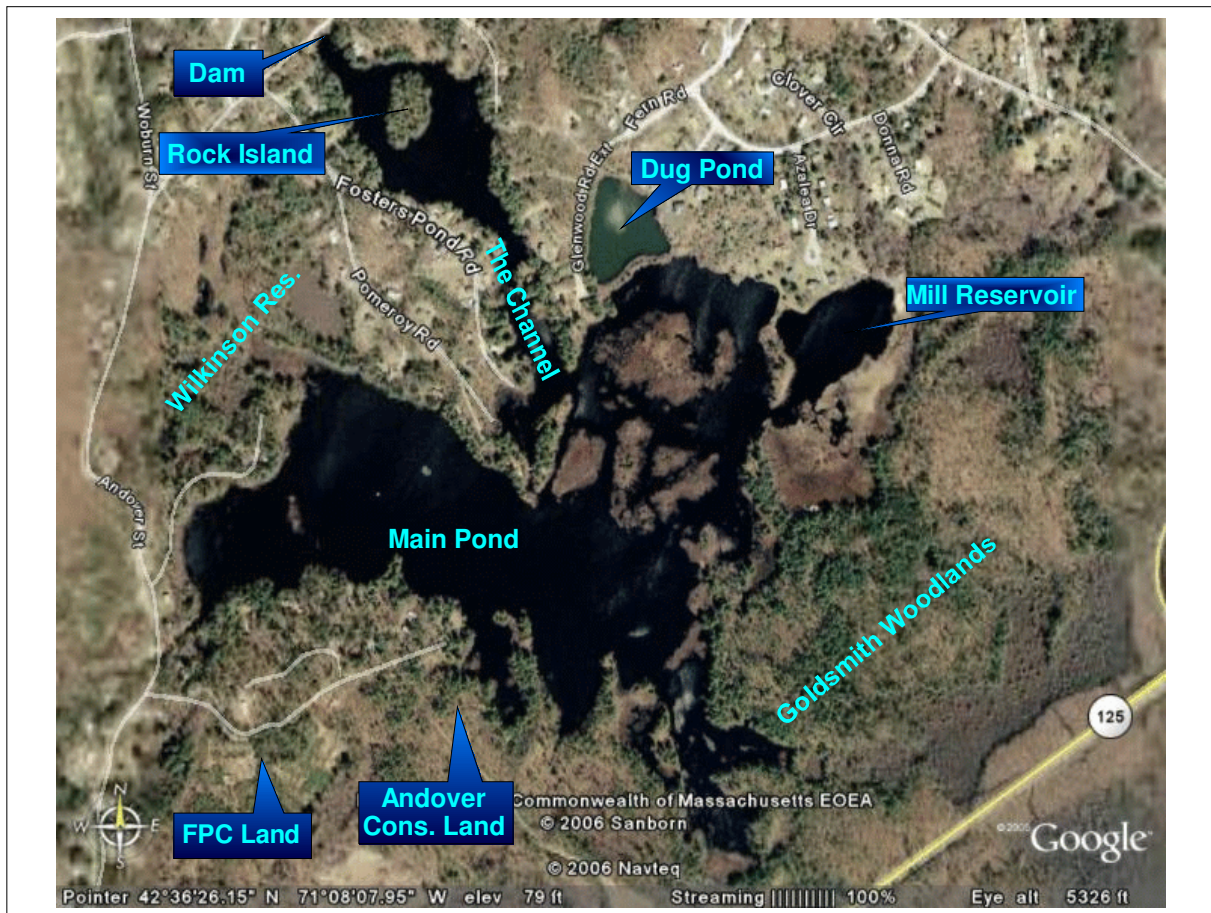


I hope you all got to see the slide show with some history of the Pond. I'm going to add a little more to that history

Then we have a few organizational obligations to fulfill, but this will be a very short business meeting so that we can get right to our program tonight.

After Amy's presentation, I'll bring you up to date on what we accomplished last year and hope to get done this year. And we'll also have our usual open forum for new business, wildlife sightings, questions, and comments.

Amy will answer questions at the end of her presentation. If we have to move on before we've gotten to all your questions, Amy will take more questions during that last item on the agenda. That's when I'll take questions, as well.



So here's our beloved flying duck. The dam is at the tip of the beak, the Channel is the neck, and so on.

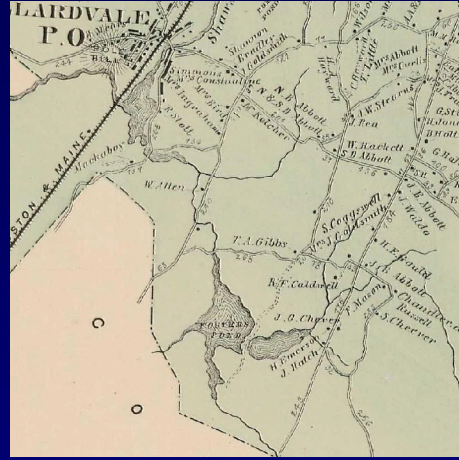
Tonight, my little contribution to Pond history is going to center on the duck's eye:

Rock Island.





1830

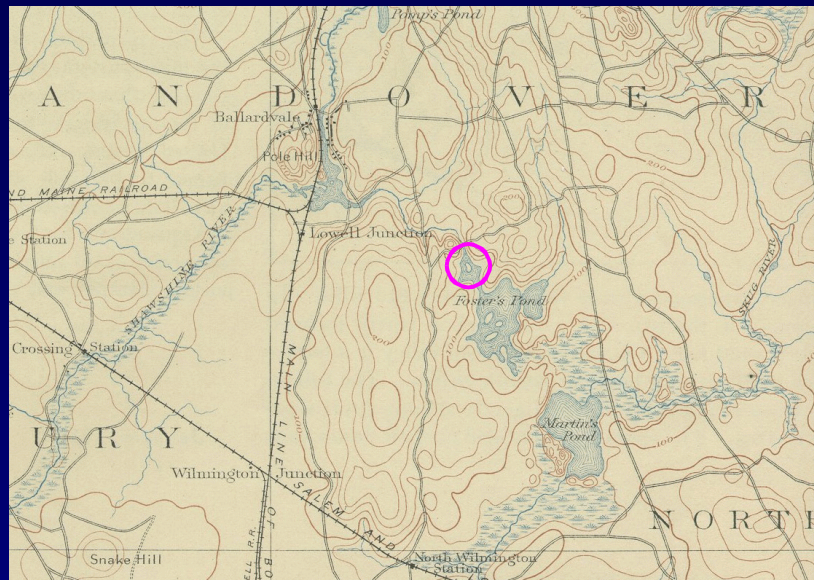


1872



As you saw in the slide show, Foster's Pond in its natural state looked nothing like a duck. The dam was built hundreds of feet downstream from the pond in 1857 or so, and it took years for the pond to fill in to its present shape. Even 15 years after the dam was constructed, there was no duck and no eye.



