PUSSY'S POND PARK NATURE PRESERVE: MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by the Management Plan Subcommittee of the
Town's Nature Preserve Committee

Terry Ganley, Bill Nicholas and
Heather Anderson

Date: October 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction
History and Name
Location and Size

II. Description of Site

III. Management Goals and Issues

IV. Access/Trails

V. Permitted Uses

VI. Restrictions

VII. Maintenance

APPENDIX

Article I. Aerial Map

Article II. Suffolk County Tax Map

Article III. Fauna and Flora List

Article IV. Photos

Article V. Transfer Deed to Town

Article VI. Resolution of Acquisition

Article VII. Site Plan of Bridge

Article VIII. E.H. Star Articles

I. INTRODUCTION

History and Name

In the late 1700's, Ambrose Parsons purchased the land, which is now the Pussy's Pond Nature Preserve and Park. There was a small house on the property, which was enlarged, now called the Parsons/Anderson house. A descendent of the Parsons family, Patience Elizabeth Parsons transferred the title deed to Dr. J.F. Curry in 1947 for $10.00. James F. Curry and Winifred K. Curry transferred the property to East Hampton Town on January 27, 1965, except for ¼ acre in the south corner, for $30,000.00, subject to the condition and restriction that said premises shall be used for the public only. The Curry's had sold the ¼ acre in the south corner for $10.00 on April 10, 1963, when they sold it to Elizabeth Parker Anderson.[1]

The Parsons/Anderson house was bequeathed to the Town of East Hampton on December 5, 1967. The Town accepted the gift on December 29, 1978.[1]

Patience Elizabeth Parsons raised cats and was referred to as Aunt Pussy. She could be heard calling them, "Here pussy, pussy", hence the name Pussy's Pond. Also it was remembered that unwanted kittens were often drowned in the pond; however, no one knows for sure how Pussy's Pond was named.[1]

Location and Size

Pussy's Pond Nature Preserve and Park (Tax Map #300-80-1-5.1) consists of 14.5 acres bounded on the northwest by Springs-Fireplace Road, on the north by Springs Amagansett Road, on the southeast by School Street, and on the south by Cross Street, which is owned by the Town of East Hampton. In April 1993, Pussy's Pond Park was designated a nature preserve. Also within the preserve are a wooden bridge over Pussy's Pond and several memorials.

On an adjoining parcel (#300-80-4-1), which is not included in the nature preserve, are the blacksmith shop and the Springs Library, formerly the Parsons/Anderson House. The bottomland of Pussy's Pond itself, which is owned by the Trustees, is also not included in the nature preserve.

[1]Historic information provided by Heather Anderson, Springs Library

II. DESCRIPTION OF SITE

Pussy's Pond Park Nature Preserve consists of a pond, a bridge, a trail and previously farmed fields that have been partially replaced by hardwood trees.

The Pussy's Pond Park Nature Preserve area is comprised of several different habitats. The Pond's watershed lands were farmed at one time, then allowed to become fallow and grow up into an advanced "old field". Normally in East Hampton, such old fields on morainal soils following the eastern red cedar-black cherry stage give way to deciduous hardwoods dominated by oaks and hickories. However, here the red cedars and black cherries are being replaced by *viney* invasives, such as Asiatic bittersweet and Japanese honeysuckle and hardwood trees, primarily Eurasian maples and black locust. On the west side of the pond, the old field woods extend from Sand Lot Road on the south, almost to Parsons Place on the north and west to Springs-Fireplace Road. Because they are overrun with invasives, they are in an advanced state of disturbance and patently dominated by alien species. Because of this, most of the red cedars have already died or in the process of dieing.

The woods on the southeast side of the Pond are less disturbed with respect to exotic species. There are some swamp associated trees, e.g., red maples, on the very south end on the north side of Sand Lot Road halfway between School Street and Springs-Fireplace Road where the habitat is wet and grades northward into the marshy south end of the pond. A small portion of the higher sides of the Pond on its north end are not wooded, but lawned and used as park greens.

Hydrology consists of Pussy's Pond, which is a water table pond and is both spring fed (thus the name "The Springs") and tidal. When the tide comes in, the saltwater tends to stay on top of the freshwater, and it is not unusual to see freshwater wetland plants doing well beneath the saltwater layer. Phragmites has taken advantage of this situation; and, as long as its feet are in fresh water and while the rest of it is standing in salt water, it has no cause to worry. Phragmites has also taken over a large part of the marsh on the west side and has been working their way south to where the marsh transitions from a brackish one to a fresh one dominated by tall sedges, etc.
If it weren't for the efforts of the Waterfowlers of America over the years, the marshy parts and shallow water edges of the Pussy's Pond Nature Preserve would be almost entirely dominated by phragmites by now. Continued control efforts will be needed in order to completely suppress them.

Plants (listed in **Fauna and Flora in the Appendix/Article III.**
Animals/Waterfowl (listed in **Fauna and Flora in the Appendix/Article III.**

III. MANAGEMENT GOALS AND ISSUES

The existing bridge is in a state of disrepair and will be replaced by a bridge and/or viewing platform, with funds appropriated by the Town of East Hampton. Future maintenance of the structure will be assumed by the Town of East Hampton.

Efforts should be made to prevent the expansion of phragmites and removal of existing plants. This will protect the existing marsh plants, some of which are rare.

Passive recreation will be enhanced through maintenance of the woodland trail, construction of the viewing platform, phragmites control, and continued Town Parks Department maintenance of existing lawns, especially on the west side where phragmites should be mowed to the marsh and continue to the bridge.

Restoration of a view shed from School Street to Ashawagh Hall and Springs-Fireplace Road should be considered with input solicited from various local Springs organizations, in conjunction with the East Hampton Town Natural Resources Department.

An important Springs' tradition is the annual floating Christmas Tree in Pussy's Pond and this should be continued.

IV. ACCESS and TRAILS

Access

There is ample emergency access to the nature preserve. There is street parking on Parsons Place and School Street; and also the Ashawagh Hall parking area is convenient to the pond.

The access from School Street should retain the barrier of rocks or other natural deterrents to prevent vehicle encroachment to the pond.

Trails

The existing woodland nature trail that goes in a north to south direction will be a vital link in the newly designated Springs to Amagansett Hiking Trail.

V. PERMITTED USES

Passive recreation
Nature studies
Bird watching
Waterfowl watching
Trail hiking

VI. RESTRICTIONS

Fires
Digging and artifact recovery
Unauthorized wood cutting
Unauthorized removal of vegetation
Abandonment of pets and other domesticated animals
Dumping
Unauthorized vehicles
Hunting
Trapping

