

## Leverett Trails Committee

7:30 p.m. June 24, 2019 Town Hall, 9 Montague Rd, Leverett, MA 01054

**Members Present:** Rocky Adriance, Miho Connolly, Neal Erickson, Adam Wellen, Bob Weller, Martin Wobst

	Status	Plans	Person(s) Responsible	Notes
<b>STATUS OF TRAILS</b>				
<b>Cave Hill</b>	Mailbox with trail maps missing from parking area. North end of eastern loop (yellow trail) also has a very wet spot during the rainy season. <i>Old news: South end of Town Farm loop is still wet.</i>	Future work day to install bog bridges. Perhaps the trail could be rerouted to avoid the need for two existing bog bridges, which could then be moved to the problem location (this would minimize the amount of material that needs to be walked in).	<i>Does anyone know the whereabouts of the mailbox?</i> <b>Rocky</b> will look into how the mailbox is attached for a replacement.	
<b>Dan Glazier</b>	Eversource has been active with transmission line maintenance activities, making the trails less approachable. <i>Old news: 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. 4 Trees down.</i>	Could an alternative trail entrance be found?	<b>Miho to contact chainsawyers, print alternative signs.</b>	The Rattlesnake Gutter Trust is planning a guided walk on the property in the fall.
<b>Ellamoose Repose</b>	<i>Old news: West side of loop trail is significantly wet. Some signage is missing, especially between the two fields. Reroute west side of loop trail or install bog bridges. Install directional arrows to clarify trail route.</i>		<i>Old news: David Litterer will check the blazes and will explore rerouting possibilities. If we need bog bridges-- Future work day?</i>	
<b>Rattlesnake Hill</b>	Rocky went and checked out the bench at the view-- it is "toast." <i>Old news: Debris still remains from the old commune.</i>	Directional sign at sharp turn on private land needs repainting with white.	<b>Rocky</b> will come up with a plan and price for a replacement bench. <b>Miho</b> will get in touch with Hank Berry about the bench replacement. <b>Miho?</b> will repaint directional sign.	
<b>Bill Rivers</b>	<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>			

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<b>Friendship Trail</b>	<p><i>Old news: Trail markers are difficult to follow near Cider Mill Road, especially as the trail becomes very wet. - contact Kimmels &amp; Brooke?</i></p>		<p><b>WORK DAY 7/20 9AM - 12PM:</b> Install bog bridges and clarify trail, especially near Cider Mill Rd.  <b>Miho</b> to contact Brooke and the Kimmels about this plan.</p>	
<b>Ed Field Trail</b>	<p>Trails growing in. Pink tape has been put on the garden stakes as trail markers (the spray paint did not show up well). The white duct tape sprayed orange did not hold up well. <i>Old news: Need map boards</i></p>	<p>Purchase and put orange-colored tape on stakes</p>	<p><b>Miho</b> to get and apply tape.  <b>NEED A VOLUNTEER</b> to construct map boards.</p>	
<b>Gordon King</b>	<p>Trails have been mowed, and blueberries are coming in. From Joe Sincuk: winter injury and blossom and twig blight may be affecting the bushes.                      It's not too late to prune. A weeding and whacking and anything that would suppress competition would be helpful.  <i>Old news: Red trail around pond was very grown in at the end of last season.</i> Neal noted that it was fairly easy to clear the trail with hedge trimmers last year, but the trail clearly hasn't been used.</p>	<p>Blueberry bushes: OK to prune, any activity to suppress competition would be helpful (Future work day and/or weeding, stringtrimmer volunteers).  <i>Old news: 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>                      The path that leads to the trail around the pond must be maintained if we want to encourage people to use the trail.</p>		
<b>Teawaddle Hill Farm</b>	<p>Trails growing in. Very wet section remains on old woods road connecting to Ed Field trails. Another wet area at the toe of slope not far from the Teawaddle Hill Rd entrance. <i>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</i></p>	<p>The L-shaped section of the blue trail is underused and difficult to maintain. It will be removed.</p>	<p><b>Miho</b> to remove blue trail markers and contact Eva to create a new map. <b>Miho</b> to contact the Mitchells about wet areas and possible solutions.</p>	

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<b>East Leverett Meadow</b>	Trails growing in. The bridge continues to hold strong, but has suffered some structural problems due to ice flows these past two years. A step is missing. There is a wet, difficult area on the trails to the NW of the property (south of the powerlines).	Rocky has devised a plan to anchor the bridge to a large pine tree using strong aircraft cable. The cable will be flagged for visibility, but should not affect trails users. The structure will also be realigned and shored up before the winter. A bog bridge would be useful at the wet spot.	<b>Rocky</b> to replace step. <b>Rocky</b> to finalize plans, prices, and get OK from RGT. Future work day (August?) <b>Miho</b> to contact landowner about putting in a bog bridge.	

### OTHER BUSINESS

<b>Mary Alice Bench &amp; thank you</b>	The Mary Alice bench has been installed! The bench was made from a century-old maple (dropped in Leverett as a hazard tree) that bears the marks of years of sugaring operations. Mary Alice has sent a thank-you note and a photo of her enjoying the new bench, which has been placed in a scenic location on the Friendship Trail.			
<b>Shutesbury Rd - Elementary School Trail</b>	Martin is interested in spearheading the installation of a trail that would connect Shutesbury Rd (by the 4-H Forest) to the Leverett Elementary School.	If installed, there are plans to call it the Les Allen memorial trail.	<b>Martin</b> to take the lead on coordinating with private landowners about trail easements.	
<b>Stringtrimmers/ Weed whackers needed</b>	Many of the trails (especially in East Leverett) are growing in with lush greenery.	We need volunteers to cut back the trails to keep them inviting to people and not to ticks.	<b>NEED VOLUNTEERS</b>	

### DATES

<b>WORK DAYS</b>	<b>Saturday, July 20 9AM - 12PM @ TBD</b>	TBD	TBD	
<b>Guided Walk</b>	<b>Fern ID presentation and walk</b>	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 4-H Forest property to identify some of the most common species.	<b>Saturday, July 13 (Rain Date July 20) 1:00PM @ Leverett Library &amp; 4-H Forest</b>	

**NEXT MEETING: 7:30p.m. Monday, July 22, 2019**