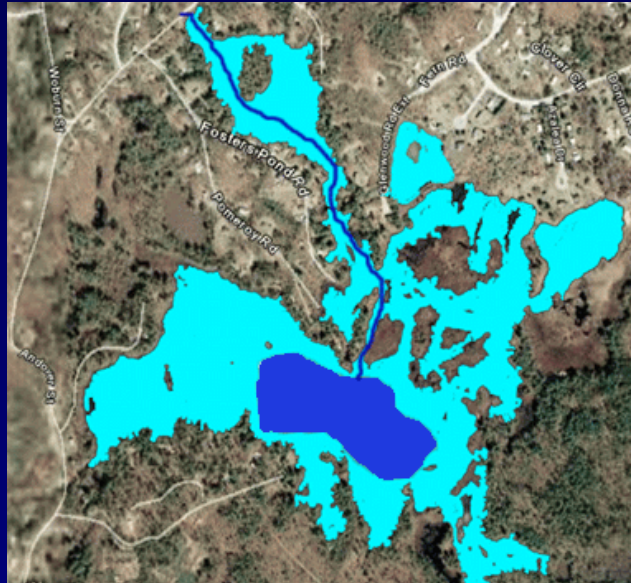


1886

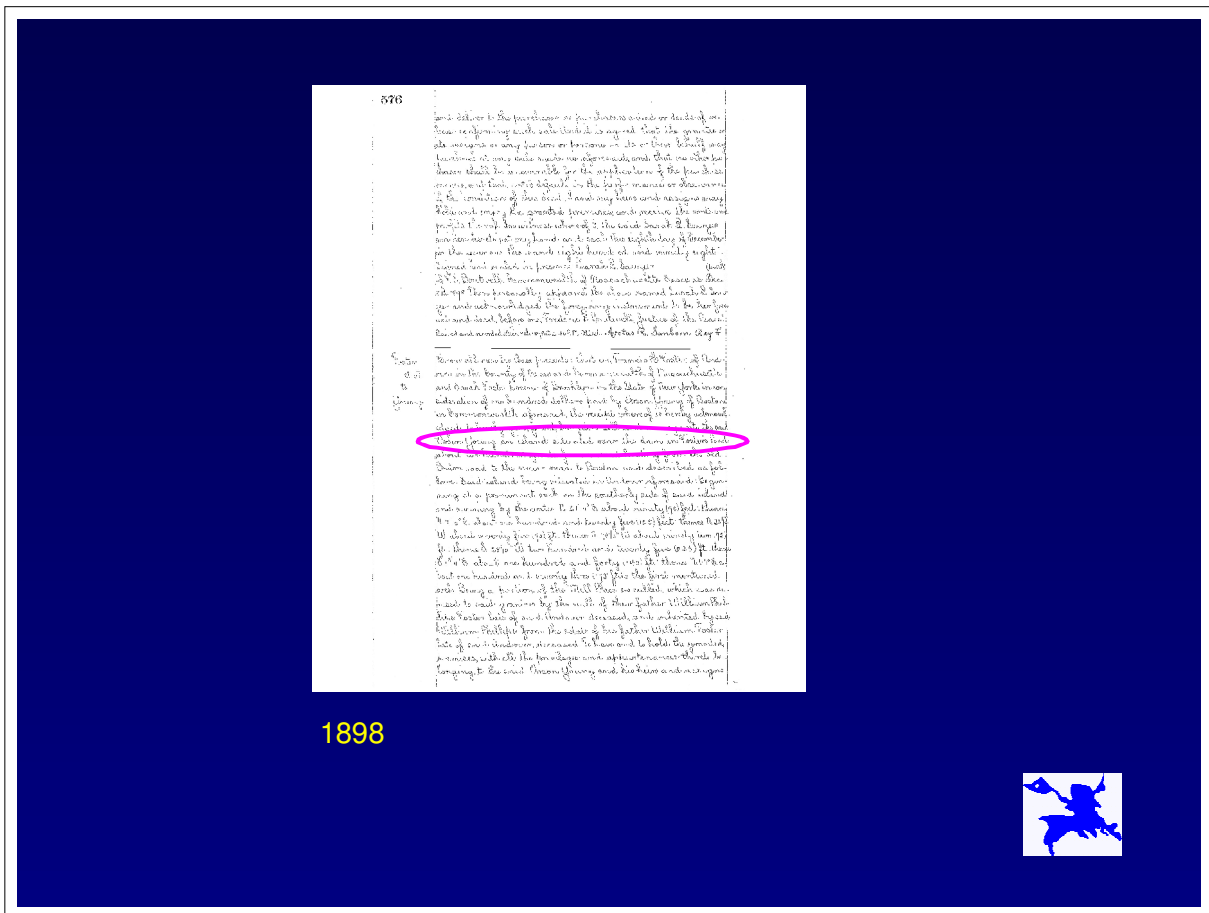


But getting on towards 30 years later, what had been just a rocky hill became Rock Island, and we can see it here on this map.

## Before and after the dam



Again, this map, which I prepared, shows the expansion of the Pond, and how the dam changed the landscape and created a few islands - of which Rock Island is the largest and most substantial.



You may remember from the slide show that Homer Foster and his older sister Sarah inherited a lot of land around the original Pond back in 1880, when they were both teenagers. They held on to almost all of it for decades.

The very first, and one of the very few, parcels they sold was the island. In 1898, Homer and Sarah sold it to Orson Young of Boston for \$100 (about 3,600 in today's dollars).

At this point, I can't tell you how they became acquainted with Mr. Young, or why he wanted an island in Andover. But this is 3 years before the 1st automobile was seen in Andover, so getting here from Boston was no easy feat.



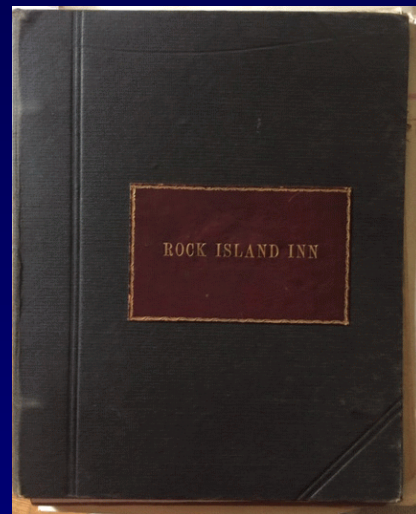


Published by W. A. Allen, Ph.G.

View from Dam, Foster Pond, Andover, Mass.

Courtesy of Dave Dargie

What I can tell you is that Orson and his wife built a house on the island almost immediately. In the early 1900s, postcards cards became all the rage, and there was even a series on Foster's Pond. This one, probably from about 1905, shows the house on the island.



We also know that Orson and his family made great use of that house. They had so many guests that they referred to their house as their Inn, and kept a scrap book of guests and activities.



One of the women pictured here might well have been Orson's daughter Mabel. She was born in 1875 and would have been 38 at the time. I'll keep coming back to her.

And although almost all of the structures that would be built on the Pond were seasonal cabins - or "camps" - the Youngs hosted guests in winter and summer.





This three-page entry is a poem - maybe better described as an Ode - chronicling an ill-fated visit in January, 1915, by six friends who seemed to have foregone a trip to Florida to join Orson for a winter adventure.

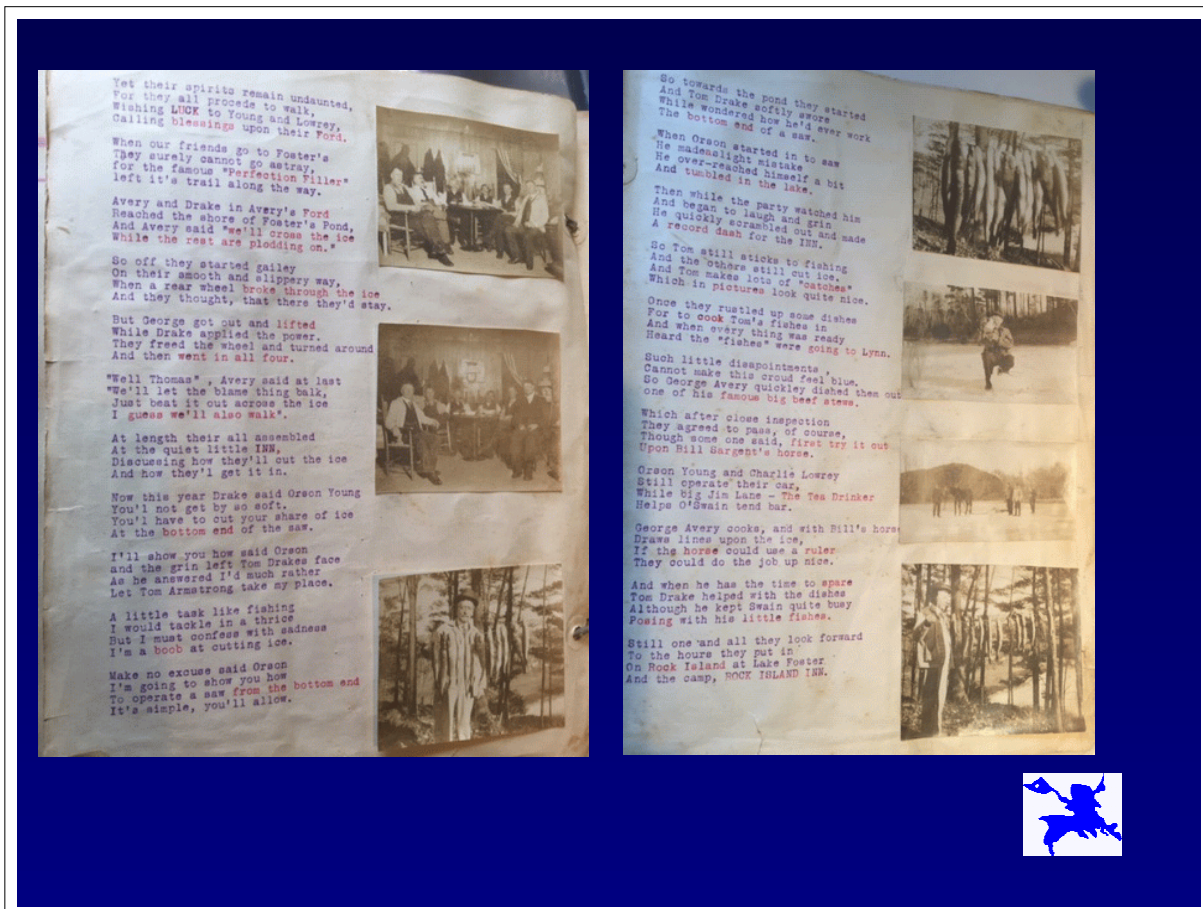
It's entitled, The Tale of Woe. I won't read the whole thing, but here's the gist:

There's a little spot we know of  
That has Florida beat to sin,  
In the little town of Andover,,  
Rock Island and its Inn.

The friends drove in two cars, a Packard which lost a wheel as it got to Andover,  
and a Ford which made it to the shore of the Pond.

Four of the guys decided to drive across the ice to the island.