VII. MAINTENANCE

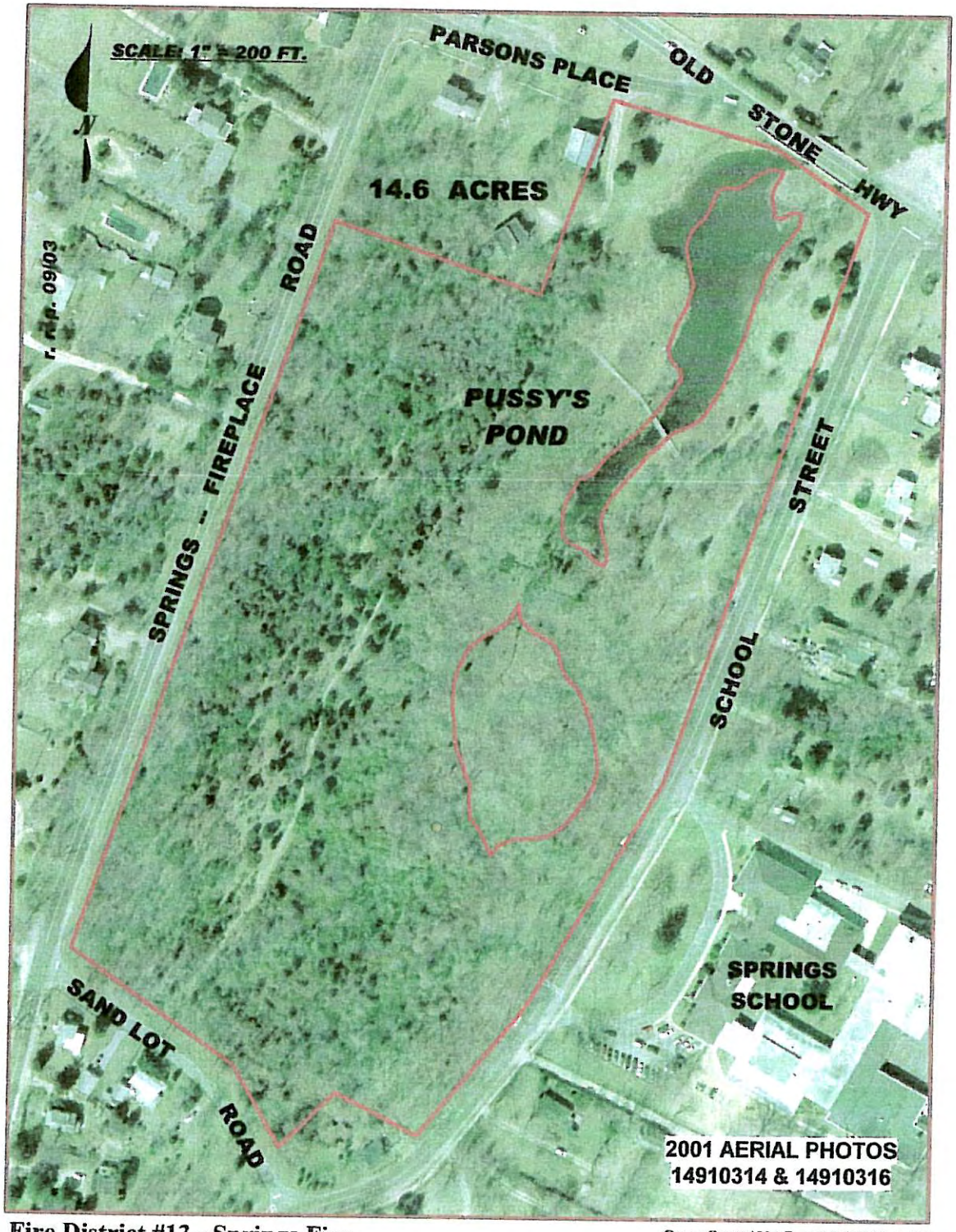
The existing lawns and the proposed viewing platform will be maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department, Town of East Hampton.

The East Hampton Chapter of Waterfowl, USA's project to restrict phragmites progression will be continued, as well as their maintenance of the trail. The East Hampton Trails Preservation Society has agreed to render any assistance in the trail maintenance project.

The Town's Department of Natural Resources will pursue the eradication of invasive plants within the preserve.

APPENDIX

PUSSY'S POND PARK PRESERVE
Springs SD

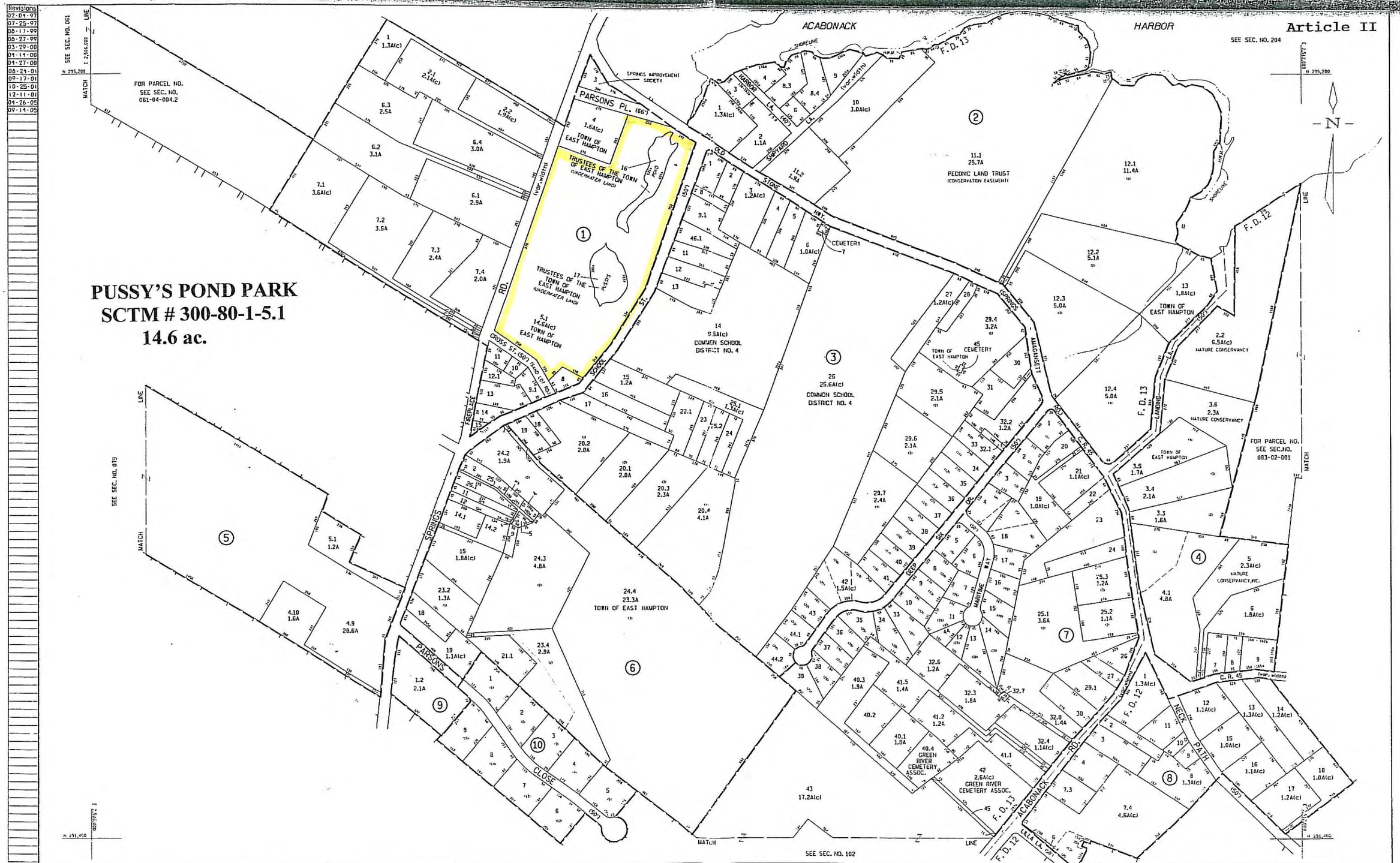


Fire District #13 - Springs Fire

Open Space\NatPresAerial\80-1-5.1

SCTM #300-080-001-005.1
Owned by The Town of East Hampton

Prepared by
THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
Division of Land & Water Management
East Hampton, New York



Revisions
02-04-97
07-25-97
08-17-99
08-27-99
03-29-00
04-14-00
04-27-00
08-24-01
09-17-01
10-25-01
12-11-01
04-26-05
09-14-05

LEGEND

Property or Bd Line	
Deciduous Common Owner	
Subdivision Lot Line	
Stream / Shore	
Parcel No.	23
Subdivision Lot No.	
Subdivision Block/Bldg. No.	(21)
Deed Dimension	
Scaled Dimension	
Deed Area	12.1 A(d) or 12.1A
Calculated Area	12.1 A(c)
Block Line	
Block No.	2
County Line	
Town Line	
Village Line	
School District Line	SCH
Fire District Line	F
Water District Line	W
Light District Line	L
Park District Line	P
Sewer District Line	S
Hydrant District Line	H
Refuse District Line	R
Historic District Line	HST
Ambulance District Line	A
Wastewater District Line	WW

UNLESS OTHERWISE, ALL PROPERTIES ARE WITHIN THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS:

SCHOOL	4	SEWER	
FIRE	12.13	HYDRANT	
LIGHT		WATER	
PARK		REFUSE	
AMBULANCE		WASTEWATER	

NOTICE

MAINTENANCE, ALTERATION, SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF ANY PORTION OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY TAX MAP IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY.

