

Schuyler Conservation Restriction
Report on Annual Walk

April 12, 2005

Present: Evie Schuyler, Anne Schuyler, Sheila Seaman, Lee Thomas, Mary Alice Wilson

On a very cool (50 degree) and windy day, we walked the border of the Schuyler Conservation Restriction.

All boundary markers were in place. (Well, we got lost walking west back to the power line, but that was not the fault of the markings.)

There was no obvious change in the land. A few trees had come down in last winter's storms and more shrubs are growing in the southerly parts of the power line. So far there do not appear to be many tree saplings in the power line that might invite the power line folk to spray the area.

We did have a chance to watch a porcupine along the south border. (It presumably went up the tree from a rocky (den?) area as we approached.) Certainly the porcupine was watching us; picture attached. We also disturbed a pair of Barred Owls to the south of the property who called a number of times and are probably nesting over on the next ridge. Both chickadees and crows were calling as we walked. Other wildlife included mostly feeder birds (we did not see the turkeys who often visit). There was lots of deer scat and the Schuylers often see them.

It was a wonderful afternoon. Not only are the woods lovely, but walking around the edge of that high, dry CR - land that could so easily have become house lots - we were reminded again of how valuable this Conservation Restriction is to everyone in Leverett.

MAW, 4/14/05