So off they started gayly  
On their smooth and slippery way,  
When a rear wheel broke through the ice  
and they thought that there they'd stay.



The poem goes on:

George got out and lifted,  
While Drake applied the power,  
They freed the wheel and turned around  
And then went in all four.

So now with all four wheels in the water, the guests walked to the island and sought the advice of their host. [CLICK] Orson boasted that he would show them how to use an ice saw to free the car.

When Orson started in to saw  
He made a slight mistake.  
He over-reached himself a bit  
And tumbled in the lake.

Eventually, they got the car out with the help of a horse. They stayed at the Inn for several days, went ice fishing, ate what they caught, and also learned to use that saw to cut blocks of ice.. Cutting ice on Foster's Pond had become a big deal in the days before electric refrigerators.

1939

being a majority of the directors, or (having the powers of directors under authority of section 7 of chapter 180, General Laws), of

in compliance with the requirements of section 3 of chapter 180 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.), do hereby state that the following is a true copy of the agreement of association to form said corporation, with the names of the subscribers thereto:--

We, whose names are hereto subscribed, do, by this agreement, associate ourselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the provisions of chapter 190 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.), as amended.

The name by which the corporation shall be known is

FOSTER'S FOND CORPORATION

The location of the principal office of the corporation to be in Massachusetts is the residence of Andrew G. Robinson at Rock Island, Western Pond in Andover

The purposes for which the corporation is formed are as follows:—

to purchase, maintain, repair, and operate the dam regulating the flow of water from Posters Pond in the Town of Andover for the general benefit, improvement, and beautification of properties bordering on said Pond; to buy, sell, lease, mortgage or exchange such real property as shall be necessary for the proper control and maintenance of said Pond; and, in general to do all things which such a corporation may lawfully do.

The amount of its capital stock (if any) is	none	dollars
The par value of its shares is	none	dollars
The number of its shares is	none	

(If seven days' notice is waived, use the following form:)

We hereby waive all requirements of the General Laws of Massachusetts for notice of the first meeting for organization, and appoint the thirtieth day of October, 1939, at 3:00 o'clock P. M., at the residence of Ellswell Penney, Andover as the time and place for holding said first meeting.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto signed our names this thirtieth day of October in the year nineteen hundred and thirty-nine.

NAME	RESIDENCE	ADDRESS OF STUDENT
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NAME	(CITY OR TOWN; STREET AND NUMBER)	RESIDENCE
Chas. C. Fisher	55 Love Ave. Memphis	
Wm. A. Keller & Son	38 E. Main St. Memphis	
Wm. A. Keller	585 Main St. Memphis	
Wm. A. Keller	47 Commercial St. Memphis	
Charles Keller	51 Grand Ave. Memphis	
Andrew G. Robinson	69 Commerce St. Memphis	
Wm. A. Keller	60 Maple St. Memphis	
Wm. A. Keller	285 Union St. Memphis	
Wm. A. Keller	15 Montpelier Ave. Memphis	
Wm. A. Keller	18 Central St. Memphis	
Wm. A. Keller	10 Central St. Memphis	
Wm. A. Keller	10 Central St. Memphis	

Proper First Name should be Written in Full

Abbreviations are not sufficient.  
 Please add a complete list on the next page.



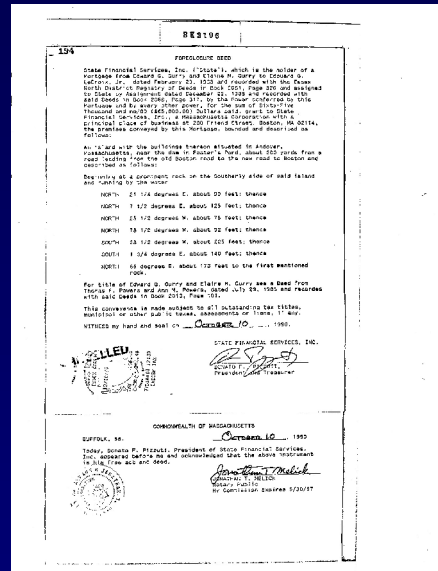
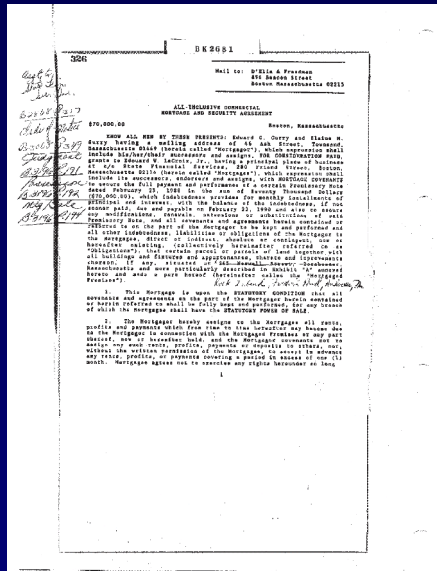
I don't know when Orson died, but he left the island to Mabel. She was married to Andrew Robinson, and they lived in Malden. The Robinsons continued to make active use of the house. Andrew was the first president of the Foster's Pond Corporation, and in 1939 he listed Rock Island as the new corporation's official address. Mabel was then 64.





In 1947, when Mabel was 72, friends in Malden gave her a parcel on Rattlesnake Hill Road, near the Dam. Her friends had bought the parcel some years earlier from Homer Foster himself.

In 1963, Mabel - who was by then a widow, 88 years old - gave that mainland property to some other friends who lived in Somerville, Tom Powers and his then wife. The Powers made the mainland parcel their year-round home. Then, in 1974, at the age of 99, Mabel gave the island to the Powers. Mabel died, in 1977, at the age of 102.




The Powers eventually aged out of caring for the island house. In 1985 they sold the island for \$35,000 to the rambunctious son of a neighbor who lived on Foster's Pond Road. Junior planned to build a bridge to the island, and in 1987 he took out a \$70,000 mortgage on the island - twice what he had paid for it two years earlier. But his finances turned to dust, and so did his dream. In 1990, the mortgage company foreclosed.

1991

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**ISLAND OPEN HOUSE & COOKOUT!**  
FOSTERS POND - ANDOVER  
Sunday, May 19th from 12:00- 4:00 pm!



Captain Jon Maren and his able-bodied scumate will sail you and your companions across Fosters Pond on a motored Pontoon boat to this rare and wonderful island. His crew will be serving food and drink to our visitors all afternoon!

OFFERED AT \$125,000  
OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE!


**PREVIEW PARADISE!!**  
Unique setting for a dream home, a nice site for a summer home or just a place to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life! Imagine waking up every morning to a beautiful water view - just walking out your front door and having all the exciting activities living on an island provides.... ice skating, fishing, windsurfing, canoeing, sailing, swimming..... it can all be yours year round on this private 2+ acre island!



There is a 100 year old 2 room 2 story antique Colonial (in need of repair) perched atop the island's peak. The island has an approved septic system design and is accessible by boat with deeded parking rights on shore. Conveniently located just 25 minutes from downtown Boston. PLUS - You will also be able to preview a wooded waterfront lot on Fosters Pond that we have available, offered at \$85,000.

We look forward to seeing you at this fun event!  
DIR: Rt. 28 (So. Main St.) to Rattlesnake to Fosters Pond. (Watch for signs.)

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Now the mortgage company owned Rock Island, but they proved just as feckless as the prior owner.

They tried to market the property as a luxury paradise, though they conceded that the house was in need of repair. It didn't sell.

Meanwhile, unbelievably, the mortgage company itself wasn't paying taxes.



*“This is a big victory for Andover . . .”*

Town Manager Reginald “Buzz” Stapczynski

## Court rules island belongs to Andover

By Shawn Regan

*Eagle-Tribune Writer*

ANDOVER — The state’s highest court has ruled Andover rightfully seized a small island in the middle of Posters Pond after the landowner failed to pay its taxes.

The case, town officials say, could have had a resounding impact on landowners and town governments statewide.

“This is a big victory for Andover, but it’s a huge victory for municipalities all over the state,” said Andover Town Manager Reginald “Buzz” Stapczynski. “If this had gone the other way, it would

have had huge implications. A lot of people were watching this case.”

The issue boiled down to whether or not the town properly notified the landowner, State Financial Services of Boston, that the land was about to be seized for failing to pay about \$22,000 in property taxes. The company claimed it never got a certified letter warning that the seizure was about to happen, but the state Supreme Court decided Tuesday that did not matter.

If Andover had lost, town governments across the state would

*Please see ISLAND, Page 2*

*Eagle Tribune, October 20, 2000*



In 1994 the Town took the island for non-payment of taxes.

How could a mortgage company - it was called State Financial Services - forget to pay taxes? That's a tale in itself. Seems that State Financial had its office in a Boston building which was under renovation and vacant, except for State Financial's office on the fifth floor. During the renovation, the elevators were blocked, there were no mailboxes, and no place to leave mail. The postman gave the mail to contractors working on the building and asked them to deliver it. It appears that tax bills and foreclosure notices didn't make to the 5th floor. When the town sent the final crucial certified letter, a contractor signed for it and then forgot to deliver it.