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
Real Property Tax Service Agency
County Center Riverhead, N Y 11901
SCALE IN FEET: 250 0 250 500

KEY MAP

TOWN OF	EAST HAMPTON
VILLAGE OF	
DISTRICT NO	0300

SECTION NO 080
PROPERTY MAP

CONVERSION DATE: Jan. 29, 1997

FLORA AND FAUNA

Flora

Some of these emergent wetland species are rare and on the State's *Natural Heritage List:*

Tall Sedges
Rushes
Bulrushes
Grasses
Aquatic Shrubs (e.g., Buttonbush)
Red maple trees
Cattails

Fauna

A variety of waterbirds and waterfowl use Pussy's Pond and its edges. **Mallards**, commonly, and **Canada Geese**, occasionally, make their nest along the Pond's perimeter.

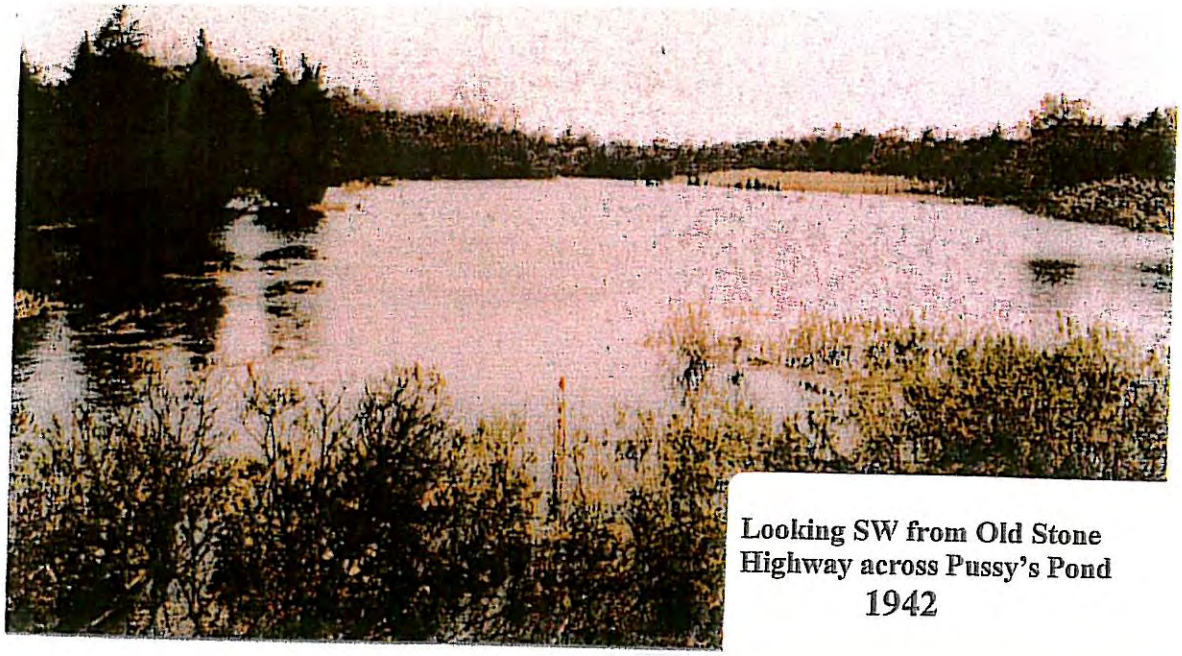
Herons	Pintail
Egrets	Canvas Back
Glossy Ibis	Hooded Merganser
Blue Wing Teal	Woodcock
Green Wing Teal	Mute Swan

and other wading birds frequently feed in the shallows. The most unusual breeding waterbird in the Pussy's Pond system is the **Virginia Rail,** a rare breeder on Long Island, but which regularly breeds in the ditched marshes of Accabonac Harbor.

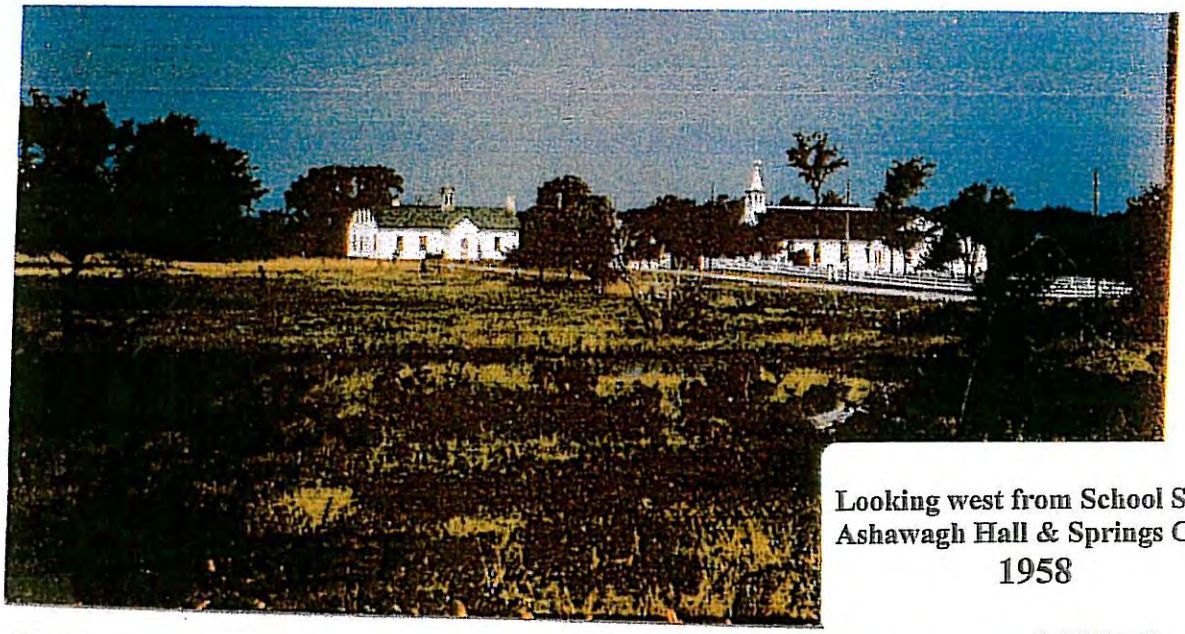
Several different songbirds breed in the trees and shrubs around the Pond. **Muskrats** live in the Pond, and the Pond is frequented by:

