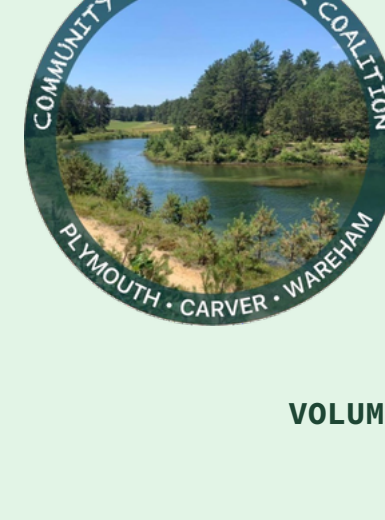


# Community Land and Water Coalition



A COMMUNITY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2



Wareham, MA

**Dear Readers,**  
Please disregard the newsletter you may have received earlier today. There was a glitch with our software that led to some text errors. We hope you enjoy reading our news and updates below.  
- Your friends at CLWC

Welcome to the **June 5** edition of the Community Land and Water Coalition newsletter focused on what's happening in Southeastern Massachusetts where communities are working together to protect, preserve and steward our shared cultural and environmental heritage.

We are a coalition of volunteers and activists calling for state-level regulation of sand and gravel mining, protections for the Plymouth-Carver sole-source aquifer that serves 200,000 people and an end to unnecessary environmental destruction and environmental injustice from inappropriate renewable energy projects. We can do better!

## Calendar of Meetings and Events

Check out our **new calendar**, where we post important upcoming municipal meetings, focused on the development issues in our area. We will also feature upcoming events and learning opportunities, featuring ways to get involved in the preservation of the natural heritage of Southeastern Massachusetts.

## News Roundup By Town

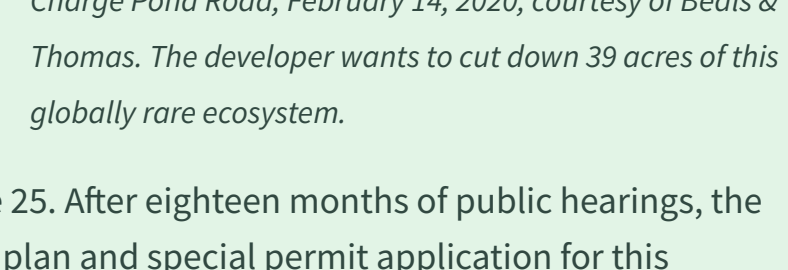
### Wareham

June 26, Wareham Planning Board, 6 p.m. live and on Zoom: Critical natural landscapes threatened by solar! Please attend! AD Makepeace proposes to clear-cut 105 acres of pristine Pine Barren classified as prime forest, and Priority Habitat for rare and endangered species for large ground mounted solar and battery storage. Possible vote on whether to grant permit extensions or require new permit applications. At the meeting on May 22 the solar company asked to continue the hearing so they could submit expert information.

