

Community Land and Water Coalition



NEWSLETTER

April 17, 2024

communitylandandwater.org
sandwarsoutheasternma.org

Victories and updates from the Southeastern Massachusetts campaigns to protect our land and waters!



Open Forum on Land and Water Draws Big Crowd at Plymouth Library!

The March 27 grassroots forum co-hosted by CLWC and the Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance was a huge success! About 120 people from across the region shared information and concerns about threats to our Sole Source Aquifer, rivers and ponds, forests, wildlife and community character. Meg Sheehan urged people to **get involved in local government - vote, attend meetings, join boards and committees!** We will hold a second forum in June. Stay tuned!

The forum recording is [here](#). The presentations and press release are on [CLWC's website](#).

Major Victory in Grassroots Campaign to Stop Plymouth Airport Expansion

April 6, 2024. Plymouth Town Meeting voted **117 to 26 to DENY funding** for the Plymouth Airport Expansion. This is a major grassroots victory. While the fight isn't over, it sends a strong message to the Plymouth Select Board: the public will oppose expansion until the Select Board addresses the intolerable noise, toxic air pollution and other harms to the community. Read the Plymouth Independent article on [the vote here](#).

- Join the campaign!
Take Back Our Plymouth Airport
 Contact: TakeBackOurPlymouthAirport@yahoo.com
 Join @NOPE2 on Facebook
- Sign the Petition
 Attend monthly meetings of Airport Commissioners
 1st Thursday of the month - next meeting **May 2, 7:00 pm**
 Stay informed: study of the Airport's impact on our drinking water coming soon!
 Read more >>> [CLWC blog](#)

Sand Mining



Carver grants permits for \$30 million in more sand mining

Above: EJ Pontiff Cranberry starts clearing land, for massive sand mine. April, 2024

Two "cranberry" companies claim sand mines are agriculture, exempt from law
 They expose drinking water to contamination, destroy forests

EJ Pontiff Cranberry Co. has started clear-cutting 17 acres of forests at 104 Tremont Street in Carver. This new years-long sand mine will bring in about \$15 million in revenue. [Read more >>here](#)

A.D. Makepeace Cranberry Co. is expanding its massive sand mines at 46 Federal Road in Carver. This mine will also take years and extract about \$15 million in sand revenue. [Read more>>here](#)

Take Action!

Sign the petition to Gov. Healey, Carver, Plymouth and Wareham Officials for a sand mining moratorium!

[Click here!](#)

Call and write state and local officials to stop sand mining!

- Carver:**
 Select Board Chair: Mark Townsend, mark.townsend@carverma.gov
 Earth Removal Committee: Scott Hannula, Chair, earthremoval@carverma.gov
 Conservation Commission: Savery Moore, Chair, savery.moore@carverma.gov

- MassDEP:**
 Commissioner: Bonnie Heiple, 617-292-5856, Bonnie.Heiple@mass.gov
 Wetland Section Chief SERO: Dan Gilmore, daniel.gilmore@state.ma.us
 Mass Attorney General's Office, Environmental Protection Division, Betsy Harper, Chief betsy.harper@mass.gov

Attend the Carver Conservation Commission meeting, April 24, 2024

Sand mining in Plymouth: just "expanding the Industrial Park" – Really?

Plymouth Independent reports on "that giant excavation site on Route 3" in Plymouth. This is not just "expansion of the Industrial Park" as some claim. Find out why here: [CLWC's blog](#).



Right: Photo courtesy of Plymouth Independent

More Take Action To Stop Sand Mining!

- Carver: Wed. April 24: Attend the next Town of Carver **Earth Removal Committee meeting**. Check [the website](#) and email the chair of the committee Scott Hannula of Ova Hannula Cranberry Co. with any questions! earthremoval@carverma.gov
- Carver: Attend the **ZBA hearing** on May 29, 2024 at 7 p.m. CLWC is working to **shut down A.D. Makepeace's sand mining and distribution center on Federal Road in Carver**. Read Custom Soils strip mines our aquifer and runs hundreds of trucks a day hauling of sand! Stay tuned for updates. **Email the ZBA** with your questions or concerns about sand mining!
- Wareham: **Demand the sand audit** voted unanimously at Town Meeting in 2023!

Learn More:

- **Experts explain** how sand mining harms our underground drinking water aquifer
- Drones of sand mining operations, educational webinars and more: [You Tube channel](#)
- **Watch the 5 minute Sand Wars documentary**
- Read report: *Sand Wars in Cranberry Country: An investigation into the money, politics and corruption behind sand mining and its silent environmental crisis in Southeastern Massachusetts.*

Solar Gone Wrong

Wareham coalition fights 6 MORE destructive industrial scale solar projects: 260 acres targeted

Projects include:

- **Fearing Hill Road solar and battery storage**
- Four AD Makepeace Cranberry Co. solar and battery storage projects:
 27 **Charge Pond Road**
 140 **Tihonet Road (includes sand mining)**
 150 **Tihonet Road**
 0 **Tihonet Road**
- 370 County Road solar: attend the Planning Board April 17 at 6 pm!



Read more:

- March, 2024: [State MEPA office tells AD. Makepeace to do a more thorough environmental impact report on five new solar and battery projects - four in Wareham and one in Plymouth](#)

Take action: [Sign the letter](#) to support the law to empower municipalities to regulate large solar

Plymouth: AD Makepeace Co. solar at Frogfoot Brook in South Plymouth raises alarms

Carver Coalition Heads to Town Meeting June 4

Vote YES to improve safety of Cranberry Point Battery Storage Project

[Read more here](#)

AD Makepeace Cranberry Co. solar, mining & Redbrook expansion face challenges

[Read more here:](#)

Redbrook Expansion: [Save Deer Pond Canning Bog Solar Project](#) at Frogfoot Brook
 "Farm of the Future" — or "**Farce of the Future?**" Sand Mine Expansion

Attend Your Spring Town Meeting! Vote in Local Elections!

It's town meeting time and local election time!
 Go to your town's website and find out what's happening! Vote for candidates who care about our land and water! You can make a difference!

Demand accountability from local government officials, boards and committees!

Other Meetings

Old Colony Regional Planning Council Regional Water Plan Steering Committee, Tuesday, April 23, 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Work on plan to recommend sustainable water supply strategies. In-person and open to all.

Upcoming CLWC Events

[Online calendar](#) for weekly updates

Annual Herring Run Festival

Saturday 10 am to 3 pm

Plymouth Center: [Plymouth Grist Mill](#)

Stop by CLWC's table for a fun hands-on experience to learn where our drinking water comes from!

Craigville Beach Rally

Saturday April 20 11 am to 1 p.m

Barnstable, Cape Cod

Grassroots network rally about protecting our land and waters. CLWC will be speaking. Food, music, fun!
 Learn more >>> Barnstablespeaks.org



Webinar: Why Trees Matter for Green Development

Sunday, April 21 7 to 8:30 pm on Zoom

[Register Here](#)

Learn from speakers including Meg Sheehan from CLWC about balancing protection of our trees with development projects. All welcome.

Sierra Club Outing in Myles Standish State Forest

Saturday May 18 at 11 a.m.

Informational hike on the Pine Barrens - ecology and threats like sand mining! All welcome.

[Event Details Here!](#)

Overnight camping option: Friday, May 17



In the news

Why Forests and Sand Matter, Wareham Week, April 13, 2024
 Opinion by CLWC's Katherine Harrelson

An RV Park? Really? On Long Island NY the town officials "became suspicious that the real intent behind this proposal was a sand mining operation." Long Island is also home to silica sand like Southeastern Massachusetts



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