

Community Land and Water Coalition



March 2024 Newsletter

www.communitylandandwater.org
www.sandwarssoutheasternma.org

Our **mission** is to preserve, protect and steward land and water resources in Southeastern Massachusetts. We are losing them fast

News Updates

Sand Mining

Carver Earth Removal Committee

At its February 21, 2024 meeting, the **Carver Earth Removal Committee** approved two new permits for massive sand mining projects: one for **A.D. Makepeace Cranberry** and one for **E.J. Pontiff Cranberry**. These sand mining operations will extract and sell about 2.5 million cubic yards of sand worth about \$40 million. Watch the January 31 meeting [here](#). Read our [press release about the permits](#) here.

The Earth Removal Committee also refused to take action to stop the unpermitted sand mining at the **Cranberry Point Battery Energy Storage Facility** Site. This site is over the Aquifer, Carver's drinking water supply, and surrounded by cranberry bogs.

Take Action on Sand Mining: Attend the ERC's next meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 4 p.m.

Photo Below: Truck leaving the Cranberry Point battery site at 31R Main Street, Carver loaded with valuable sand. The Carver Earth Removal Committee says this is exempt from a permit as "site preparation." There are no site plans from Cranberry Point that allow sand to be removed from the Site.



The ERC's agenda shows SLT Construction is asking the **Town to refund its earth** removal fees for its sand mining on Spring Street.

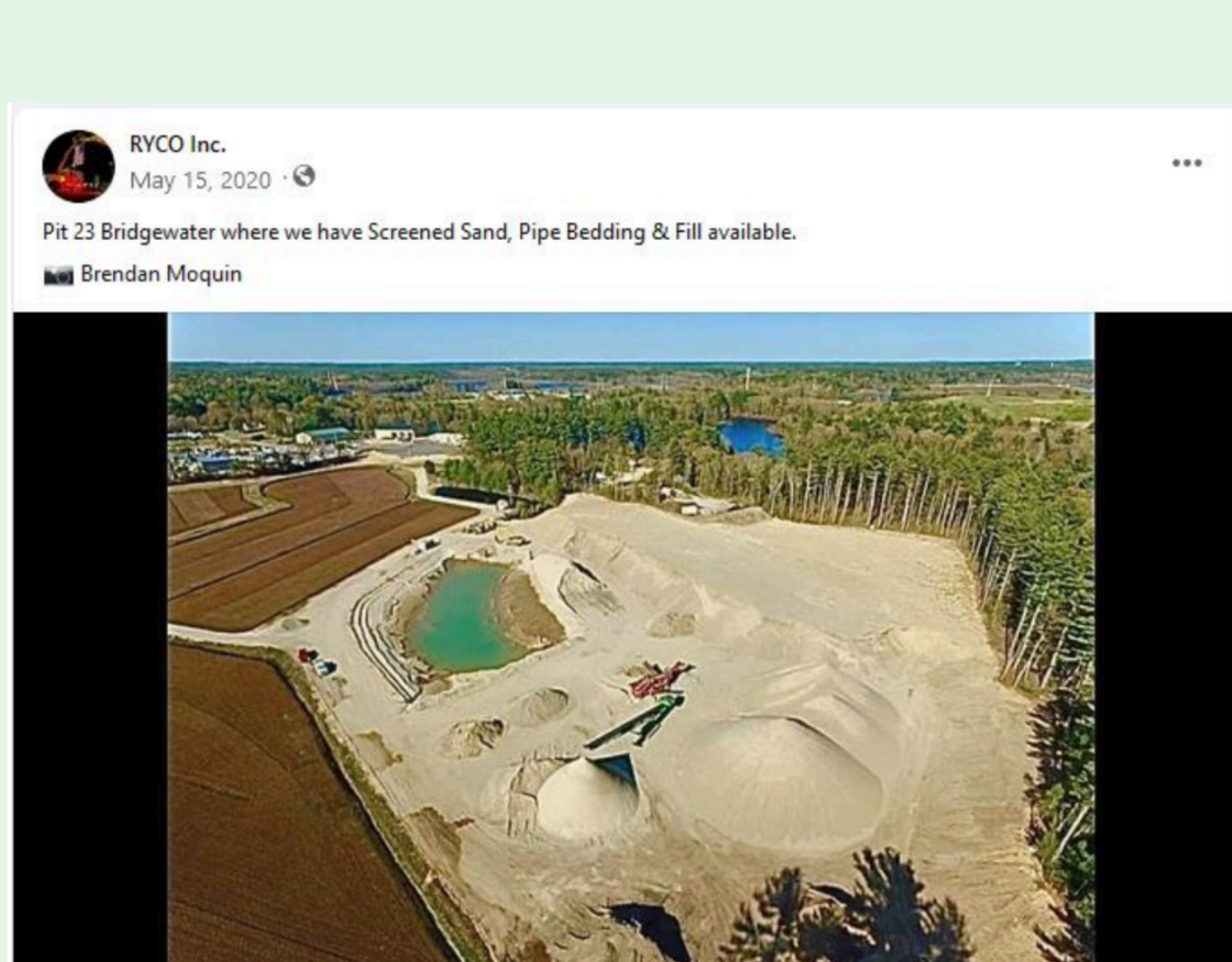
Carver Residents: Vote & hold the Carver Selectboard accountable! Carver Selectboard elections are coming up! The Selectboard is responsible for the Earth Removal Committee. Why is the Selectboard allowing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of sand to be hauled out of town? This sand protects drinking water. VOTE and let the Board know you want accountability!