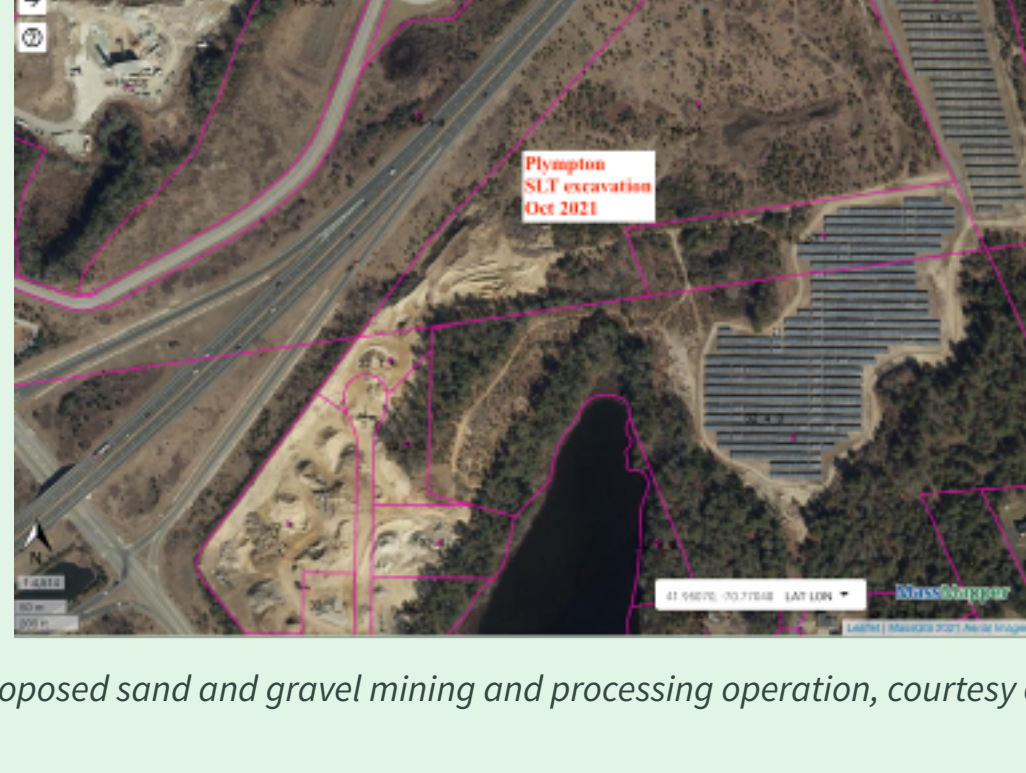
On hold: Longroad Energy LLC-Colorado, 0 Route 25. After eighteen months of public hearings, the Wareham Planning Board voted to reject the site plan and special permit application for this approximately 20-acre solar and battery project next to a cranberry bog. On April 27, 2023, the Board met and voted to rescind that vote and reopen the public hearing to obtain more information on impacts to drinking water and the safety of the battery storage system (BESS). The next date is not set.

### Plympton

June 5, 2023, 5:30 pm, Plympton Board of Selectmen, Public Hearing Notice: SLT Construction, 0 Spring Street, Plympton - Please attend! The DEP has approved SLT's draft **SW 46 Permit for Recycling, Composting, and Conversion (RCC)** and now the permit heads for a public hearing. SLT plans to open a sand and gravel mining and processing plant on this site - however, they **withdrew their application to the Plympton Planning Board** after public comment. Please attend the Selectmen meeting to oppose this latest permit. You can also email public comments to the DEP.



Photograph of the rare Pine Barrens forest located at 27 Charge Pond Road, February 14, 2020, courtesy of Beals & Thomas. The developer wants to cut down 39 acres of this globally rare ecosystem.

