

From:
To: ddeblase@chilmarkma.gov
Subject: Chilmark Pond Exhibit
Date: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 4:01:24 PM

I am posting an exhibit on Chilmark Pond at the library for three weeks starting Aug 19. It will have 12-15 text sections like the one I have drafted below. This one is regarding the town's position regarding the MEP report on Chilmark Pond. Other topics include Phragmites, animals that live in or near the pond, testing by MVC, chemistry, etc.

Hoping that you can proofread and suggest corrections and additions. Printed copy left with Dilly. So many last-minute things to do that I would appreciate a response by the middle of next week, if possible.
Thank you
John O'Keefe

Several towns on Cape Cod have questioned the findings of the 2016 Mass Estuary Project report regarding how fast Nitrogen moves through the soil (into nearby ponds) after running off from home septic systems. The actual N loading has turned out to be less than the MEP predicted. In some places where transects have been done to measure underground seepage, Nitrogen has not been showing up, says Chilmark Town Administrator Tim Carroll. Until those questions are laid to rest, why would Chilmark Selectmen accept conclusions for Chilmark Pond that are based on similar methods and assumptions? Carroll says MEP favors installation of sewer systems to replace the many individual home septic systems which MEP blames as the source for most of the nitrogen runoff. Sewers may be cost-effective in densely-settled areas where there are many homeowners to share the cost of installing sewer pipes. But not here, where houses are far apart. Carroll also points out that nothing is gained from building sewers to collect materials from individual homes ... unless you proceed to dispose of the collected wastes in an environmentally friendly way, such as a central sewage treatment plant. Also very expensive.