Diamond-back Terrapins
Spotted Turtles
Snapping Turtles
Raccoons
Opossum
Deer

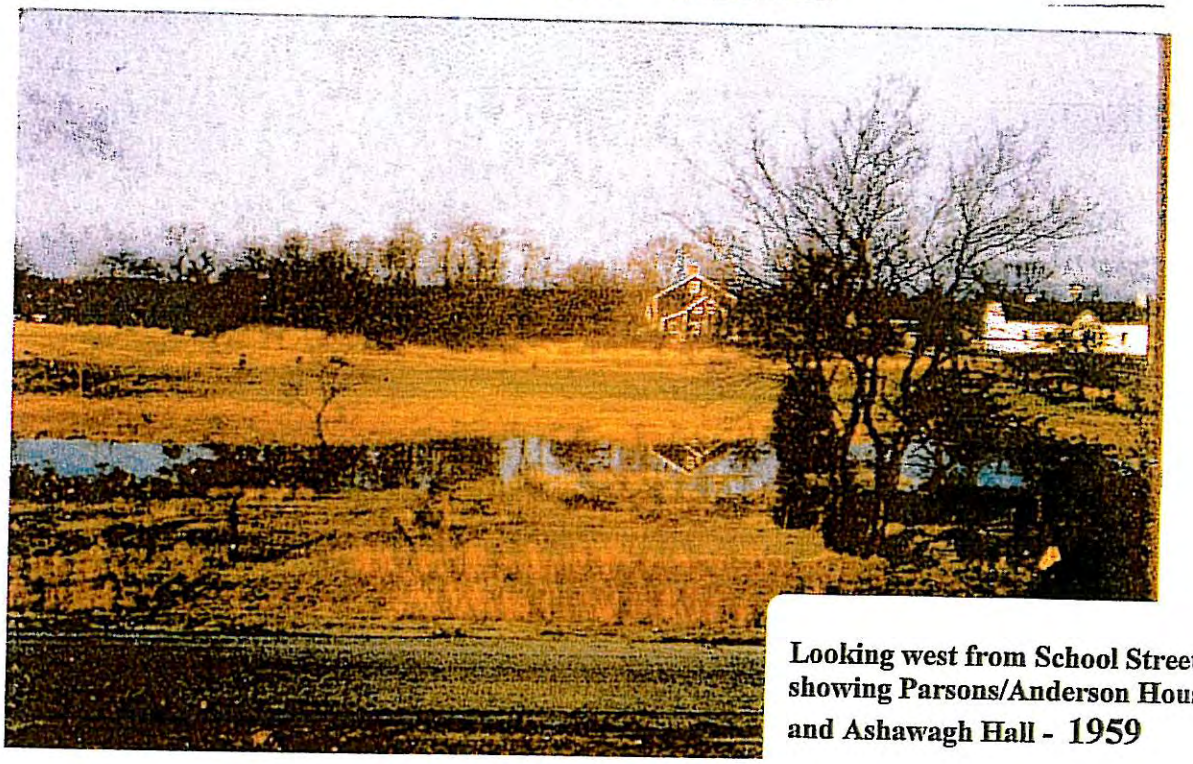
Spotted and snapping turtle females often lay their eggs in the soils of the pond's upland border.



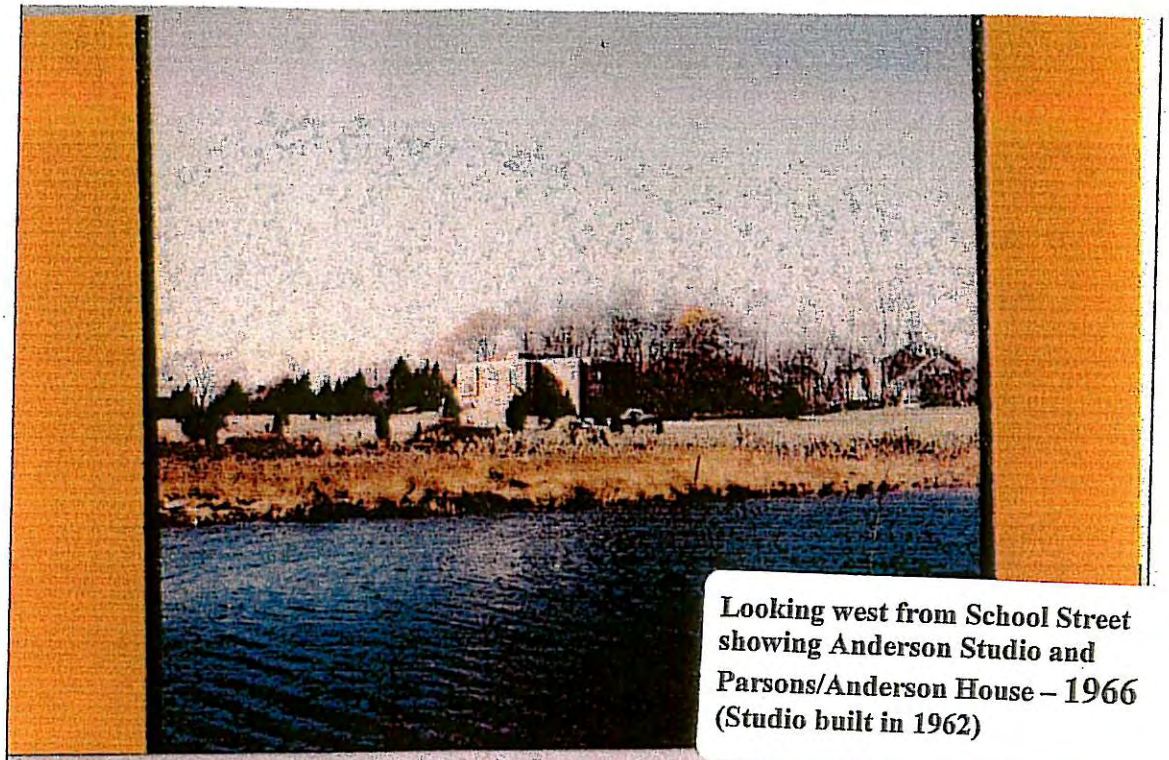
Looking SW from Old Stone Highway across Pussy's Pond
1942



Looking west from School Street to Ashawagh Hall & Springs Church
1958

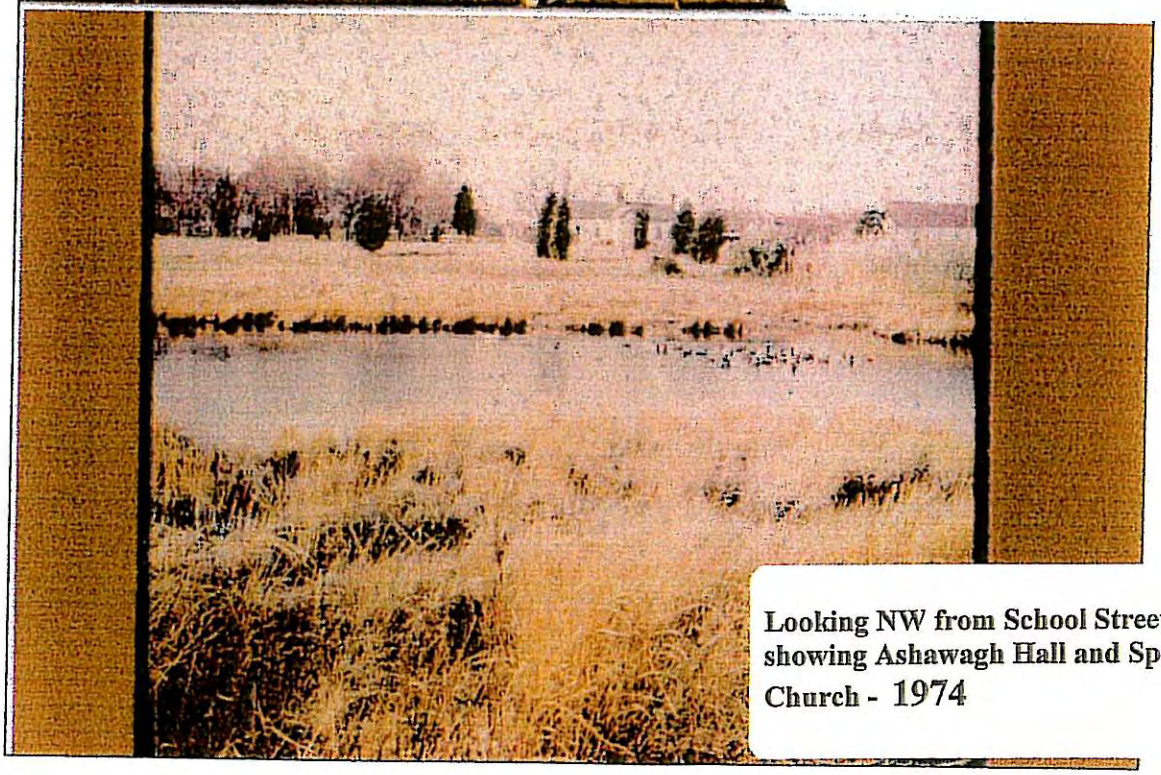


Looking west from School Street showing Parsons/Anderson House and Ashawagh Hall - 1959



