



*For immediate release*

***Contacts for Information:***

Paula Marcoux (774) 269-6105

Eric Cody (508) 341-3813

## **SAVERY POND CONSERVANCY LAUNCHES AS INDEPENDENT NONPROFIT**

*New nonprofit group will focus exclusively on health of Savery Pond, building on recent accomplishments of Friends of Ellisville Marsh*

**March 27, 2019** – Ellisville, MA: A new, Plymouth-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit has been formed to continue and expand scientific study and environmental action at Plymouth’s 28-acre Savery Pond. Savery Pond has been the focus of significant local and state attention due to its decades-long history of impaired water quality and potentially toxic cyanobacteria outbreaks. Scientific investigation of the pond has been supported by the Friends of Ellisville Marsh under their Savery Pond Project, beginning with its initial documentation of baseline water quality conditions in 2012. The new nonprofit, called the *Savery Pond Conservancy*, builds on seven years of project progress. Peter Schwartzman, a licensed hydrogeologist, Friends’ board member and coordinator of the project, is leading the new organization. As Savery Pond forms the headwaters of the Ellisville watershed (feeding fresh water to the Ellisville estuary via Herring Brook), the Friends and the Savery Pond Conservancy will work closely together as partners with a common interest in a healthy future for the watershed.

The new Savery Pond Conservancy begins its nonprofit life in a strong position—

- The Savery Pond Project is well established and has made significant

scientific progress toward identifying the underlying causes of periodic water quality problems and toxic algae events at Savery Pond.

- Project continuity is assured by the transfer of 100% of funds previously raised for the pond work by the Friends.
- A significant base of project supporters and volunteers has existed for a number of years.
- A Web site containing detailed project information exists at [www.saverypond.org](http://www.saverypond.org).
- Positive working relationships have been created between the project and an array of governmental and private entities.

Major steps toward addressing the core water quality problems at the pond have already been taken. Foremost among them is the Town of Plymouth's 2017 acquisition and retirement of an adjacent cranberry bog. This year, the Town of Plymouth and the Friends are jointly funding sampling of lake sediments to determine the role of accumulated "legacy nutrients" in fueling algal blooms. The new nonprofit will maintain its working relationship with the Town and foster new links with established local and regional watershed associations. An immediate goal of the new organization is to secure funding to complete critical data collection and analysis and to develop a management plan for the pond.

In the eyes of Friends' president Eric Cody, this is an opportune time to recognize the dedicated focus needed to propel the Savery Pond work forward toward implementation of measures that will address the problems at Savery Pond. According to Cody, "The Friends of Ellisville Marsh have essentially acted as host and incubator for the expanding work at Savery Pond. We have considered ourselves stewards of Savery Pond as well as Ellisville Marsh—both are highly valued natural resources. Some time ago it became apparent that the project would ultimately need a focus of its own and the independence to pursue whatever path is best for the pond. With this in mind, we kept close track of funds raised for the project versus our core work maintaining the inlet at Ellisville Marsh and those can be shifted over. We're delighted to see the project come into its own with

the creation of the Conservancy.”

Final separation of the Project from the Friends of Ellisville Marsh is expected to take place by July 1, 2019. Further information on the Savery Pond Conservancy can be found at the organization’s Web site at [www.saverypond.org](http://www.saverypond.org). The ongoing work of the Friends of Ellisville Marsh is showcased at [www.ellisvillemarsh.org](http://www.ellisvillemarsh.org).

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