Kingston Water Commissioners voted to urge the Board of Selectmen to deny the Plympton Sand & Gravel application for a mining permit for 1.5 million cubic yards. The Commissioners say the mining will "negatively impact" drinking water. The permit is still under consideration by the Board of Selectmen. Read more >> [CLWC blog](#).

Carver and Plympton neighbors to the SLT mining site declared victory when SLT withdrew its application for a demo debris facility on the Spring Street mining site. Read more >> [CLWC blog](#).

Take Action on Sand Mining! Sign CLWC's Petition for a Sand Mining Moratorium

Below: Photo of "cranberry agriculture" in Bridgewater. This post from Ryco Excavating in May, 2022 is an example of the commercial mining operation that claims to be agriculture in order to evade the law. This mining operation is at a cranberry bog owned by Morse Brothers. Ryco Excavating describes the 2020 operation as "Pit 23 Bridgewater" and is advertising for the sale of "screened sand, pipe bedding and fill". Photo from open source.

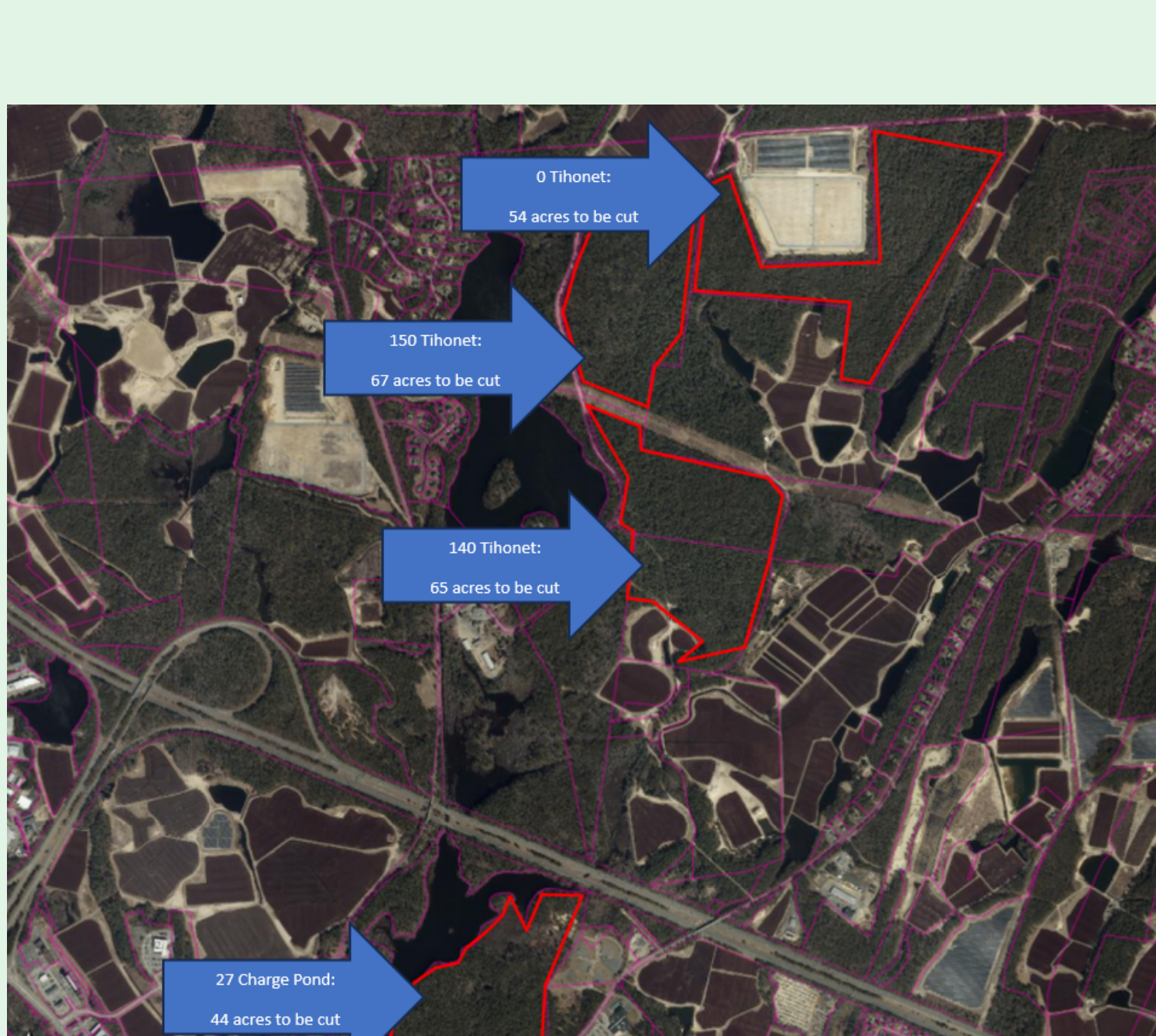


Solar Gone Wrong

A.D. Makepeace Cranberry Co. continues its massive destruction of forests for sand mining and utility-grade ground-mounted solar. Makepeace has destroyed several hundred acres for solar already, over 176 acres of forest are threatened at three sites proposed in 2020 and now Makepeace is proposing to clear cut another 54 acres for solar at 0 Tihonet Road for the "North Wareham Solar" project. Last week, over **100 people wrote letters to MEPA** demanding a full environmental impact report.

