

### Flanders Pond Update from the Town Manager

The Town has continued our work with several government agencies to find a long-term solution to stabilize sensible water levels at Flanders Pond. US Fish and Wildlife has installed “water loggers” in Flanders Stream and Flanders Pond near the outlet. The loggers are taking hourly measurements from Flanders. They will be taken out this November and re-installed next April. In late July or early August we will have a Flanders Pond Public Hearing. At that time we will present the scientific findings and a plan of action to the town. Current thought is to construct a small, rock fishway at the outlet while providing an opportunity for a summer and winter water level. US Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources are supportive of measurement, design and funding to assist us in our effort. There will be little information to share this winter until we resume measurement with our water loggers next April.

The Department of Environmental Protection expects the towns to monitor and enforce Shoreland Zoning laws. Protecting Flanders Pond water quality protects the investment of people living on the pond. We have seen property values damaged on other ponds and lakes due to algae bloom, invasive plants and bacteria. Greywater discharge, fertilized lawns and other human actions are frequently the cause of these issues. The volume of new building and development on Flanders Pond means that we must be vigilant to insure rules and laws are followed. The downside is that properties on Flanders that have been in violation of Shoreland Zoning or Sullivan RV Park, Campground Ordinances will have to come into compliance with our laws. The upside is protection of the water quality and property values on a pond we love.