Two years later, State Financial heard a rumor (that's how they put it) that it had lost the property. State Financial sued the Town, saying the Town should have made sure that the warning letters actually made it into State Financial's hands. The case went all the way to the State's highest court. The decision was handed down in 2000. The Town won.



In 2003, the Town officially designated Rock Island as conservation land.

But that didn't make the house go away. And by then, it was a wreck. Kids said it was haunted. It was also a fire hazard.

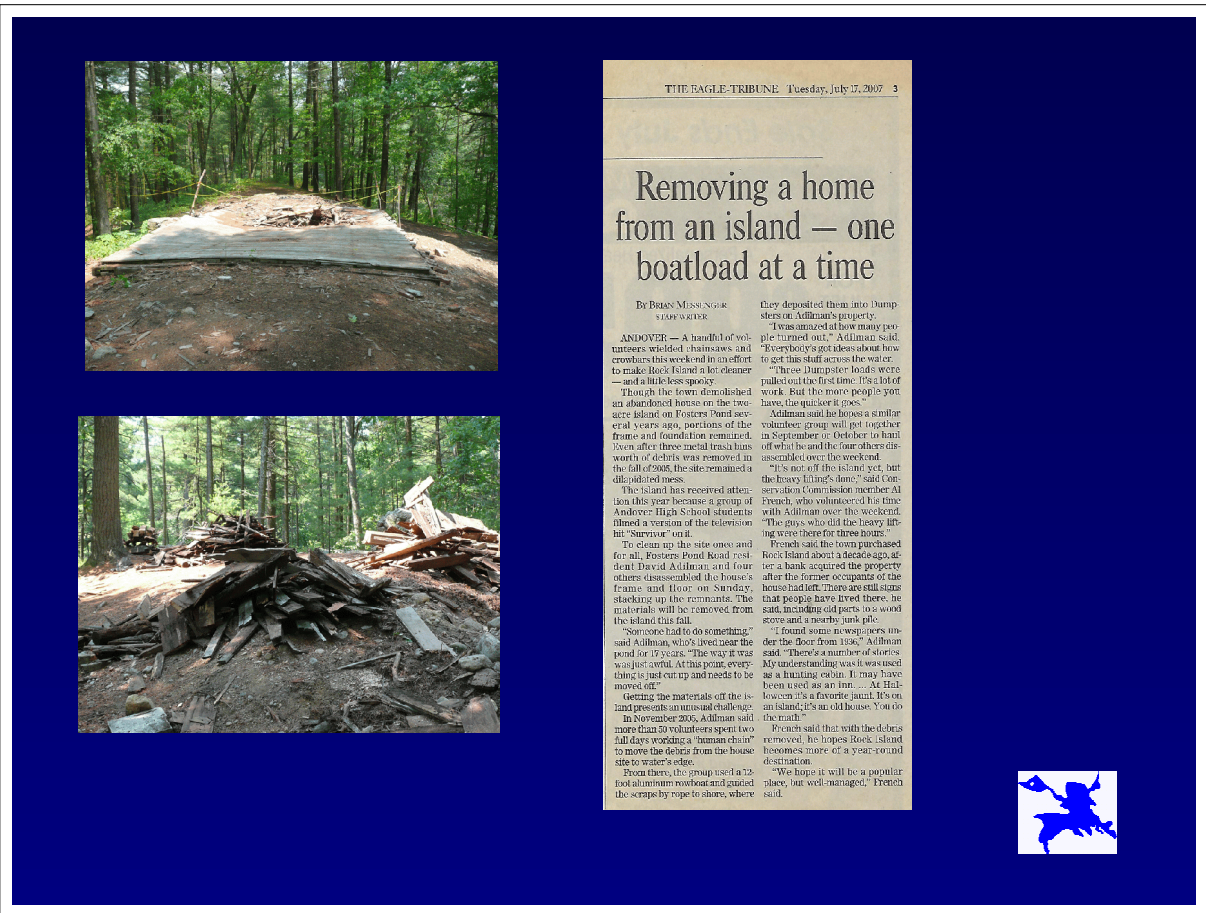
The Town sent a bulldozer over the ice to knock it down. That kept some very disappointed kids out, but didn't end the fire hazard. The picture on the upper left is the debris pile the Town left behind.

As it happened, the demolition coincided with the rescuscitation of the Foster's Pond Corporation, which had been dormant for 20 years. At our first meeting, that September, we unanimously voted to work with the Town to clear the debris.

The community organized a marathon two-day clean-up, drawing about 100 people. We wrestled 75 cubic yards of debris into boats and canoes and filled 3 dumpsters on the mainland.

That's a couple of Town officials and David Adilman, at the upper right. David spearheaded the effort.





The 2003 clean-up left the floor of the old house and its supporting beams behind.

Volunteers came back in July, 2007 to saw everything up into lengths that volunteers could carry by hand.

## Andover

## Volunteers sought for Rock Island debris cleanup

By CRYSTAL BOZAK  
STAFF WRITER

**ANDOVER** — The Foster's Pond Corporation is looking for volunteers to help remove the last of the debris from a two-story house that once stood on Rock Island.

Corporation members say the rubbish poses a safety risk and an unsightly view.

"We want it to be the conservation treasure it is, safer and pret-

**IF YOU GO**

**What:** Rock Island cleanup  
**When:** Saturday, 8 a.m.; rain date: Sunday  
**Where:** Meet at 15 Foster's Pond Road  
**Bring:** Work gloves

tier," President Stephen Cotton said. "It is the only town-owned island."

Last spring, a group of Andover High School students filmed their own version of the television hit

"Survivor" on the island. "It's a popular place," Cotton added.

The town demolished the abandoned house on the 2-acre island on Foster's Pond in 2003, after the town took ownership of the island for unpaid back taxes.

But the town left the debris.

The Foster's group has held several cleanups at the site in the past few years, with the last in July.

"We think this will do it. This will be the end," Cotton said.

"We need as many hands as we can get."

It should make for some interesting volunteer work.

Last time they moved debris, more than 50 volunteers formed a "human chain" in canoes to move the debris from the house site to water's edge.

From there, the group used a 12-foot aluminum rowboat and guided the scraps by rope to shore, where they deposited them into Dumpsters.



Then in October of 2007, thirty volunteers - including a cadre of Phillips Academy students and their supervisors - carried the nail-studded debris down the hill and into a rowboat, ferried it to the mainland, and filled another huge trash container.



# Survivor: Foster's Pond Island?

Andover High students producing their own reality TV show

By Crystal Bozek  
Staff Writer

ANDOVER — It is one of the weirdest requests Conservation Director Bob Douglas has ever come by — allow a group of high school seniors to take over Foster's Pond Island and stage their own reality television show.

"It's definitely the strangest 'serious' request," Douglas said. "We talked about opening our land to camping, but we were thinking more on the line of mom-and-dad-type trips."

The Conservation Commission plans to give the go-ahead anyway, so 12 students will compete in "Survivor: Foster's Pond Island" this week, using physical skill and manipulation to avoid being voted off the island.

The show will mimic CBS' popular "Survivor," one of the first profitable reality shows, which brings contestants to places like Fiji, Thailand and Africa to fight for \$1 million in the wilderness.

"We're trying to simulate 'Survivor' as much as possible. I can't discuss the challenges ... they won't be easy," said senior John Hamilton, one of the show's producers. "And the camera will always be rolling."

Foster's Pond Island, also called Rock Island, sits off Rattlesnake Hill Road.

The idea for a show began in teacher Joe Spanos' advanced television class last semester. It started as a gag, but quickly snowballed into a large-scale pro-

duction, with students spending dozens of hours working out the logistics.

"I didn't think it could be done, and they really just voted me right off the island," Spanos said.

Players won't stay on the typical remote island — Foster's Pond Island is a quick row to shore — and they do not have to build shelters or spear animals for food. And unlike the original, rain will cancel Andover's "Survivor." But the producers say contestants will wish they had stayed home by the end of the three-day game that starts Thursday afternoon.

Why?

Players can only bring what fits into their backpack. Cell phones, iPods and comfort foods are not allowed. The teenagers might not want to cut too much anyway, given that the bathrooms are two holes in the ground.

"This is 'Survivor.' It's something they'll have to deal with," said student producer Mark Branzetti. "It's become such a big deal."

Contestants will separate into two tribal councils at the game's start, and after every challenge, the losing council votes off a member. On the third day, the tribes merge. Two to three players will remain at the game's close that evening.

In between challenges, students have to do confessionals, where they disclose their strategy and secret feelings about other contestants to a camera.

The voted-off seniors will come back on the island as observers;

*"We're trying to simulate 'Survivor' as much as possible. I can't discuss the challenges ... they won't be easy."*

Senior John Hamilton

or in "Survivor" lingo, "the jury." Jury members pick the winner in June, after airing a one-hour version of the show to seniors the night before graduation. Organizers aren't sure what the prize will be, but they're shooting for something big.

"We've been looking for sponsors around town," Branzetti said.

