

Leverett Trails Committee

7:30 p.m. May 20, 2019 Town Hall, 9 Montague Rd, Leverett, MA 01054

Members Present: Rocky Adriance, Miho Connolly, David Litterer, Adam Wellen, Bob Weller

| | Status | Plans | Person(s) Responsible | Notes |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|-------|
| STATUS OF TRAILS | | | | |
| Cave Hill | Fallen trees have been cleared. South end of Town Farm loop is still wet. | Future work day to install bog bridges at south end of Town Farm loop. | Future work day | |
| Dan Glazier | Four trees down. David suggested putting up signage that is more visible from the road. | We could try out a louder design for the laminated sheet of paper that is currently on the telephone pole. An arrow could also be placed at the far side of the transmission lines so that it is visible from the road. | Miho to contact chainsawyers, print alternative signs. | |
| Ellamoose Repose | <i>Old news: West side of loop trail is significantly wet. Some signage is missing, especially between the two fields.</i> | Reroute west side of loop trail or install bog bridges. Install directional arrows to clarify trail route. | David Litterer will check the blazes and will explore rerouting possibilities. If we need bog bridges-- Future work day? | |
| Rattlesnake Hill | <i>Old news: The bench at the view needs replacement. Debris still remains from the old commune.</i> | | Rocky will coordinate bench replacement with volunteers. | |
| Bill Rivers | <i>Old news: Bench needs refurbishing and relocation. The midway connector trail was very wet as of last season, and probably needs bog bridges.</i> | <i>Someone will go check out the connector trail to assess for bog bridges; wetness throughout the season.</i> | Miho? Rocky will coordinate bench refurbishing with volunteers. | |
| Long Hill | <i>Old news: Commemorative bench is showing signs of rot. Rocky is working on stopping the rot and sealing the hole.</i> | | Rocky | |
| Friendship Trail | "Friendship Trail" sign has been replaced. <i>Old news: Trail markers are difficult to follow near Cider Mill Road, especially as the trail becomes very wet.</i> | Re-mark and/or install bog bridges | Miho will get in touch with Brooke, and Roy & Cynthia Kimmel about working on these issues. | |
| Ed Field Trail | Work day was a success! Four new bog bridges were installed, and metal T-posts were driven in as trail markers. However, the trail paint does not show up well on the green posts. | Bob suggested using fluorescent tape on the posts instead of paint. The trail also needs more mapboards (at trail junctions and to replace rotting ones). | Miho will purchase and install fluorescent tape. Need volunteers for constructing map boards. | |
| 4H Forest | Dave Powicki has installed two new map boards. The downed tree has been cleared. | | | |

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| Teawaddle Hill Farm | During the work day, Neal and Adam realigned the bog bridges that had floated out of alignment over the winter. They fixed the worst of the see-sawing bog bridges, but this is not a permanent solution. Bog bridges need shingles. | Perhaps longer 6x6 planks could be screwed onto the bottom of the bog bridges in order to distribute the weight better. Install shingles on the next work day | Rocky (and others) to brainstorm solutions for the bog bridges. Future work day. | |
| Gordon King | <i>Old news: Red trail around pond was very grown in at the end of last season.</i> | <i>We should assess whether we want to put more work into the red trail, or remove it. It would also be nice to install a picnic table in the cleared area by the pond.</i> | | |
| East Leverett Meadow | One of the steps is out on the foot bridge. The bridge is still stable, but has been bent by ice flows over the winter. RGT is installing a pollinator garden at the meadow, and may need volunteers for installation. | Rocky would like to shore up the bridge (before next winter) by using cables tied to surrounding trees. | Rocky will take a look at the bridge and assess its safety . Future work day. | |
| Roaring Brook | David Litterer noticed another trail across the Roaring Brook property, starting on the other side of the transmission lines. There is an old bridge on this trail, and it is marked with orange signs. Perhaps a bicyclist or ATV trail? | Perhaps this trail could be tied into the existing ones on the property. | Miho (and others) to check out this trail. | |
| OTHER BUSINESS | | | | |
| Les Allen Memorial Trail | Rattlesnake Gutter Trust members have discussed ways to honor Les Allen for his many years of service to the community. It would be great to name a trail after him. | The 4-H Forest to LES trail would be a great candidate if it can be made reality. | Martin to take the lead on coordinating with private landowners about trail easements. | |
| Trail maps at the library | Mary Alice has been keeping track and restocking the trail maps at the library. Since she is leaving town, someone else must take over this responsibility. | | Bob Weller will take over this responsibility. | |

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| Trailhead mailboxes | Mary Alice has also been maintaining the trailhead mailboxes at ELM, Dan Glazier, and Cave Hill properties. These mailboxes need to be stocked with trail maps, a notebook and pencil, and flyers. | The boxes should be checked periodically (e. g. every month or so, or when walking in the area); shortages should be reported to Miho so they can be addressed. | Miho will ask Danielle Barshak to check the Cave Hill mailbox, and Steve Weiss to check the Dan Glazier mailbox. Miho will check the ELM box. | |
| Potential trails | Dave Litterer wonders if the LTC would be interested in installing a short section of trail from the transfer station south into Haskins Meadow. This would provide better parking and access to the back lots of Haskins Meadow, which are managed and maintained by the Town of Amherst. | This short section of trail (i.e. little effort) could provide great access to an otherwise underutilized area. However, it would require some coordination with the Towns of Amherst & Shutesbury, the Cemetery Association, and the Transfer Station. | Dave L will look into whether the Towns of Amherst and Shutesbury are interested in this option. | |
| | Perhaps a short trail could be put in on the McIntire property to connect a wider parking area with the Robert Frost trail. | | | |
| DATES | | | | |
| WORK DAYS | No work days for June, due to busy schedules. We'll use this time to research future work days. | | | |
| Rattlesnake Gutter Trust Annual Meeting | The RGT will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, June 9. Come learn more about the RGT, get involved, and thank Mary Alice for her many years of dedication to the Town and its trails! Food, drink, and good company provided. | | Sunday, June 9 @ Julie Collier's house. | |
| Guided Walk | Fern ID presentation and walk | Randy Stone (Pioneer Valley Fern Society) will be giving a presentation + guided fern identification walk on Saturday, July 13 (rain date: July 20) from 1:00pm. The program will start at the Leverett library with an introduction to ferns, then will be followed by a walk in the Bill Rivers property to identify some of the most common species. | Saturday, July 13 (Rain Date July 20) 1:00PM @ Leverett Library & Bill Rivers CA | |

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| NEXT MEETING: | 7:30p.m. June 17, 2019 | We meet on the third Monday of the month. | | |