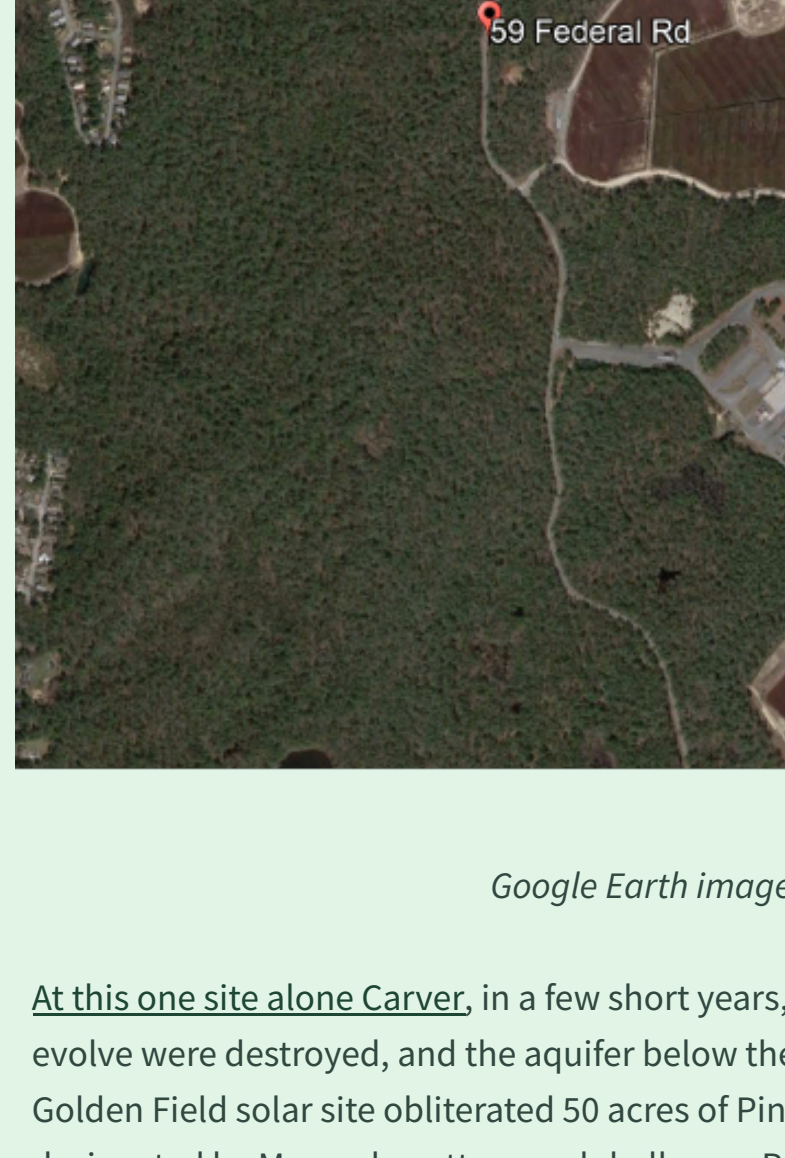


Location of proposed sand and gravel mining and processing operation, courtesy of Massmapper.

## Site Profile

This week we highlight a site in southeastern Massachusetts that has experienced the devastating impacts of sand and gravel mining and improperly-sited solar.

### 59 Federal Road, Carver, MA - Golden Field Solar Site

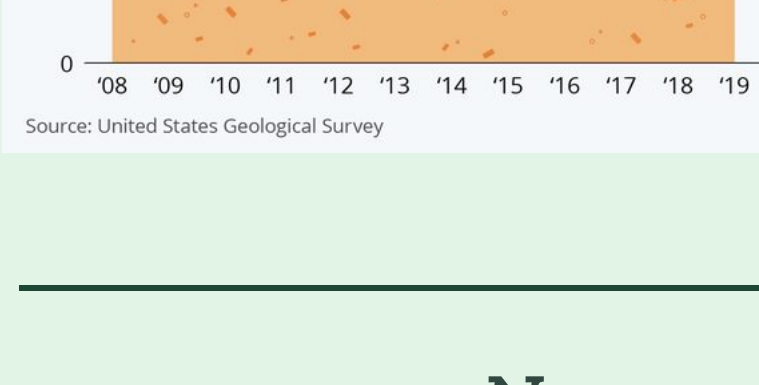


Google Earth images of the site in 2017 vs. 2023

At this one site alone Carver, in a few short years, rare Pine Barrens forest that took thousands of years to evolve were destroyed, and the aquifer below them scraped, all for sand mining and solar subsidies. The Golden Field solar site obliterated 50 acres of Pine Barrens forests, within feet of Golden Field Pond, designated by Massachusetts as a globally rare Priority Habitat for endangered species of plants and animals. There was no biological survey to assess the status of the 220 plants and animals listed as special concern, threatened or endangered that are known to exist in this ecosystem.

Additionally, Indigenous People have occupied this land since the late Woodland Period, but the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the destruction, resulting in the continued erasure and desecration of Indigenous People's culture and way of life.