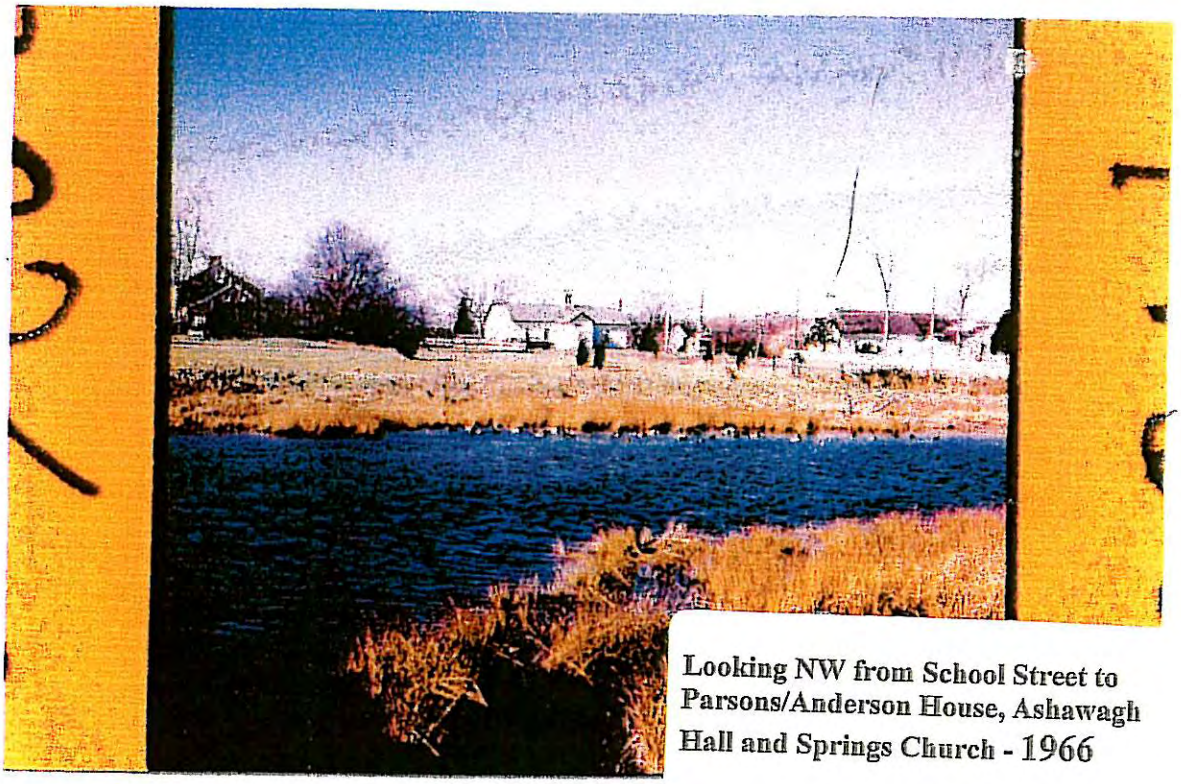
Looking west from School Street showing Anderson Studio and Parsons/Anderson House – 1966 (Studio built in 1962)

Looking west from School Street showing Parsons/Anderson House 1959

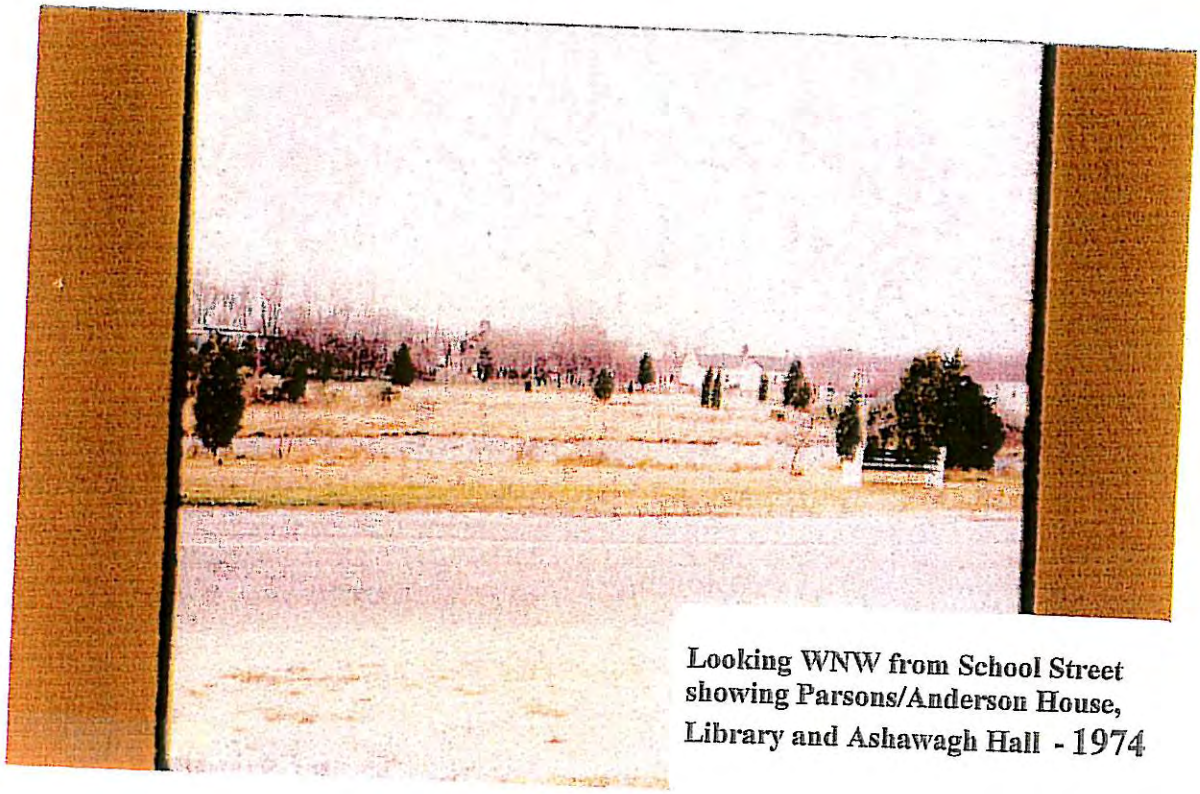


Looking NW from School Street showing Ashawagh Hall and Springs Church - 1974

Looking west from School Street
across Pussy's Pond
1965



Looking NW from School Street to
Parsons/Anderson House, Ashawagh
Hall and Springs Church - 1966



Looking WNW from School Street showing Parsons/Anderson House, Library and Ashawagh Hall - 1974

Looking northwest from School Street to Springs Church 1993

Standard N.Y.B.T.U. Form 8007 • 10-63-20M—Bargain and Sale Deed, with Covenant against Grantor's Acts—Individual or Corporation

LIBER 5698 PAGE 213

CONSULT YOUR LAWYER BEFORE SIGNING THIS INSTRUMENT—THIS INSTRUMENT SHOULD BE USED BY LAWYERS ONLY.