"Survivor" fans will get a chance to see how Andover's version cuts it when the seniors air the show on cable access television over the summer. A lot of the show's success falls on math teacher Alan Hibino, the show's host and adult chaperone for the project.

"I thought this was a great idea. They're doing something special here," Hibino said. "I'll have to use this for my own 'Survivor' audition tape."

Hamilton and Branzetti, huge fans of the show, hope their student production crew does it justice.

"It's my favorite show of all time," Hamilton said. "I've had to stop watching altogether lately, because if I miss one, I freak out."

MONDAY  
APRIL 30, 2007

## 'Survivor: Foster's Pond Island'



Andover High School senior John Hamilton helps clean up Foster's Pond Island. She is among a group of students preparing the island for the filming of their version of CBS' hit television show "Survivor."

## Teens plan reality show

By Crystal Bozek  
Staff Writer

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Please see SURVIVOR, page 6



But the Island's media spotlight burned brightest in the spring of 2007 when a class of Andover High School students came up with the idea of staging their own version of "Survivor".

They drew up a plan, based on the format of the CBS series, and won support from school and town officials. At the Town's request, I polled nearby residents and found almost universal support in the community for letting the kids camp out on the island for the contest.

# Entertainment

## 'OUTWIT, OUTLAST, OUTPLAY'

Jaclynn Forster, an Andover High School senior, leads the blue team to its tribal council meeting during the taping of "Survivor: Andover" on an island in Foster's Pond last weekend. Several seniors are creating the video for their senior project. For more on the events of the three-day taping, please see Page 22.



## MEET THE 'SURVIVORS'

Producer John Hamilton will not reveal a winner until June 15, but you can check out the contestants and make your own guesses about who survived the three-day game.



**Jaclynn Forster, 18**  
**Strategy:** "Be kind. I will overcome. Don't be afraid. People are looking for threat."  
**Skill:** "I have people skills and I love talking to people."  
**Favorite reality show:** "America's Next Top Model."  
**College:** Johnson & Wales University



**Tom Jackson, 18**  
**Strategy:** "I have a strategy. I'll be a couple of people, but they aren't producing like I hoped they would. I feel very competitive."  
**Skill:** "I'm the only person who has basic card knowledge."  
**Favorite reality show:** "Survivor: All Stars."  
**College:** Quinnipiac University



**Dean Lieberman, 18**  
**Strategy:** "I will use the types of tactics I watched on the show. This is the one time I get to play 'Survivor.' I'm going to manipulate and strategize."  
**Skill:** "I know the game more than other people."  
**Favorite reality show:** "Amazing Race."  
**College:** Georgetown University



**Julie Barker, 18**  
**Strategy:** "We are all really anxious with our tribes. ... I just need to get up. I don't want to be a liability for my tribe."  
**Skill:** "I work well with people."  
**Favorite reality show:** "The Hills."  
**College:** University of Massachusetts at Lowell



**Erica DeBasse, 18**  
**Strategy:** "I try to be as kind as I can. ... Be a self-starter and help people on my team."  
**Skill:** "I've played sports."  
**Favorite reality show:** "American Idol."  
**College:** Johnson College



**Kim Carey, 17**  
**Strategy:** "I didn't have a strategy coming in, except for me to be the one and do the best I could."  
**Skill:** "I'm good with puzzles and mental challenges."  
**Favorite reality show:** "Laguna Beach."  
**College:** Boston College



**Frank Perrone, 18**  
**Strategy:** "Hopefully to win. ... I hope people are voting for me. I need to keep getting immunity and keep the majority on my side."  
**Skill:** "Captain no track team. I think speed is a big advantage."  
**Favorite reality show:** "Amazing Race."  
**College:** Boston College



**Rob Abasi, 18**  
**Strategy:** "To get to the final with my team. ... To stay loyal to the team and not be a liability."  
**Skill:** "I'm athletic. My strength really helps me. In one of the biggest kids on the island."  
**Favorite reality show:** "American Idol."  
**College:** James Madison University



**Dave Espinoza, 18**  
**Strategy:** "Do what's best for the team. I'm looking to keep a low profile. The people with the most skills will go."  
**Skill:** "Captain of swim team from Andover High School."  
**Favorite reality show:** "The Contender."  
**College:** University of South Carolina



**Liz Orem, 18**  
**Strategy:** "Stay a girl. You have to really stand up for yourself. You need to prove you're just as strong."  
**Skill:** "I'm pretty strong for a girl. I've done sports. I've been camping."  
**Favorite reality show:** "America's Next Top Model."  
**College:** Bridgewater State College



**Michael Bourgeois, 18**  
**Strategy:** "Try to get along with people. I'm the only one who brought cards for entertainment."  
**Skill:** "Confidence and competitive spirit."  
**Favorite reality show:** "Survivor."  
**College:** University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth



**Lindsay Kiang, 17**  
**Strategy:** "Get to know people and be nice, but be everyone's out."  
**Skill:** "I'm good at solving puzzles."  
**Favorite reality show:** "American Idol."  
**College:** Connecticut College of Art and Design



The local media went crazy covering the week-end ordeal.



## Hungry and tired, students guard big secret: Who won

By Crystal Bozek  
STAFF WRITER

Twelve Andover High School students diverged this morning from a wooded area outside Foster's Pond Island, but none are off guard. In fact, they're all in a state of high alert.



Andover High School seniors, John Hamilton, left, and Mark Bascetti, right, to cheer up Foster's Pond Island before taping.

Big 2. Before the show, the students in the woods were all in a state of high alert. The longer people look at the show, the more they realize it's not just a game, but a real-life experience.

Production crew members, who arrived on the island this morning, found the students in a state of high alert. The students were all in a state of high alert, and the production crew members were all in a state of high alert.

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## ► Andover High School

# 'Survivor: Andover' on sale to support television classes

By Crystal Bozek  
STAFF WRITER

ANDOVER — It's a chance to watch 12 local teenagers battle it out on an island — while whining about the lack of deodorant, food and cell phones.

"People will be able to see what we can do with the television production studio," student producer John Hamilton said. "I'm very proud of what we did. It's going to be just like watching 'Survivor' episodes."

The DVD chronicles Andover High School's version of the popular CBS show "Survivor," and was recorded during three days at Foster's Pond Island, a piece of town-owned conservation land near Rattlesnake Hill Road.

Twelve seniors raced canoes, held bricks in the air for an hour while standing barefoot on milk crates, and ate anchovies — all to avoid being voted off the tiny island by their peers.

And the weekend was full of backstabbing, a selling point in any reality show.

"They took it all very seriously," Hamilton said of the contestants. "This wasn't a joke."

Production students unveiled a shortened version of the show, revealing the winner, at a senior gathering last week. They edited footage up to the last minute.

Television production teacher Joe Spanos said he was impressed with the teenagers' production work and dedication. "You wouldn't think it was high school kids who made this,"

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

Frank Perrone '18 won the "Survivor: Andover" challenge, beating out 11 other seniors for a \$500 scholarship. The former captain of the high-school track team will attend Boston College in the fall.

Former Mr. Andover High School winner Dave Espindle '18, came in second place, winning a \$200 scholarship. He'll attend the University of Southern Carolina.

Local businesses and parents donated the money. New Balance also donated sneakers to all the contestants and crew.

Spanos said. "It's good quality. They spent a month editing this. It's entertaining."

People can buy a copy of the DVD, or a video of graduation and the senior slide show, for \$30 each. Call the television studio at 978-623-8634 or Joe Spanos at 978-687-9110.

Survivor also will begin airing on the local access channel soon.

"I hope we set some sort of precedent. That would be awesome," Hamilton said. "Maybe they can do a Real World or Big Brother next time. ... Just know it's a lot of work."

## Andover's teen 'Survivors' ready for TV

By Crystal Bozek  
STAFF WRITER

At the end of three days of recording, student producer John Hamilton declared himself satisfied with the footage — and the backstabbing. He had enough to create a reality TV show.

Now, he will turn that footage into an hourlong episode to be premiered the night before Andover High graduation.

Twelve Andover High School seniors descended on Foster's Pond Island last Thursday to compete in their own version of CBS' hit reality TV show "Survivor."

Contestants outwitted one other, formed alliances, broke them, made accusations, cried and even vomited.

"Some people aren't taking this game seriously," confidant Dean Lieberman said, visibly annoyed with some of his cast-

■ Who's who among the challengers: Page 19.  
■ A 'Survivor's' diary: Page 22.

mates. "Right now, some people are seeing this as a camping trip. ... This is a competition."

In the games, contestants are separated into tribes, and undergo challenges. The losing team must vote someone off.

"The voting off has gotten pretty emotional," cast member Frank Perrone said Friday. "When people are your friends, it's hard."

