

# The Reservoir Review

*A Newsletter About Life on Neponset Reservoir*

## TALKS ON RESERVOIR CLEAN-UP EFFORTS CONTINUE

**On July 19,** at their Cafeteria Bldg in Foxboro, Schneider Electric held an Informational Public Meeting to share a Final Draft Permanent Solution Statement (PSS) on work they've done to monitor and study their heavy metal contaminations in Neponset Reservoir. These contaminants were initially dumped into the Reservoir by The Foxboro Company, however assumed by Schneider Electric when acquiring the company.

At that meeting, presentation boards were placed around the room so the public could walk through to review data and findings of their studies. Representatives from Schneider as well as members of the NRRC, and a representative of the Mass Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) were also present.



In its conclusion, Schneider's PSS stated, "The cadmium present in the sediment of the Neponset Reservoir has been determined to pose no significant risk...." However, both the Town of Foxborough and the NRRC believe, based on findings by their own experts, that the statement is not true and cleanup efforts by Schneider Electric are necessary.

The time period for public comments was set for Sept 4, after which the state would come to a final determination on the PSS. Should the state approve the document, Schneider Electric would require no further monitoring or cleanup.

However, in the days following the meeting, the Board of Selectman voted to ask the DEP to extend the period for public review and comment from Sept 4 to Nov 2. Recently, the DEP granted the extension, thus allowing an additional two months for public comment and, ultimately, final decisions by the DEP.

With an outcome of working toward an equitable solution for all parties, it was suggested next steps should include a meeting between the Town of Foxborough, the NRRC and Schneider Electric to hopefully, reach a consensus. “We are encouraged by Schneider’s environmentally minded corporate stewardship as evidenced by their statement that they ‘remain fully and firmly committed to our communities, our customers, our stakeholders, and our employees. ...’ Our hope is that we can find a win-win solution that will benefit all parties involved,” said Kim Mellen of the NRRC.

*A copy of Schneider Electric’s Final Draft Permanent Solution Statement can be found at Boyden Public Library / 10 Bird St / Foxboro, MA 02035*



## FINAL PLANS FOR EDWARDS ROAD BOAT RAMP STILL IN QUESTION



**Since 2016**, the NRRC has been diligently working toward a plan for a formal boat launch on Edwards Road. The improvements would include resurfacing the existing gravel footpath leading to the launch area and making it handicapped accessible, installing concrete steps at the launch area and creating a gravel wetland at a discharge culvert. To successfully install the ramp, a plan to treat road runoff flowing into the Neponset Reservoir must be considered. However, one of the pipes that carries the run-off water is too low for water to flow into the gravel system. The Conservation Committee has suggested to the NRRC that they work with the Town Engineer to determine if the pipe, currently too low, could be raised thus allowing the run-off, and the boat launch placed on top of it. As of this writing, the NRRC is awaiting word from the Town Engineer as to whether that is a plausible option.

Based on whatever the final plan turns out to be, they may well have to go before the Advisory Committee and Town Meeting before they are approved.



**NATURE SPOTLIGHT** -Even though turtles are facing more survival obstacles than ever, the Reservoir is the proud home to several types, most commonly the Painted Turtle and Snapping Turtle. We can all help turtles survive in two major ways:

- 1) Slowdown on the road during summer which is their habitat movement times.
- 2) Protect turtle eggs from predators by providing plenty of aquatic vegetation in and around the water to give young hiding places.

The Reservoir is habitat to a wide variety of extraordinary wildlife including, but not limited to, eagles, swans, ducks, mergansers, cormorants, geese, heron, cranes, loons, hummingbirds, turkeys, turtles, garter snakes, otters, muskrats, beavers, rabbits, butterflies, bees, and various species of fish. If you spot another species and would like to add it to the town's list, please send the wildlife typed location to [cynthiatracy@fultura.com](mailto:cynthiatracy@fultura.com).

*For more information on turtles and how to better protect them, go to <https://www.mass.gov/guides/turtles-of-massachusetts>*



**Painted Turtle**

## SHORELINE PRIMER – 10 THINGS TO DO

Wondering how to keep your shoreline from eroding away? Check out the ways you may be setting yourself up for shoreline erosion and the 10 things you can do to make your shoreline more attractive and healthy at the same time. Go to :

[www.foxboroughma.gov/Pages/FoxboroughMA\\_Conservation/](http://www.foxboroughma.gov/Pages/FoxboroughMA_Conservation/)