Take Action on Solar Siting! support the power of municipalities to regulate industrial solar: Ask your legislator to co-sponsor S. 1319/H. 2082, a bill to empower municipalities to regulate large solar. Read more >> [CLWC Blog](#)

Map Below: Some of the proposed locations of A.D. Makepeace ground mounted industrial solar, Wareham MA, 2020 to present.



Save our Coastal Plain Ponds!

Take Action! Join the fight to save **Deer Pond** and **Big West Pond** in Plymouth! Our coastal plain ponds, Plymouth Red Bellied turtles and rare plants, insects, moths and other species! Get in touch to find out more: Environmentwatchsoutheasternma@gmail.com. To protect the Ponds and wetlands, CLWC and a Ten Residents Group appealed two Plymouth Conservation Commission's wetlands permits to MassDEP.

Save Deer Pond: Read more >> [CLWC blog](#). AD Makepeace's expansion of the Red Brook residential development in South Plymouth threatens Deer Pond. The company also may have illegally filled wetlands near this pond where a road is proposed to serve the expansion.

Save Big West Pond: CLWC certified a vernal pool next to the Pond. Illegal clearing of forests and wetlands has gone unchecked by the Conservation Commission. CWLC and local residents are demanding enforcement of the law and denial of a permit to install a 50 foot dock on the illegally cleared pond shoreline.

Plymouth Airport Expansion: Sign the Petition!

Plymouth Airport Expansion: Victory! A Jan. 16, 2024, decision by state and federal environmental agencies directs more environmental study, especially on drinking water.

Read the [Plymouth Independent news story](#) March 4, 2024

Read more>> [CLWC blog](#)

Take Action on the Airport!

Sign the petition to demand changes to Airport operations now!

Attend the next meeting of Airport Commissioners Thursday, March 7 at 7 pm, Zoom and In person

Victory in Middleborough!

Lincoln Logistics Warehouse Proposal Withdrawn

On February 29, 2024, Lincoln Properties withdrew its massive warehouse proposal. Support the efforts of local residents for a rezoning proposal to protect 78 acres of biodiverse forests, wetlands, quality of life, and drinking water. Read about the project >> [CLWC blog](#).

Read more in Plymouth County Observer [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Follow our [on-line calendar](#) for weekly updates

Open Forum on Protecting Land & Water

Attend the [Open Forum](#) in Plymouth on March 27 on protecting and stewarding our lands and waters!

A few key Wareham Planning Board Meetings

3/11/24, 6 pm Zoom and In person

- Squirrel Island Road a/k/a Hidden Trails LLC / Off County Road** Dense residential development sited inappropriately. It will clearcut 37 acres of Pine Barrens forest in a Critical Natural Landscape containing streams and wetlands. The area has extensive wildlife habitat in one of the most remote and undisturbed sections of Wareham.
- Solar: AD Makepeace, 150 Tihonet Road & 27 Charge Pond Road** Possible vote on extension requests by A.D. Makepeace/New Leaf-Borrego Solar for 111 acres of Pine Barrens destruction for solar.

3/25/24, 6 pm Zoom and In person: 370 County Road Solar:

- Public hearing for solar proposal in West Wareham. Almost 10 acres of forest cut. Public comment allowed. [Link to Planning Board Documents](#).

In the News

Sand mine rejected in Canada: [Rejected: 'greenest' mine](#) of its kind won't be built in Manitoba

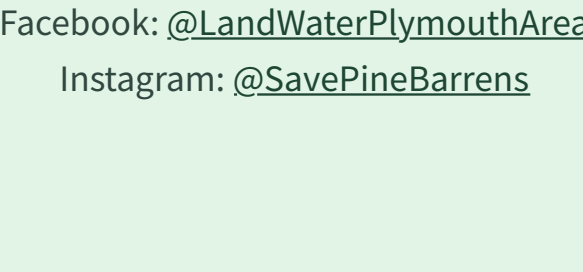
"A [troubled trip](#) down Tihonet Road" in Wareham and AD Makepeace's destruction of Wareham

[Act Now to Protect Wareham](#) Keep Wareham Wild.

[Preserve Wareham's forests](#) "The short sighted and catastrophic degradation to these lands will have lasting consequences for future generations. Of course I am all for green energy, but this is not how it should be done."

[Meg Sheehan Responds](#) to Plymouth Independent story: Developers control Plymouth Town Hall

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