

CHILMARK POND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Pond Openings 2017

January 12-February 3, 2017

March 17-April 4, 2017

May 16-June 4, 2017

For the fourth straight year, there was no Fall opening of the pond. This was again due to the drought that occurred over the Summer months. However, there was a high amount of precipitation over the first five months of the year. This led to the need for three openings this year.

The first opening was in January, and lasted for 22 days. The second opening was in March, and lasted for 18 days. When a third opening was required in May, we coordinated with Biodiversity Works due to the presence of nesting shore birds. This opening lasted for 19 days. Each of the openings was an extremely successful flushing of the pond.

We had arranged to have extended cut work done after the March opening. Unfortunately, the Chilmark Conservation Commission did not want us to proceed.

On a more positive note, the beach grass is growing back inside much of the Piping Plover enclosure. This is due to the lack of human traffic, and will help keep sand from blowing into the pond.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Cottle
Stephen Lewenberg
William Randol