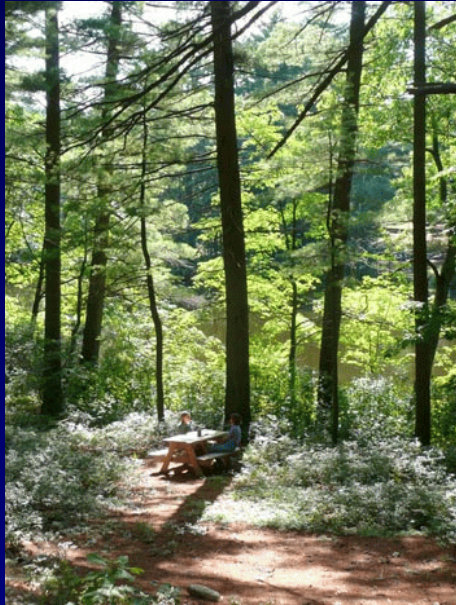
The lack of food only added to the drama. The teens stayed on the island for three days, but contestants said living on handouts of Unex Mix, dried fruit and water made it feel like an eternity. And there were no iPods or cell phones either.

"We're from Andover. We don't really go out in the woods," contestant Rob Abasi mockingly said of the situation.

The kids taped the whole thing. They were part of a class studying television production. They edited the tape into a 4-hour DVD which went on sale for \$20.

As the Eagle Tribune reporter noted, "It's a chance to watch 12 local teenagers battle it out on an island - while whining about the lack of deodarnt, food and cell phones."





Today, the Island is a peaceful picnic spot, home to mallards and occasionally beavers. It is a treasured feature of our local landscape. One might be tempted to say that it rocks on.





Because this is the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, we have some small bits of business to conduct. I promise, this won't take long.

We have four votes to take.

## Approval of Minutes

---

- April 26, 2022 Annual Meeting (video)
- August 20, 2022 Summer Meeting



There are two sets of minutes to approve. Both have been posted on-line so that we don't have to make a lengthier presentation.

First, in lieu of written minutes, we posted the entire video of our 2022 meeting.

Second, we posted the minutes of our 2022 Summer Meeting, as well.

May I have a motion to approve the minutes? 2d? All in favor say Aye? Opposed, No.

The ayes have it, and the Minutes are approved.



# Foster's Pond Corporation


www.fosterspond.org  
% David Brown, Treasurer  
31 Glenwood Road  
Andover, Ma 01810-6250

## TREASURER'S REPORT

For Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2022

<b>Assets</b>	
Checking Account balance 12/31/2022	\$12,750.08
Money Market Account balance 12/31/2022	5,254.87
Certificate of Deposit - Eastern Bank	50,734.60
Accounts receivable: NFG contributions	433.70
Undeposited Funds	990.00
Total Assets 12/31/2022	\$70,163.25
Total Assets 12/31/2021	\$75,873.40
Net change in Assets for year ending 12/31/2022	-\$5,710.15
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Prepaid dues & contributions for 2022	\$0.00
Accounts Payable: Solitude Lake Management	1,560.00
Net income for year ending 12/31/2022	-\$2,770.15
<b>Income</b>	
Dues Income	\$4,850.00
14 Individual memberships	
40 Family memberships	
29 Sustaining memberships	
Contributions (not including dues payments or grants)	\$14,150.00
71 Households	
Grants	
Boston Foundation (for dam & pond maintenance)	15,000.00
Interest Income	26.90
Amazon Smile contributions	50.85
Total Income	\$34,077.75
<b>Expenses</b>	
Dam Maintenance	\$ 652.98
Pond Maintenance	31,493.47
General Administration	1,009.44
FFC Picnic	432.01
Property Maintenance	3200.00
Total Expenses	\$36,847.90
Net Income	-\$2,770.15

Respectfully Submitted,

  
David Brown  
Treasurer

Report revised April 8, 2023



This report was also posted on-line, and, as promised, our Treasurer is not going to read it. But I will ask Dave Brown to give an update on this year's contributions.

So once again, I will take a vote. All in favor of adopting the Treasurer's report say AYE. Opposed, NAY.

The ayes have it, and the Treasurer's Report is accepted.

Thank you, Dave.

# Election of Directors

---

- Nominated for re-election for two-year terms ending December 31, 2024:
  - ▶ David Adilman
  - ▶ Steve Ellis
  - ▶ Dot Tyler



Under the by-laws, the Board of Directors consists of five directors and the four officers. The directors are elected for staggered terms of two years.

I recognize Katie Workman to make a motion.

Katie: I NOMINATE FOR RE-ELECTION AS DIRECTORS DAVID ADILMAN, STEVE ELLIS, AND DOROTHY TYLER.

STEVE: Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, we'll vote on this slate. If you are in favor of re-electing these directors, please say AYE. If you are opposed, say NAY.

The ayes have it. The directors are re-elected. I would like to thank all of the directors, including Amy Janovsky and Katie Workman, for the support and wisdom they contribute to this organization.



# Election of Officers

---

- Nominated for re-election for 2023:
  - ▶ President: Steve Cotton
  - ▶ Vice-President: Marty Rabinowitz
  - ▶ Treasurer: Dave Brown
  - ▶ Secretary: Janet Kenney



Under the by-laws, officers are elected for a term of one year.

I will turn to Katie once again:

Katie I NOMINATE FOR RE-ELECTION AS OFFICERS :

STEVE COTTON, PRESIDENT  
MARTY RABINOWITZ, VICE PRESIDENT  
DAVID BROWN, TREASURER  
JANET KENNEY, SECRETARY

STEVE: I should note that three of the officers - Janet, Dave, and myself - have served since the FPC was reconstituted in 2003, and Marty has served nearly that long. That's 20 years. I want to thank my fellow officers for their invaluable contribution and their endurance. I also want to say that all of us are well aware of the need to plan for succession. We would welcome younger members of the community to take a more active role in the governance of the Corporation. I invite you to talk to me or another officer or director about becoming more engaged.

Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I am going to ask you to indicate whether you are for or against the motion to re-elect these officers.

If you are in favor, say AYE. Opposed, say NAY.

The ayes have it, and the officers are re-elected.

Again, I want to thank my fellow officers for the work they do, without which the FPC could not function.

And that concludes the formal business meeting.

# **The Main Event:**

## **‘Bringing Back the Buzz: Fostering Biodiversity Around Foster’s Pond’**



Our featured speaker this evening is Amy Janovsky.

Amy is the Land Stewardship lead for AVIS. She is also a long-time member of the FPC Board of Directors. Amy has served on a number of Town committees. She has also been an effective force behind the scenes influencing Town policies on a variety of environmental matters. Amy has a B.S. in Biology from Beloit College; a Master's Degree in Forest Science from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (now the Yale School of the Environment); and a Certificate in Invasive Plant Management from the University of Massachusetts. And she has labored for 32 years to restore balance and biodiversity to her Snowberry Road property, which (like the entire Morningside Drive area) is situated on a former gravel quarry.

# What's Next

- Updates on the Dam and the Pond
- Looking Ahead to 2023
- New Business, Wildlife Reports, Questions, and Comments



Next up, I'll summarize how the Dam and the Pond fared in 2022, and let you know what's on the program for this year. That should take about 20 minutes.

Then I'll open the floor to more questions for Amy or me, comments, and New Business.



Maintaining our pre-Civil War dam was the main reason Homer Foster lobbied the community for ten years to create the Corporation. The Dam is beautiful, but as the mill owners and Homer found out, maintaining it is challenge.





The Dam, fortunately, seems to be in pretty good shape. Last year, the most significant expense was the replacement of the three oak stop logs which allow the water level to be lowered during the winter.

You may have noticed that the Dam was thoroughly tidied up at the end of March. A Woburn-based lawn care company, Organic Soil Solutions, provides us some of that work for free and the rest at a reduced rate.

This year, the grass cover on southerly crest of the dam needs some restoration work. Organic Soil Solutions will be rototilling and reseedling that area. The grass, incidentally, is essential to resisting erosion on the crest, and reseedling that portion of the crest was the only remedial recommendation made by our engineering consultant at our last safety inspection.

And that's all I have to report on the Dam.



Managing nuisance vegetation is by far the most expensive undertaking of the Corporation year to year. We aim to safeguard the ecological balance of the Pond, and to protect public health.



Blue-green algae can cause gastro-intestinal problems in kids, and can be fatal to pets.



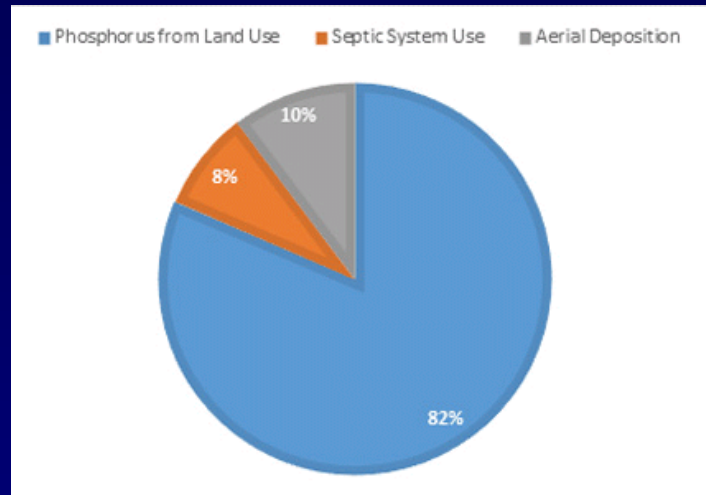
Like a lot of other ponds in Massachusetts, we have to contend with blue-green algae . This is a bloom I photographed from my dock in the Main Pond a couple of years ago.