U. S. I. R. S. $66.00

Article V

THIS INDENTURE, made the 27th day of January, nineteen hundred and sixty-five,

BETWEEN JAMES F. CURRY and WINIFRED K. CURRY, his wife, residing at the Seneca Hotel, 200 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois,

party of the first part, and TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON, a municipal corporation of the County of Suffolk and State of New York,

party of the second part,

WITNESSETH, that the party of the first part, in consideration of --ten----------

--($10.00)---------- dollars,

lawful money of the United States, and other good and valuable consideration paid by the party of the second part, does hereby grant and release unto the party of the second part, the heirs or successors and assigns of the party of the second part forever,

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, ~~with the buildings and improvements thereon erected~~ situate, lying and being ~~in the~~ at The Springs in the Town of East Hampton, County of Suffolk, and State of New York, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a monument at the corner formed by the intersection of the southerly side of Springs-Amagansett Road with the westerly side of School Street; running thence along the westerly side of School Street the following three courses and distances: (1) south 32° 04' 50" west 751.62 feet; (2) south 42° 55' 20" west 333.71 feet; (3) south 51° 49' 40" west 217.66 feet to land now or formerly of Wilmer H. Betkin; thence along said last mentioned land the following two courses and distances: (1) north 50° 53' 00" west 115.69 feet; (2) south 57° 25' 20" west 99.08 feet to the northerly side of Cross Street; thence along the northerly side of Cross Street the following two courses and distances: (1) north 18° 27' 00" west 124.05 feet; (2) north 43° 22' 00" west 256.02 feet to a monument and the easterly side of Springs-Fireplace Road; thence north 32° 00' 40" east along the easterly side of Springs-Fireplace Road 978.72 feet to a monument and land now or formerly of Elizabeth A. Parker; thence along said land now or formerly of Elizabeth A. Parker the following two courses and distances: (1) south 57° 59' 20" east 278 feet to a monument; (2) north 32° 51' 40" east 265.31 feet to a monument and the southerly side of Springs-Amagansett Road; thence along the southerly side of Springs-Amagansett Road the following two courses and distances: (1) south 60° 49' 20" east 221.97 feet to a monument; (2) south 41° 43' 50" east 140.56 feet to a monument and the corner aforesaid to the point or place of beginning.

The grantors herein, James F. Curry and Winifred K. Curry, his wife, are the same persons as the grantees in a deed from Patience Elizabeth Parsons dated March 31, 1947, and recorded in Suffolk County Clerk's office April 17, 1947, in Liber 2695 of Deeds, page 193.

The aforesaid premises are conveyed subject to the condition and restriction that said premises shall be used for public use only.

Fee Receipt #

$33.00

Lien for refund filed in 4/13/65 in amount of 3.00 IRA 6/15/65

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Vetault, seconded by Justice Stafford:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FINANCING OF THE ACQUISITION OF 16.693 ACRES OF LAND FOR PARK AND CONSERVATION PURPOSES AT SPRINGS, TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST NOT TO EXCEED $30,000.00, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING $21,000.00 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of East Hampton, New York, by a resolution duly adopted on the 21st day of October, 1964, subject to a permissive referendum, a resolution for the acquisition of 16.693 acres of land at Springs, New York, at a total cost of $30,000.00, plus incidental closing expenses, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to that resolution, a $3,000.00 deposit was paid on this property upon signing of the contract, and

WHEREAS, by subsequent resolution dated December 1st, 1964 and pursuant to the terms of the contract of sale, the additional sum of $6,000.00 was paid toward said acquisition, and

WHEREAS the resolution of October 21st, 1964, provided for the financing of the balance of the cost of said acquisition through provisions of the Local Finance Law, and

WHEREAS, more than 30 days have elapsed since due publication of the notice of October 21st, 1964 resolution and no petition for referendum has been filed, and

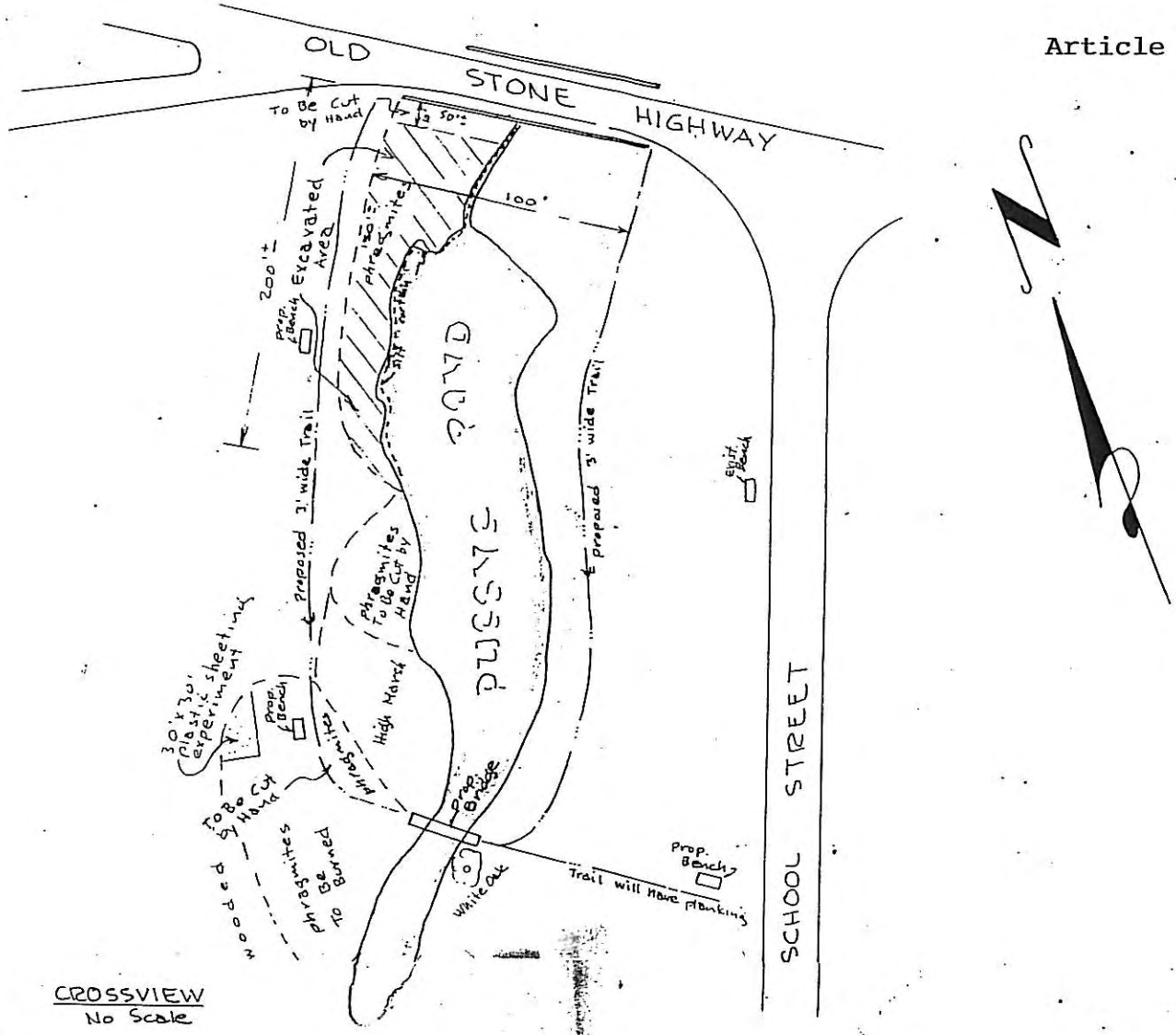
WHEREAS, there remains an unpaid balance of $21,000.00 due and owing on this acquisition,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

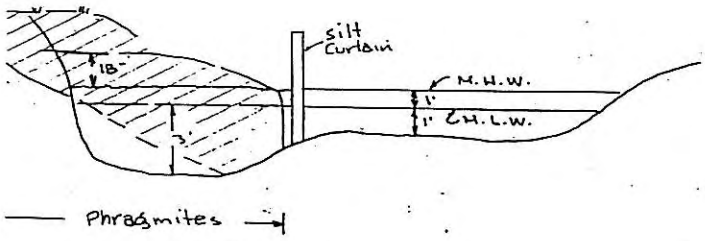
SECTION 1: The specific purpose for which obligations are to be issued pursuant to this resolution is the acquisition of land situate at Springs, Town of East Hampton, New York, briefly described as follows: Bounded on the Northwest by Springs-Fireplace Road; on the North by Parker and Springs-Amagansett Road; on the Southeast by School Street and on the South by Betkin and Cross Street, containing 16.693 acres.

