



**Mashpee  
Environmental  
Coalition**



## Environmental News

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### Upcoming Events

**Thursday, October 16, 2025 - 2pm to 3pm**

**Marstons Mills Cranberry Bog Eco-Restoration**

**Cotuit Library (Kirkman Room), 871 Main Street, Cotuit - Preregistration is required.**

Sponsored by the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition (BCWC), this informative talk will share information about their Marstons Mills Cranberry Bog Eco-Restoration project, including how and why cranberry bog restorations are occurring on the Cape and throughout southeastern Massachusetts. Topics will include the goals for BCWC's restoration and how they differ from other bog restorations, the many benefits wetlands provide, and the diverse flora and fauna found in local wetlands. As space is limited, registration is required. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

**Thursday, October 16, 2025 – Starting at 7pm**

**Proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility at 0 Gunters Lane**

**Mashpee Town Hall, 16 Great Neck Road North, Mashpee**

This is the final of four Information Sessions about Article 4 of the October 2025 Town Warrant. On October 20th, voters will be asked to authorize an additional \$25.9 Million debt exclusion for a wastewater system to be constructed within the Pimlico Heights Cluster Development's dedicated Open Space at 0 Gunters Lane. For additional information, see the section below, "Article 4 - Get Informed."

**Monday, October 20, 2025 - Starting at 7pm**

**Annual Town Meeting**

**Mashpee High School, 500 Old Barnstable Road, Mashpee**

The October 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant is available [here](#).

**Saturday, October 25, 2025 - Special Town Election - Starting at 7pm**

**Early Voting is also Available October 14 - 17, 2025**

Details regarding specific times, locations, and election options may be found [here](#).

### Let's Take a Hike

**Upcoming Walks in Mashpee:**

**Saturday, October 18, 2025, Lowell Holly Reservation, 9am**

**Saturday, October 25, 2025, Santuit Pond Preserve, 9am**

**Sunday, October 26, 2025, John Johansen Conservation Area, 9am**

Guided nature tours, sponsored by the Mashpee Conservation Department, are offered each month free-of-charge. Registration is not required, but rain may cancel. For information about these walks and those in the coming months, click on the "Guided Nature Tour" link along the left-hand margin at

## Article 4 - Get Informed

The most talked-about Article on Mashpee's October 20th Town Warrant is surely Article 4, the proposed wastewater treatment system at 0 Gunters Lane. Regarding this issue, while everyone is fully supportive of cleaning our waters and moving forward with the Town's wastewater efforts, residents, neighbors, environmental leaders, and MEC members alike are divided on how best to accomplish this, which sections of town currently have the highest need, and whether compromising one natural resource for the sake of another is the right course of action . . . or too great a cost.

Given the fact that MEC's mission focuses on protecting all our natural resources - including our waters, forests, and wildlife habitat - and valued MEC members feel strongly about both sides of this issue, as an organization we have decided to stay neutral. Instead, we urge all MEC members and Mashpee residents to get informed, attend the October 20th Town Meeting, and vote your conscience. Some ways to learn more and hear directly from both town officials and residents include:

- Select Board Meeting [Recording](#) from August 25, 2025, starting at minute 18
- Information Session Recordings from September 11th, 25th and October 9th available [here](#)
- Final In-Person Information Session - See October 16th notice above

At the same time, we urge town leaders to learn from their mistakes and, in the future, do a much better job of openly presenting *all* options to residents about proposed changes to our wastewater plan - *right from the start*. Sadly, much of this issue's divisiveness is a direct result of the non-transparent manner in which this project has been managed. Surely, cleaning up our waters is, and should be, an issue that pulls us all together, but in this case the exact opposite has occurred - which is unfortunate for us all, and for our environment.

## Information Items

### Waterways in the News

Based on October 8th water samplings by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), a **"restriction warranted" cyanobacteria alert** continues for **Santuit Pond**. In addition, a **"potential for concern" alert** remains in effect for Ashumet Pond. The most up-to-date Cyanobacteria Map may be found [here](#).

### Cape Cod's Drought - Remains at Level 2

As of the September 9th update, Cape Cod remains steady at a **Level 2 "Significant Drought"** status. Hopefully, the current Nor'easter will bring some relief to this situation. In the meantime, residents are urged to continue conserving water use, both indoors and outside. Latest drought updates can be found at the [MA Drought Status website](#).

## MEC's Chemical-Free Yard Sign Campaign

Since April, MEC's **Chemical-Free Cape Cod Yard Sign Campaign** is in full swing, aimed at promoting Chemical-Free Yards that are safe for our Children, Pets, Waters - and Nature as a whole.

Already, our signs are proudly being displayed in yards across Cape Cod, including Dennis, Falmouth, Mashpee, Pocasset, and Sandwich. Thanks to all who have chosen to set an example for their friends, neighbors, and local associations - by helping to save our environment, one yard at a time!



Information on how to join our campaign may be found [here](#).

## Reminders

## Cape-Wide Conservation Calendar of Events

The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts and its nonprofit members publish updates to their **Regional Calendar of Events** on an ongoing basis. This Conservation Calendar includes programs from villages and towns across Cape Cod, encouraging both visitors and residents to take part in nature and environmental events. The wide list of current programs may be accessed at: [www.blt.org/capeconservationcalendar](http://www.blt.org/capeconservationcalendar).

## Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy Report - Ponds and Lakes

The Cape Cod Commission released its final **Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy Report** this summer. This guide outlines a data-driven approach to evaluating, protecting, and restoring Cape Cod's ponds and lakes, and a framework for improving their overall health. Additional information and the report itself may be found [here](#).

## Textile Recycling is Now Mandatory - It's the Law!

Due to the solid waste crisis in Massachusetts, effective November 2022, it is **now illegal to discard any clothing or other textile item in the trash**, even if stained, ripped, threadbare, or one of a pair. This includes footwear, bedding, table linens, accessories such as belts and scarves, and even stuffed animals for children and pets. The full list of textile items that must now be recycled is available [here](#), courtesy of Bay State Textiles. To assist residents in complying with this law, **MEC now sponsors textile recycling drives twice each year** — in **April** as an Earth Day event, and in **August** alongside the County's Hazardous Waste Dropoff. Exact dates and times for each April and August event, once known, will be posted on our homepage at [www.mashpeemec.us](http://www.mashpeemec.us).

## River Restoration Projects

Under the program name, "**Source to Sea**," projects continue which aim to help restore the health of the **Mashpee River, Quashnet River, and Red Brook**. To learn more, information may be found at: <https://waquoitbayreserve.org/coastal-training-programs/source-to-sea>



**Please share this newsletter with your friends, colleagues, and neighbors who may have an interest in this information.**

**Our thanks to each of you for your own efforts on behalf of our town, our region, and the environment!**

To Join or Donate



*Our Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each Month (January - November) via Zoom starting at 4pm, and our Annual Meeting immediately precedes the September Board Meeting. All are welcome.*

*The Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization – dedicated to educating and advocating on behalf of our natural resources for over 25 years.*

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