Blue-green algae is nasty stuff. It's especially bad for kids and pets. We've had to treat the Pond with copper sulfate most years since 2012. We contract with a laboratory to analyze water samples that volunteers draw from three locations so we can make informed decisions about when we need to treat. We treated the Pond once last year.

Copper sulfate works, and it's relatively cheap. It kills the algae it comes in contact with. But it doesn't prevent algae, and each treatment only lasts for a short time. Copper sulfate sinks to the bottom, where it has no more effect on algae and just accumulates, albeit in small amounts. The less often we have to use it, the better.



## Algae and Phosphorous



Algae need phosphorous to grow. Of the 255 pounds of phosphorous entering the Pond each year, 208 pounds come from stormwater run-off.



The alternative to chemical control is prevention. The key is to starve the algae of a vital nutrient, and that usually means phosphorous. Which is why you're always hearing about the need to use detergents and fertilizers with low or no phosphates.

Here are some figures for Foster's Pond, from the Watershed-Based Plan we commissioned in 2017. Most of the phosphorous that flows into the Pond comes from stormwater runoff. That's the blue piece on the pie chart.

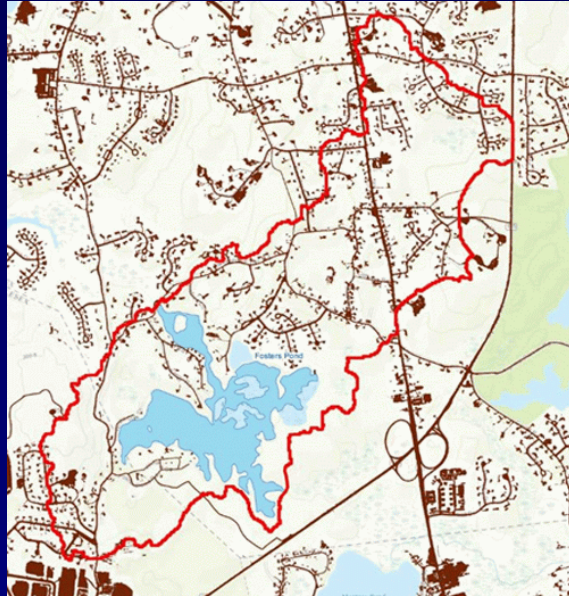
Now a major portion of the phosphorous in stormwater run-off can't be controlled. It comes from the decomposition of organic matter in woodlands surrounding the Pond, and we're not going to pave them.

But a significant amount of the phosphorous in stormwater run-off can be reduced.

## Algae and Phosphorous

Stormwater run-off anywhere in the Pond's 1.5 sq. mi. watershed eventually can flow into the Pond.

Residential land use contributes an estimated 72 pounds of P. We could markedly reduce algae if we cut P loading by just 25 pounds.



This is the Pond's 1.5 square mile watershed, outlined in red. It extends as far north as Orchard Street (north of Faith Lutheran Church), as far east as Rt 125, down southwest to Fiorenza Drive and Ashwood Avenue off Andover Street in Wilmington.

Within the red lines, all streams, gulleys, catchbasins, and run-off from storms lead to Foster's Pond.

If we could reduce the overall annual phosphorous loading into Foster's Pond by just 10% - 25 pounds out of the 255 pound total - our algae problems could be very close to eliminated.

# Algae and Phosphorous

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Residential land use contributes an estimated 72 pounds of P. We could markedly reduce algae if we cut P loading by just 25 pounds.



Foster's Pond Corporation  
[www.fosterspond.org](http://www.fosterspond.org)

How YOU Can Help Protect Foster's Pond!

- ✓ "Just say No" to fertilizer. Lawn fertilizer is transported to Foster's Pond by storm water runoff, fueling algae blooms that reduce water clarity and can lead to closures. Use natural alternatives to lawn and garden chemicals and establish low-maintenance, native vegetation on your property.
- ✓ Build a raingarden to manage stormwater runoff from your property. Raingardens protect water quality while beautifying your home and neighborhood! For more information, see <http://trial.psu.edu/cap5cap50001.pdf>
- ✓ Rain barrels are a great way to re-use rainwater from roofs for gardening and landscaping. A rain barrel will save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months. Diverting this water from storm drains also decreases the impact of runoff to streams. Rain barrels can be purchased at many home and garden centers.
- ✓ Keep litter, leaves, and debris out of street gutters and storm drains. Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly. Do not dump these products in storm drains. These outlets drain directly into Foster's Pond or streams that flow into the Pond.
- ✓ Don't feed waterfowl! Bread and snack food are harmful to waterfowl. Feeding discourages winter migration and encourages large bird flocks that degrade the Pond and its shorelines with droppings that contribute to the growth of toxic algae.
- ✓ Pick up after your pet! Use biodegradable doggie bags to collect pet waste. Don't dispose of pet waste in storm drains.
- ✓ Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.



That is not an easy task. But here are some of the things each of us can do. This one-page list is on our web site. It's taken from our Watershed-Based Plan. Please take some time to read it, download it, print it out and pin it up as a reminder.



**2022:**

**Treatment of 14.5 Acres  
to Control Fanwort**



**Before we began our lake  
management program in  
2005, fanwort was the  
dominant plant in the Pond.**



Before we started managing the Pond, fanwort covered more than half the open water. It's a terrible invasive that smothers native plants. It provides poor habitat for fish and animals. It becomes so dense it can actually suffocate fish.

We're controlling it, but it's a never-ending battle. Its occurrence in the Pond goes up and down - it was at about 7.4% last August, before divers went to work, which means it probably came down to about 5%. It's almost impossible to eradicate completely. In recent years, we've been going after smaller infestations as they re-emerge, using a combination of chemical treatments and hand-pulling by professional divers.

**2022**

## **Fanwort Treatment**



**Two areas were treated for fanwort last year**



When an infestation of fanwort gets too dense, or it is intertwined with lilies, the only effective control is an herbicide. called fluridone, sold under the brand name Sonar

The map shows the limited areas, about 14.5 of the Pond's 120 acres, where we treated fanwort last year. On the right is a team from our consultant, Solitude Lake Management, using a spreader to broadcast herbicide-infused clay pellets. The herbicide is slowly released as the pellets dissolve. The spreader is controlled by a callibrator linked to a GPS system which tracks the speed and location of the boat, so that the concentration of the herbicide can be set and maintained.

**2022**

## **Diver Hand-Pulling**

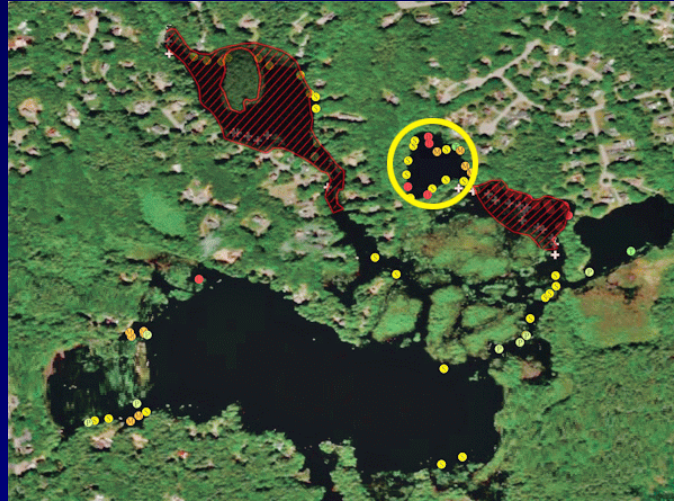


We deployed professional divers at the end of August and early September to attack smaller stands of fanwort, pulling out plants one at a time, by the roots. It's an alternative to chemical treatment, but the job is difficult and unpleasant. As soon as the diver reaches for a plant, the sediment swirls up, turning the water to the color of strong coffee and blinding the diver. And it's delicate work, because fragmenting the fragile plants sends off pieces that will float away and root elsewhere, starting new infestations.

The divers worked in all of the areas indicated on the map to the right. They spent 10 days on the Pond and pulled out an astounding 7 cubic yards of fanwort.

**2023**

## **Potential Fanwort Target Areas**



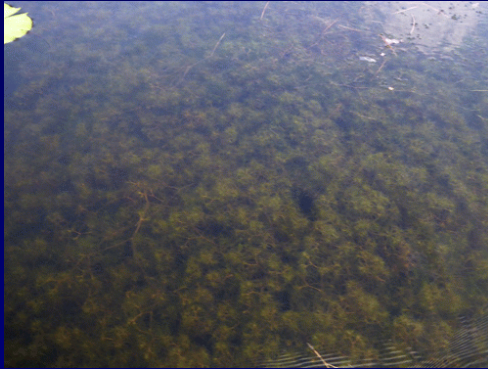
Last August, a biologist from Solitude observed fanwort at the locations noted by the different-colored points on this map. (The colors represent levels of density.) As you saw in an earlier slide, the two cross-hatched areas were chemically treated last year, and will be fanwort free, or pretty close to it, this year.