A vast unknown quantity of lucrative sand and gravel was mined from the site by Makepeace between 2017 and 2019 to "prepare" the site for solar. The mining operation is expanding to the north and west to excavate and sell over 4 million cubic yards, leveling an upland forest. Sand from Southeastern Massachusetts is a rare global commodity and with the scarcity the price of sand has skyrocketed in the region especially over the last 5 years. According to recent estimates, the future sale of sand from this site could exceed over \$200 million in revenue.

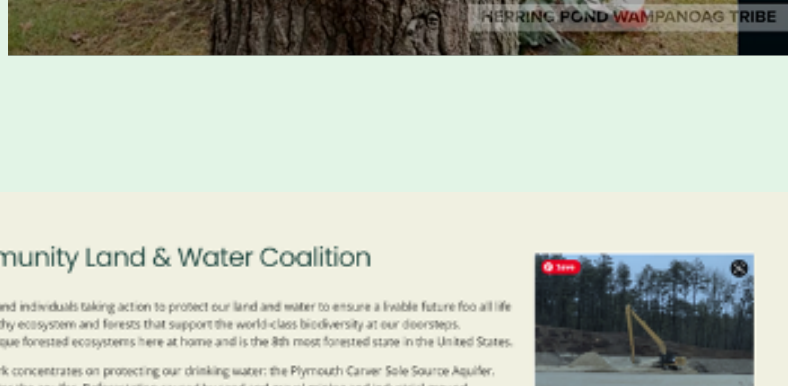


We must end the senseless destruction of the globally rare Pine Barrens at sites such as these. We must preserve and protect our forests for the future. We must end the illegal sand mining industry in southeastern MA. And we must get solar out of our forests!

To get involved, please attend the Carver Earth Removal Committee meetings and the Carver Planning Board meetings, or contact Community Land and Water Coalition.

## News and Updates

**Check out our new 4 minute video!** *Since Time Immemorial*, featuring Melissa Ferretti, Chairperson of the Herring Pond Wampanoag, David Weeden, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. This new short film highlights mining and solar development sites in Plymouth, Wareham, and Carver and explains how Indigenous history and culture is connected to the land.



### Check out Our new Website

Community Land and Water Coalition-Save the Pine Barrens has a new look! Check it out!

[www.communitylandandwater.org](http://www.communitylandandwater.org) Same great site, great new look. We added a calendar to make it easy for you to find out what's happening and give you up-to-the minute ways to get involved. Come check it out!

Let us know if you want your event posted!

Community Land & Water Coalition

We are a diverse coalition of groups and individuals using their voices to protect and restore a healthy future for all. We are focused on environmental protection, public participation, and transparency in government. We are committed to the protection of our natural resources, and the health, safety, and well-being of our communities. We are committed to the protection of our water resources, and the health, safety, and well-being of our communities. We are committed to the protection of our water resources, and the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.

Join Save the Pine Barrens -

**Sand/Gravel**

Thousands of acres of the globally rare and endangered Pine Barrens forest have been destroyed for sand and gravel mining. This has led to the loss of critical habitat for many rare and endangered species, and the destruction of the aquifer that serves 200,000 people.

**Trees**

The loss of trees in the globally rare Pine Barrens forest has led to the loss of critical habitat for many rare and endangered species, and the destruction of the aquifer that serves 200,000 people.

**Drinking Water**

The loss of trees in the globally rare Pine Barrens forest has led to the loss of critical habitat for many rare and endangered species, and the destruction of the aquifer that serves 200,000 people.

### In the News - Siting Board Decision on Cranberry Point Battery Storage, Carver

Community Land & Water Coalition is quoted in this [Utility Dive](#) story. On May 10, 2023, the state Energy Facility Siting Board dealt the project a blow by rejecting Cranberry Point's petition to build the project in Carver. The project now heads over to the Department of Public Utilities. The fate of the project at the local level is still uncertain. The media coverage reports, An environmental group, the Community Land and Water Coalition, hailed the siting board's decisions as a "victory for proper energy facility siting and local communities faced with an onslaught of projects called "green" and renewable, but that have big impacts not properly considered under current regulatory programs." Also reported: Residents who opposed the project cited a local aquifer they said would be threatened with contamination by the project. Utility Dive is an on-line news outlet that covers the energy industry.

