



BIG POND ASSOCIATION E-NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019

Here are a few quick updates regarding the approaching *Summer of 2019*. There will be much more information in the upcoming **Big Pond Association Newsletter**, which at this point, will be mailed, and is due out later this spring/early summer.



Mass Turnpike Interchange Study - Otis Possibility

There has been an I-90 Interchange Study Working Group that is being charged with providing a feasibility study for adding an exit on the Massachusetts Turnpike between the Westfield and Lee exits. The study started with seven locations which is now down to three, two in Blandford and one off of Algeria Road in Otis. The Otis option is the most expensive at this point.

Their next meeting is sometime in the Spring. A draft final report is planned to be issued in April/May and a Public Meeting is to be scheduled. Many members of the Big Pond community have been following this and have voiced concerns regarding potential traffic issues and the impact on the Big Pond watershed.

The following are my takeaways from attending the meeting on February 7, 2019:

- ◆ A new interchange is not a foregone conclusion. There may be no reason to have an interchange at all. It kind of feels that way.
- ◆ A more detailed analysis would be required if a recommendation is made. Construction would be about 10 years out.
- ◆ It appears that the Otis option is not the best option. Hopefully the final feasibility study confirms that.

The latest information can be found at www.mass.gov and type in the search bar "I-90 Interchange Study."

George Townsend
President BPA

2019 TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Big Pond Association Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 29 10am
Camp Bonnie Brae

Big Pond Day
Saturday, July 20
Kayak/Canoe Poker Run
12:30pm to 4:00pm - Pot Luck Supper 5:30pm

Camp Bonnie Brae Work Day
Saturday, August 10 9am
Tentative

Big Pond Regatta
Sunday, July 14 1:30pm
Northwest cove near Town Beach

New Event!
Big Pond Rocks!
July 13 *Time TBD*
Rain Date August 10

Big Pond Golf Outing
Saturday August 3 2pm
Edgewood Golf Course
Southwick, MA

Call For Photos! Big Pond Association 2020 Calendar

The 2020 Calendar is off to a good start with a number of great fall entries from our last photo contest. However, we still need other photos for the other three seasons. If you have good fall photos, send those in too. Preferably we would like to have all the photos in hand by May 15th, so that photos can be selected and sent to the printer by June 1st. Remember, landscape (wide/horizontal) photos are preferred as they print better than portrait (tall/vertical) photos. Entries can be sent to webmaster@bigpondassociation.com.

Lynn Vedovato and Jarrod Orszulak



Fall Photo Contest Winner
John Cuzzone



Big Pond Broadband Update **Daniel E. Wollman MD, PhD**

The Otis Broadband project is moving along quickly. Residents on the east shore of Big Pond are already connected to the internet. Rumor has it, Roger Zimmerman was the first (or at least one of the first) to be connected. In between the meager snowfalls this winter, Sertex, the wiring contractor, installed the strand, which is the supporting structural cable, along with the actual fiber optic cable throughout the west shore of Big Pond. The fiber optic cable segments must now be spliced together and then tested for integrity. This aspect of the project is essentially the most straightforward and is already being performed throughout Otis. You may notice rolls of fiber secured on utility poles even along Rt. 23 toward Monterey.

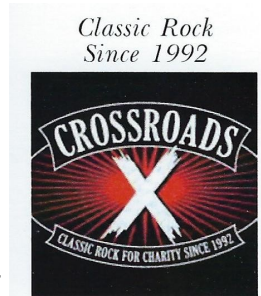
According to Bill Hiller, the most challenging aspect of the project involves the residential hookups. The installation crews are able to process approximately 3 homes daily. There is some consideration being given to increasing the number of crews this spring to help complete the project. For additional information and to sign up for service, visit www.otisfiber.com, or feel free to give me a call or stop by to chat.

New Event

Big Pond Rocks!

Saturday, July 13, 2019
Rain Date August 10

Stay tuned for more information in the Spring Newsletter regarding our summer concert for the Big Pond community, thanks once again to the generosity of the Greenough/Zimmerman/Magovern clan. Music will be provided by Crossroads, an 11 piece band, featuring multiple singers and a 4 piece horn section, playing a varied repertoire which includes, Chicago, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Tower of Power, Motown, to Amy Winehouse, Sia and Tom Petty. They originate out of West Hartford and have played all over New England. Time and details TBD.



Think of Big Pond When Using Amazon.com

The Big Pond Association is now set up with Amazon Smile. In summery, when you select the Big Pond Association, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase total to the BPA. Go to this web address, <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3106683> before shopping on Amazon. If it doesn't say 'Amazon Smile' and 'Big Pond Association' at the top of your web page, something isn't correct and we will not get a donation.

Disclaimer: Shop on Amazon.com as you normally would. The BPA will receive no information regarding who made purchases or what was purchased. We receive a quarterly donation, nothing else.



Don't forget to join Camp Bonnie Brae for a lakeside party on August 17th and 18th this summer to help celebrate their **100th Anniversary**. Information can be found on the following link. <http://www.gscwm.org/content/gscwm/en/events/special-events/camp-bonnie-brae-100th-anniversary.html>

Big Pond Association

Membership Application/Renewal 2019

The Big Pond Association is a 501c3 Tax Exempt Organization. Your dues and any additional contributions are fully tax deductible. We at Big Pond are in the enviable position of preserving a beautiful body of water. Most lakes in the region already are deeply involved in incredibly expensive efforts to fight invasive weeds and excessive nutrients. The future of Big Pond will be a product of our awareness, efforts and generosity.

Big Pond Association Family Membership	\$25
Silver Membership Includes a 2020 Big Pond calendar	\$50
Gold Membership Includes a 60x72" microfleece blanket with Big Pond laser imprint	\$100+

Please mail yours in now, while it is fresh in your mind

Name _____

Amount Paid _____

Please mail dues to:

Janice Hills
110 Church Street
Ware, MA 01082

PLEASE email webmaster@bigpondassociation.com with any updates to your mailing and / or email address. You can add as many family members as you like to the email list.

Email addresses are used for BPA cottage inspection notification, newsletter and event updates.