Solitude recommended that we treat Dug Pond (that's in the circle) in 2023, and that we deploy divers to hand-pull fanwort observed elsewhere. That's what we plan to do this year, assuming approval by the Conservation Commission. We'll have an early-season survey done to update this fanwort map so that the divers can go directly to the targets and don't have to spend time searching for infestations.



**2023**

## **Spiny Naiad Treatment**



Spiny naiad is another invasive that, when it crops up, we need to treat with a chemical.

Spiny naiad, like fanwort, forms a dense monoculture that overcomes native vegetation but doesn't provide habitat for fish and other wildlife. And, like fanwort, it spreads easily and is almost impossible to eradicate.

The only effective control is chemical treatment. Spiny naiad is too brittle for divers to remove. In 2020, we treated an infested area in the Channel. We haven't needed to treat for the last couple of years, but if some emerges this Summer, we will be prepared to treat.

**2023:**

**Possible Copper Sulfate Treatment of Blue-Green Algae**

- Same treatment regimen we've used successfully since 2013
- We'll only treat if blue-green algae are detected and water clarity drops



We'll treat for blue-green algae this year if there are high algae counts. We'll have volunteers monitoring the Pond and taking samples. As to whether we'll need to treat, that largely depends on heat and precipitation.

Monitoring for blue-green algae, and figuring out when to treat, is harder than it may sound, and we are amateurs, not experts. The Pond may get cloudy and develop surface scum for reasons having nothing to do with blue-green algae - for example, pollen, benign forms of algae, or other organisms. Copper sulfate kills algae on contact but doesn't stay in the water column very long. Treat before the algae come on, and you've accomplished nothing. Wait too long, and it's too late to prevent a dangerous bloom.

Lab tests are expensive, and with our modest budget, we can't afford frequent testing. We need to make judgment calls on when we ship samples to the lab. Our the field work is done by volunteers. I'd like to give a shout-out to John Lugas, Al Barber, and David Adilman,. They've shared the the work of monitoring the Pond, taking samples, and shipping them to the lab. Thanks, guys.

## Water Use Restrictions: Weed and Algae Treatments

---

- Treated areas will be closed for fishing, swimming & boating for the day of any treatment
- Sonar treatment for fanwort
  - Treated water should not be used for irrigation for 90 days from first treatment
- Diquat (Reward) treatment for spiny naiad
  - Water within 200 feet of treated areas should not be used for irrigation or consumed by pets for 5 days.



All of the treatments we undertake are performed by our lake management consultant, under a permit approved by the State and in accordance with an Order of Conditions approved by the Andover Conservation Commission.

None of the herbicides we use carry any restrictions on recreational use of the Pond - swimming, boating or fishing, but we close the Pond, or the affected areas, on the day of treatment to minimize the possibility that anyone gets too close to the craft that's applying the chemical or interrupts the calibration. And we don't want anyone getting run over if our consultant is using an airboat.

All of these herbicides are approved for use in public drinking water supplies.

The only longer-lasting restrictions apply to using Pond water for irrigation, and sometimes for letting pets drink the water.

Irrigation advisories for this year's fanwort treatment will affect only Dug Pond. Diquat treatments affect irrigation and pets for shoreline properties near treated water, but we won't know whether they will be needed until June or July, after the pre-treatment survey.

I try to notify potentially affected residents through our email list, and I put information up on the web site, and post appropriate streets, mailbox clusters, and public access locations.

## 2023 Hydro-raking

- Each participating shoreline owner pays
- Anticipated to start June 5



Photo by Jim Cyrier



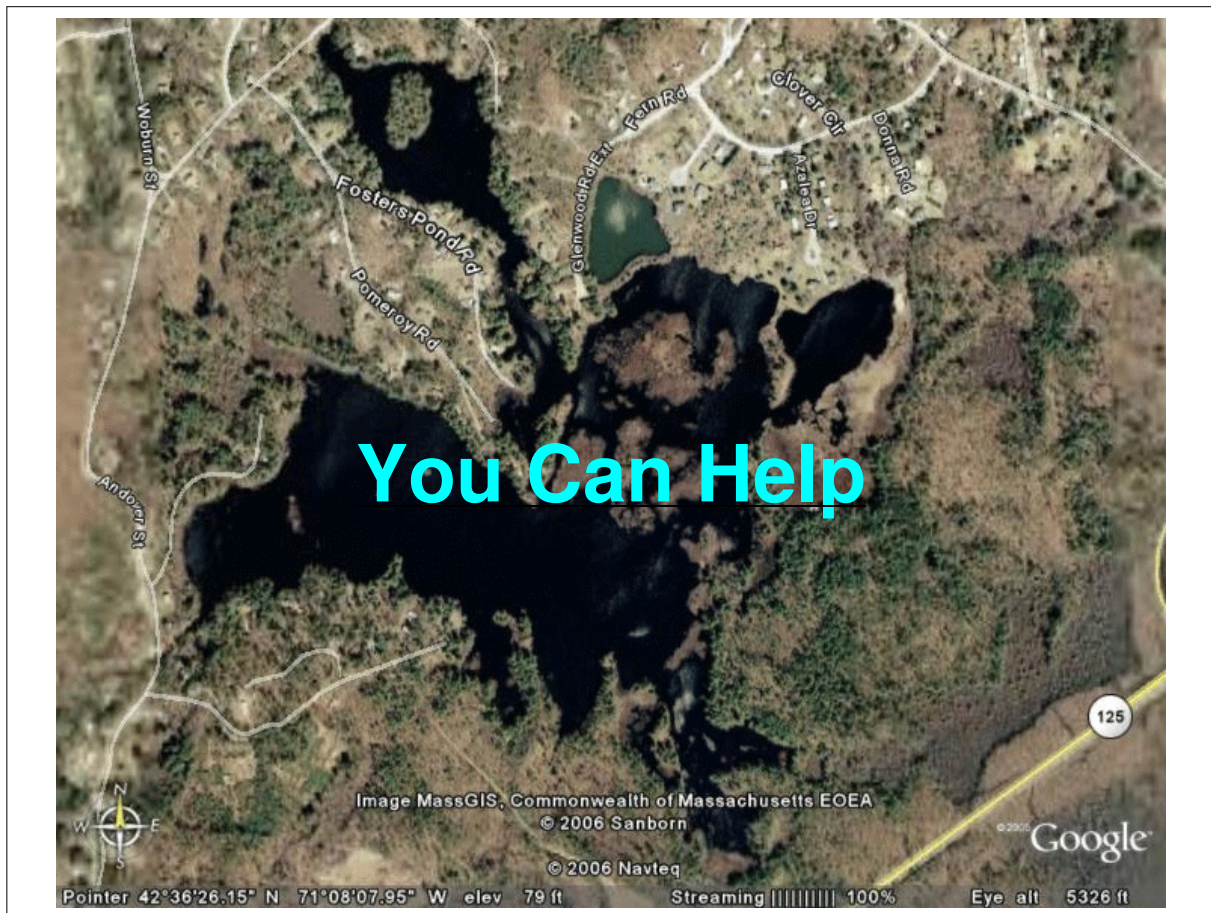
Finally, I just wanted to mention hydro-raking, which is another component of managing the Pond.

We hydro-rake in the spring when the water is up, letting the rake navigate to hard-to-reach shorelines. Also, it's still too cold to swim, so raking doesn't interfere with recreational uses. We had just 5 participants last year but we'll have 14 this year.

The rake removes organic matter which contains nutrients, and nutrient reduction contributes to the health of the Pond. But the primary benefit goes to the shoreline owner, so the Corporation does not pay for the work.

Hydro-raking is subject to an annual vote by the Conservation Commission approving the list of participants.





We have plenty of opportunities for volunteers to lend a hand. The FPC is only as active and effective as the volunteers who step up.

## Please Volunteer

---

- Water quality observations
- Take on a WBP project
- Administration & communications
- If you live on the Pond, host the 2023 Summer Picnic

If you would like to help with water quality observations, and have a means of getting around the Pond, please let me know.

If you live on the Pond - or are a visitor - and observe fanwort anywhere, please let me know. I will pass the information along to our consultant or the divers. But please don't rake fanwort or try to pull it out yourself. It's fragile, you'll create fragments, and that will just spread it.

I mentioned the Watershed-Based Plan. Please read the summary on the web site. At the end, there's a list of projects that cry out for volunteer leadership. If there's something that appeals to you, let me or Amy know.

And if you'd like to contribute time to administrative chores, communications, or anything else we do or you think we should be doing, drop me an e-mail.

Finally, I'm in the market for a shoreline venue for this year's annual summer picnic. This will be the 18th in the modern era - the tradition actually dates back to 1927.



Now it is time for New Business.