### In the News - Two Separate Renewable Energy Moratoria In New York

Two separate towns in New York are considering a moratorium on large renewable energy projects, as the towns decide how best to zone and site these projects. According to the [Niagara Gazette](#), officials in the town of Niagara are proposing a six-month moratorium on processing new solar and wind project applications, as the Town decides how best to regulate and zone the projects. According to the article, the purpose of the moratorium law is to "protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Niagara."

And according to the [Daily Gazette](#), the town of Rotterdam, NY, is considering a moratorium on large Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and wind projects. The Town already has a large-scale solar moratorium in place. The new moratoria would allow the Town's Energy Advisory Committee to update the Town code to better regulate these projects and protect Town residents. The Energy Advisory Committee was formed in Rotterdam to help draft new solar energy regulations.

### In the News - Offshore Wind Grid Connectivity

According to the journal [Commonwealth](#), the Canal Station peaker power plants in Sandwich, MA, may allow offshore wind turbines off the shores of Cape Cod to use its existing interconnections with the electrical grid to deliver wind energy to customers. Because the plant is a "peaker" plant, only firing up when there is a need for electricity, it has excess interconnectivity, which could be used by offshore wind projects.

## Upcoming Events

### Conversation About Connecting Climate, Water Community

A Massachusetts Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Event

**Saturday, June 24, 2023, 9:30 AM**  
**Spire Center for Performing Arts, 25 1/2 Court Street, Plymouth**  
**Free and Open to the Public**

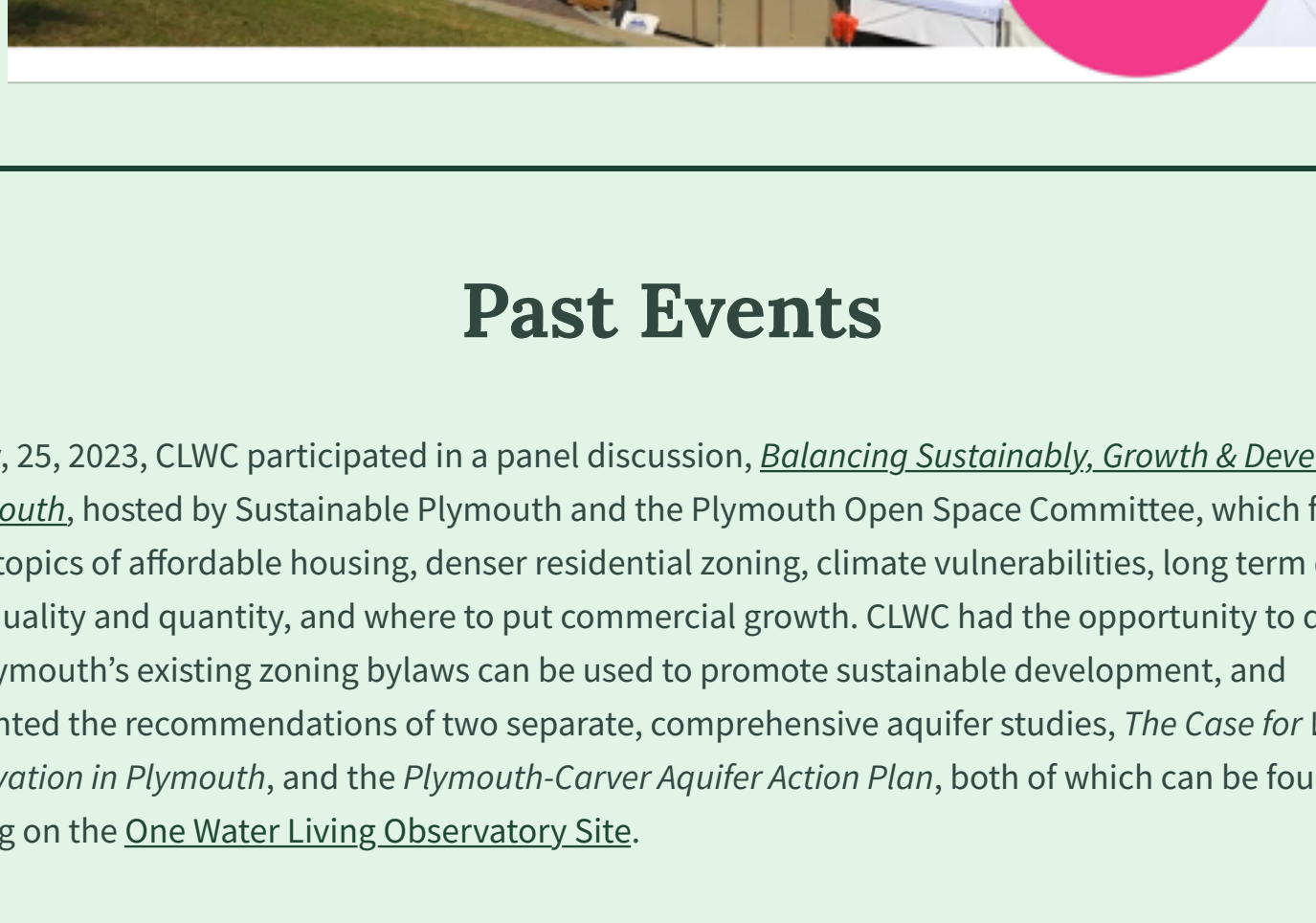
Please join [SEMPBA](#) and other MVP Partners for **Conversation About Connecting Climate, Water and Community**. There will be a social hour starting at 9:30, an acknowledgment of the MVP partners and a presentation by Dr. David Boutt on the results of the saltwater intrusion study. David Abel, Boston Globe Reporter, will speak on Covering Climate Change; he will then interview Melissa Hoffer, Massachusetts's first Climate Chief, after which there will be a question-and-answer period. There will be four walks/hikes and a film offered in the afternoon.