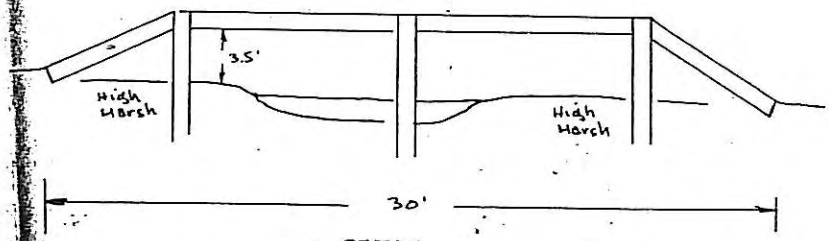
SECTION 2: The maximum cost of such land acquisition is $30,000.00 and the plan of financing such cost is as follows: $9,000.00 from current funds in Land Acquisition Account, which amount has hitherto been paid to the seller, and the balance of the cost is to be provided by the issuance of serial bonds in the amount of $21,000.00 pursuant to this resolution.

SECTION 3: It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of such land acquisition is, pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 19 (c) of Section 11.00 ofthe Local Finance Law, 10 years.



CROSSVIEW
No Scale





DETAIL
4' Wide Bridge
No Scale

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO PUSSYS POND

Town of East Hampton, Suffolk Co., N.Y.

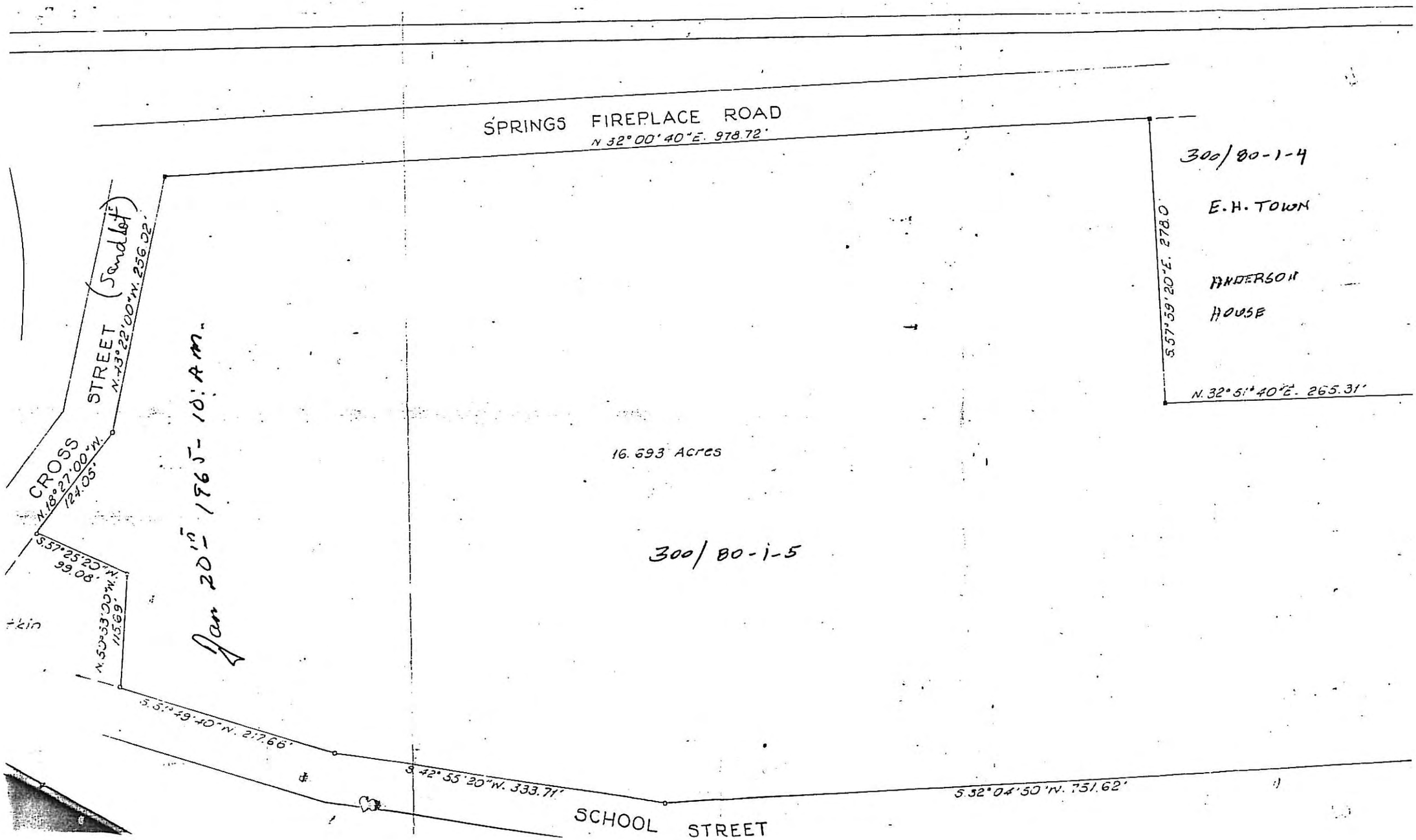
Approx. Scale: 1" = 50'±

1 - Excavate 1300± Cubic Yards of phragmites to create open pond area of 12,000 Sq. Ft.

2 - Construct 4' x 30' Bridge

Revised: October 2, 1992
Revised: July 9, 1992 - Prop. Benches, Area
Prepared: June 22, 1992

WATER FOWL U.S.A.


SPRINGS FIREPLACE ROAD
N 32° 00' 40" E. 978.72'
300/80-1-4
E.H. TOWN
ANDERSON
HOUSE
S.57°59'20"E. 278.0'
N. 32° 51' 40" E. 265.31'
CROSS STREET (Sandlot)
N.43°22'00"W. 256.32'
N.18°27'00"W. 124.05'
S.57°25'20"W. 99.08'
N.50°33'00"W. 115.69'
Jan 20th 1965 - 10 A.M.
16.693 Acres
300/80-1-5
S.57°49'40"W. 217.66'
S.42°55'20"W. 333.71'
S.32°04'50"W. 751.62'
SCHOOL STREET

May 7, 1998

THE PUSSY'S POND BRIDGE in Springs was vandalized, once again, last week. The destruction of more than 100 feet of railing was reported on Friday, and constituted felony-level criminal mischief. A BMX bike was found at the scene.

Morgan McGivern

Town Buying 16-Acre Park at Springs

16/8/64

The East Hampton Town Board announced Tuesday morning its intention to buy a wedge-shaped, 16-acre parcel of open land in Springs. The news was itself wedged, almost unnoticed, into the midst of a long, hectic, and sometimes explosive Board meeting.

At least six different matters of concern primarily to Montauk residents were reported on, discussed, or argued; the Board awarded five-year mining permits to the Bistrian Sand and Gravel Corporation and to Long Island Aggregates after public hearings; and it agreed to accept roads in Montauk-on-Sea at Napeague Beach, and Folkstone at Three Mile Harbor.

In addition, Supervisor Edward V. Ecker reported that a wave of vandalism, especially in Montauk, was going to be stopped. He warned that Police roadblocks and the inspection of passing cars for a .410 shotgun used in the vandals' destruction of street lights and signs would be set up if necessary.

