

RGT Stewardship Plan

Site: Dan Glazier Forest

Plan for year: 2013

1. Description: size, location, access, brief description

The 57-acre property was once part of the larger Glazier family property which stretched from Brushy Mountain to Diamond Match Ridge and beyond. In 2009, when Dorothy Bennett transferred the property to the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust so that it could be protected in perpetuity, she asked that it be named the Dan Glazier Forest in honor of the late Mr. Glazier's love of this land. The property can be reached by walking north on the power line from North Leverett Road.

or same as last year

2. Site Significance:

The Dan Glazier Forest spans the southern edge of Diamond Match Ridge. From the hillside it is possible to see Brushy Mountain to the south, the upper cliffs of Rattlesnake Gutter and part of the Mount Toby complex to the west.

or same as last year

3. Deed Restrictions/Responsibilities:

There are no restrictions in the deed. It was understood that the land would be protected in perpetuity.

or same as last year

4. Site Restrictions/Limitations:

1. Access: The property does not touch North Leverett Road. Access is from North Leverett Road north on the power line. Town Administrator, Marjorie McGinnis, has the RGT key to the powerline gate. (It is left with the town since Board membership could change.)

2. Parking: There are a few pull off spots along North Leverett Road near (but not blocking) the gate. There are pull-off spots along nearby Coke Kiln Road. While there are also spaces near the Plain View Cemetery across the street from the access gate, care must be taken not to block the entrance to the cemetery, i.e. those spaces should not be shown on a map.

3. Access along the power line means that access can be disrupted when there is construction work in progress (as there was in 2010 and might be again if land to the north becomes a cell tower site.)

4. While the property is essentially a series of parallel ridges on the south-facing end of Diamond Match Ridge, it is possible to walk almost everywhere on the property – and Keith diNardo, a UMass student designed a loop trail which had a reasonable slope. That trail might need to be re-designed, but it would still have reasonable slopes.

or same as last year

5. Plant Communities, Wildlife Communities, Natural Features:

The forest, which was reportedly leveled by the 1938 hurricane, is mixed hardwood, pine and hemlock. In the aerial photograph (taken in the late winter), it is possible to see the transition between the green pines and hemlocks on the ridge to the lower-slope bare-branched hardwoods on the east edge. A forest inventory was completed in 2008 by Keith deNardo and is on the Board’s website.

There is a series of rock outcroppings on the western side that is not visible in the aerial photograph.

Because the property borders open land to the south and a power line to the west, there is a variety of forest and forest-edge habitats. Breeding birds include a Black-billed Cuckoo and Eastern Towhee (both at the power line edge), and Red-eyed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Green and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Scarlet Tanager in the forest itself.

or same as last year

6. Historic Land Use and Cultural Resources:

The 57-acre property was once part of the larger Glazier family property which stretched from Brushy Mountain to Diamond Match Ridge and beyond. Like all the surrounding land, it surely was cleared either for sheep or the Coke Kilns (or both). More information on the property’s history is available and needs to be collected.

The view from the property – especially at the center of the south line where the neighboring land has been cleared – includes Brushy Mountain to the south, the upper cliffs of Rattlesnake Gutter (including Rattlesnake Hill, the town-owned property on which RGT has a CR) and part of the Mount Toby complex to the west.

or same as last year

7. Trails Present and Potential (also complete/revise Trail Assessment on last pages):

A loop trail was laid out in 2010. Work was delayed because of the electric company construction. (The Trail Assessment will be completed once the trail has been opened.)

or same as last year

8. Potential Threats: (boundaries/access, unauthorized use, hydrology/wetlands, soil erosion/sedimentation, invasive species, sensitive resources)

none identified

or same as last year

9. Management Goals Last Year and Accomplishments:

a. Monitor the land annually

Accomplishments: Monitoring done, reports not yet filed.

b. Clear a trail once electric company construction completed and work crew can be organized.

Accomplishments: power line work completed. Trail work not yet done.

10. Comparison last year's budget (year 2012) with actual costs:

a. Estimated every-year costs:

none

b. Estimated single-year costs:

none

c. Unanticipated costs:

none

11. Management Goals This Year (2013):

1. Continue annual monitoring (and file all reports).
2. Work with Northeast Utilities to confirm our right of access to the property (probably by being given key to the locked powerline gate)
3. Lay out trail and organize trail-building work crew (inviting the volunteers who signed up on membership forms).
4. Prepare/post map of trail and establish trail stewardship program.
5. Collecting more information on the history of the property.

12. Schedule of Planned Activities (including monitoring) to Meet Goals:

Monitoring: done at convenience of Dan Glazier property committee.

Property access: done this winter

Trail design: done winter or early spring

Trail building: weather dependent, possibly spring.

Trail information/stewardship: can be done only after trail is complete.

Collecting information on the history of the property: done during the year, will be added to the RGT website and could also be summarized on the back of the map.

13. Budget: Description	Estimated cost	Estimated Total
a. Costs every year		
none		
b. Costs just this year		
trailhead signage	\$200	
(Total for this year)	\$200	
<i>c. Anticipate additional costs next year</i>		<i>(do not add to total)</i>
none		

Plan completed by:

Date:

..... date presented to Board date copies provided for archive/web

Special thanks to the East Quabbin Land Trust for their help with this document.