### Waterfront Festival

A fun, family-friendly and educational event! Come by and say hi!

**Saturday, August 26, 2023**  
**0 Water Street - Plymouth Waterfront**  
**All Day**

Please join Community Land and Water Coalition at this year's **Waterfront Festival!** The festival includes an annual duck race, two stages of live entertainment, arts & crafts show featuring over 200 exhibitors, local non-profits. Community Land and Water Coalition will have a table showcasing an educational, interactive model of the aquifer, and the effects of a changing landscape. Please stop by or come hang out! Sure to be a fun event for all.

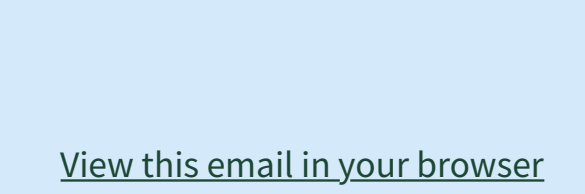


## Past Events

On May 25, 2023, CLWC participated in a panel discussion, *Balancing Sustainably Growth & Development in Plymouth*, hosted by Sustainable Plymouth and the Plymouth Open Space Committee, which focused on the topics of affordable housing, denser residential zoning, climate vulnerabilities, long term drinking water quality and quantity, and where to put commercial growth. CLWC had the opportunity to discuss how Plymouth's existing zoning bylaws can be used to promote sustainable development, and highlighted the recommendations of two separate, comprehensive aquifer studies, *The Case for Water Conservation in Plymouth*, and the *Plymouth-Carver Aquifer Action Plan*, both of which can be found on our blog on the [One Water Living Observatory Site](#).



We want to thank the organizers, panelists, and audience for a very informative evening, and we hope there will be more discussions like this in the future! If you would like to get involved in sustainable planning in Plymouth, please visit [www.sustainableplymouth.org](http://www.sustainableplymouth.org) or attend Plymouth Planning Board meetings.



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