Councilman Henry A. Mund announced the completion of successful negotiations by the Town for the purchase of the 16.693 acre parcel in Springs at a cost of $30,000 from Dr. James F. Curry of Chicago, Ill. The land, which stretches between the Springs-Fireplace Road and School Street, faces Ashawagh Hall, the Springs Community center, and the Springs General Store on the north; and the Springs Elementary School on the east. The street marking its southern boundary is known as Cross Road.

The property is generally high land and includes a small body of water known locally as Pussy's Pond. Under the terms of the contract of sale, the property will be permanently reserved by the Town for park or open land use.

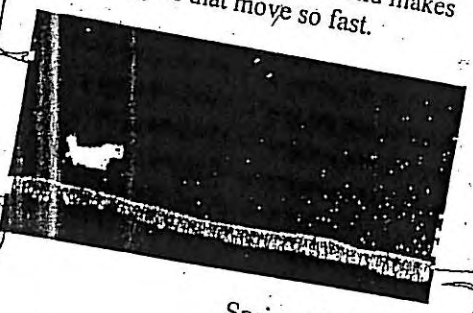
SHS
ORIGINAL COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

Article VIII

Pussy's Pond

by Elissa Ewing

I see goldenrods swaying in the light breeze. The air is cool and smooth, but the sun's rays pinpoint heat on my skin. It is very peaceful at Pussy's Pond. I see a blue crab and a few leaves on the ground. The ground is damp, cool, and covered with grass that is soft. A snowy white egret glides down into the water and makes little ripples that move so fast.



Springs School, Grade Four

"By and for Kids" is an occasional feature.

Nov 7, 1996

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR
SHINES ON SPRINGS

Because of an increasing interest in the history of the area, the Springs Historical Society will send ***THE STAR SHINES ON SPRINGS,*** a monthly collection of Springs-related articles culled from past issues of the ***EAST HAMPTON STAR,*** to all SHS members. Our thanks go to Helen Rattray, ***STAR*** President, for permission to do this.

SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. V, NO. 8 **AUGUST, 2002**

Topics In Springs

The Springs Improvement Society saw a large turnout at its general meeting in Ashawagh Hall last Friday. It featured a slide talk by Russell Hoeflich, director of the South Fork-Shelter Island Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

At the brief business meeting preceding the talk, the president, Eleanor Terry, directed the members' attention to the following:

• The establishment of Pussy's Pond Park as a nature preserve and sanctuary has been progressing through the combined efforts of Allene Talmage, a member of the Springs Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Town. Appropriate signs have been erected at the entrance to the nature trail, designating it as a preserve, and plans are continuing for further development of the area with the help of Larry Penny, the naturalist, and others.

• Thirty-eight new chairs have been acquired to replace those stolen and destroyed by vandals. A number of chairs have been discovered at the bottom of Pussy's Pond, it was reported.

IN WHAT IS REPORTED TO BE a successful attempt to turn the Pussy's Pond area into a park rather than a haven for vandals, Allene Talmage, a Springs School third-grade teacher, at right rear, enlisted the aid of Charles Collins, Town Parks Department foreman, above, and some students in a clean-up campaign there this spring. From left, a few of those students who took part are Robin Streck, L'Kela Lawler, Erin McGintee, and Brian Pardini. Cal Norris 6/16/83

Historic Springs

An inventory of Springs historic properties recommends that 29 houses there be considered for inclusion on the National Register for Historic Places.

Mr. Hefner noted that the 29 houses recommended for inclusion had been chosen from among 59 considered as candidates. His survey and inventory is available in the local libraries, he said, but he emphasized that the houses that have been nominated are not necessarily those that will be given final acceptance in the National Register.

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR
SHINES ON SPRINGS

Because of an increasing interest in the history of the area, the Springs Historical Society will send **THE STAR SHINES ON SPRINGS,** a monthly collection of Springs-related articles culled from past issues of the EAST HAMPTON STAR, to all SHS members. Our thanks to Helen Rattray, STAR President, for giving us permission to do this.

SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2003 **Vol. 6, No. 12**

Santa Goes to the Fire House, Springs Joan Ward

Tree Will Float

12/22/77

People of Springs found themselves at odds with the East Hampton Chamber of Commerce this week over the latter's decision to omit the floating Christmas tree from Pussy's Pond this year without warning the community that it intended to do so.

The Chamber, through its president, Peter Garnham, took credit Tuesday for floating and lighting the tree yearly in the Pond. This year, however, because of rising costs and an increase in vandalism, Mr. Garnham said, the Chamber had to forego providing the Town's communities with decorated trees. Only the Amagansett and East Hampton Village business districts have been decorated by the Chamber, and it still reported a $1,500 deficit in this year's Christmas fund.

"If we had put the cost of those trees into our advertising campaign this year, East Hampton would be better off," Mr. Garnham said.

But, judging from the complaints that have been voiced in Springs this week, Springs thinks it would be better off with its traditional Christmas tree in Pussy's Pond.

"If the Chamber had let us know in November that it was going to drop the idea, we could have done something about it ourselves by now," complained Deanna Tikkanen, a civic-minded Springs resident who said she felt it was possible, even now, for Springs groups to carry on the tradition in cooperation with the Chamber or without it. Mrs. Tikkanen is the daughter of Clarence King of School Street, one of the originators of the idea of floating a lighted tree in the pond.

In a telephone conversation on Tuesday, Mr. King retraced the history of the floating tree. Some 18 years ago it had occurred to Mr. King, who had long been decorating the tree at Ashawagh Hall for the community, that the problem of losing bulbs from the Hall tree could be solved if a tree were floated in the Pond out of the reach of mischievous hands. He and Charlie Miller, he said, had decided to launch a tree on a raft; Mr. Miller supplied the power through a cable run from his house.

At first, they had trouble with capsizing, Mr. King reported, but, through trial and error, they found a way of stabilizing the tree. When Mr. Miller moved out, Roy Sherman of the Town Highway Department, came to Mr. King's aid and it has been a cooperative effort since then, Mr. King said, with a neighbor, Edward W. Hults, supplying the power.

Mr. Garnham, explaining that the Chamber had cut back on the number of trees in East Hampton and Amagansett as well, said the tree in Pussy's Pond, "had been the first to go" because it had been heavily vandalized. He said the lights on the tree last winter had been shot out "three times over in five days."

"The Chamber has put a little money in it in the last few years," Mr. King reckoned, "but if the lights were out, it was probably due to electrical malfunction and not vandalism . . . the Chamber of Commerce has no claim to it as far as I'm concerned. It does belong to the Town and is a Town park, but I've been on top of it as much as anyone, and Eddie Hults always supplies the power."

Mr. King seemed to have little doubt that a call to the Highway Department would bring the little lighted tree back, even by the time you read this, to reflect in Pussy's Pond through another Christmas season.

Phyllis Reed

1/5/78

That Tree

A day or two before Christmas, the small, lighted Christmas tree for Springs that reportedly had been stricken from the East Hampton Chamber of Commerce list of Town decorations was floated on its raft in Pussy's Pond.

Those responsible for the gesture this year include Clarence King, who has been overseeing the project since he began it some 18 years ago; his daughter, Deanna Tikkanen; Terry and Frank Ganley of the Round Hearth Garden Center, who donated the tree; the men of the Town Highway Department, who installed it; Edward Hults, who supplied the electricity; and a number of Springs residents who pressed to keep the tradition alive.

CARDS OF THANKS

The Springs Village Improvement Society wish to thank Mrs. Frank Hendrickson and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Maranville for their cooperation in supplying the electricity for the Christmas Greeting signs at the entrances of Village of Springs.

Louise B. Moore, Sec.-Treas.

1/17/52

Several persons in town were presented with either a brace of black duck or pheasants this week, some of the game shot on Clarence Mackay's preserve at Gardiner's Island. Besides shipping hundreds of birds to his many friends, Mr. Mackay generously remembers several East Hampton families, either at Thanksgiving time or Christmas.

12/20/45