## What's happening?

AN INEXORABLE THREAT

The Rattlesnake Gutter Road Recreational
Trail is under severe threat, no longer able to
contend with the increased rainfall and snow
melt brought on by our rapidly changing New
England climate. The Rattlesnake Gutter Trust
strongly supports the efforts underway in town
to preserve this unique scenic and recreational
treasure for future generations.



RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST LEVERETT, MA 01054





# What's at stake?



#### A HISTORIC ROADWAY

For 180 years, Rattlesnake Gutter Road connected northern and central Leverett. Then, in 2001, the collapse of two sections of the stone retaining wall holding the

road up above the glacial ravine led to the closure of the western half of the road.



#### A PREMIER RECREATIONAL RESOURCE

The closure transformed the road into a major recreational site used every day of the year by walkers, hikers, bird watchers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers.

#### THE FLOOD OF 2023

In July, 2023, an intense rainstorm overwhelmed the road's outmoded drainage system, with torrents carving huge channels in the road, collapsing another section of the retaining wall, and washing much of the road's surface into the Gutter.



#### **WHAT MUST BE DONE**

The road can be saved by restoring the collapsed sections of the old retaining wall, repairing and expanding the drainage system, replacing inadequate culverts, and re-engineering the road to funnel water from Brushy Mountain to where Nature intended it to go—into the Gutter.

#### WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

The Rattlesnake Gutter project steering committee has received a \$20,000 donation from the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust and has applied for funding from the Community Preservation Act, the Mass Trails program, the Trails Capacity program, and the Fields Pond Foundation, which has already awarded the project an additional \$15,000 grant.

### **How YOU Can Help:**

**COME TO TOWN MEETING ON MAY 3** to support the authorization of Community Preservation Act funding essential to the road's future.

☐ YES, I WANT TO HELP PRESERVE RATTLESNAKE GUTTER FOR THE FUTURE. DONATION \$	
NAME	
EMAIL	
ADDRESS	