

Appendix 2A

Summary to the Inventory of Ponds in Harpswell

Introduction

Harpswell has approximately 12 ponds of one acre or more in size that cover 82 acres in town¹. (Please see **Appendix 2B** for a list of these ponds.) These ponds provide habitat for fish, wildlife and plants and can be important for their recreational, education and scenic value. An Open Space Plan for the Town must therefore consider the preservation of these ponds.

Our land use ordinances in Harpswell define ponds as:

- any inland body of water that is a natural states and has a surface areas of less than 10 acres
- a body of water artificially formed or increased with a surface area of less than 30 acres
- A great pond is defined as a pond over 10 acres. The only great pond in Harpswell is Dan's Ice Pond between Gunpoint and Long Point on Great Island.

The definition of ponds excludes the following:

- Farm ponds
- Fire ponds
- Landscape ponds
- Storm water retention ponds
- Similar man-made areas

From an ecological point of view, ponds change over time. They often support continuous emergent vegetation growing in them and can change from being ponds to being wetlands. This appears to be the case in the situation of the pond located on map #52, lot #2 on Cundys Harbor Road which has moved from being a pond with standing water to a wetland with scrub trees, such as alders, growing in it.

Protection of Ponds in Harpswell

The Town of Harpswell has a set of ordinances to provide for reasonable and orderly development within all areas of the Town, while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. Land use ordinances seek to preserve the character of Harpswell as a residential, fishing, and vacation community with clean waters, healthy wetland functions and wildlife habitats, scenic attractiveness and a sense of openness.

¹ In Appendix 1B, the Ice Pond, Goddard Ice Pond and Wilson's Pond were included as three of the 27 wetlands identified in the 1999 Wetland Study. They are also included in Appendix 2B because they are ponds over one acre in size.

In the State of Maine, great ponds (over 10 acres) are protected from development by the Maine Natural Resources Protection Act of 1988 which protects them with a 250 foot set back. Public access is permitted to great ponds. In the land use ordinances of Harpswell, smaller ponds are protected with a 75 foot set back around them, just as are rivers and other bodies of water in town.