

Notes from Conservation Restriction Monitoring: Portia Weiskel, Putney Road

Friday, November 22, 2002

Portia Weiskel (land owner), Annette Gibavic and Mary Alice Wilson (RGT Trust Board)

It was cold at the beginning and then began to rain. We did our monitoring from the car - which is fine for that piece of land.

The land is bordered by a wooden fence on the south, a stone wall on the north, a line of trees on the west (lake side) and the road on the east. The church owns the land along the lake and has access to it through a gate/right-of-way near the north edge of the property.

While there is agreement, that the land should be kept open so that everyone can enjoy a view of Leverett Pond, it is a constant battle to keep the field from growing up and to keep the line of trees jointly owned by the church and Portia from blocking the view.

Keeping the land open: Portia works at cutting bittersweet, raspberry, etc. She hopes to have horses on the land in a few years. The church did some initial work, but only agreed to do that for 3 years.

Having a view through the trees. There was a suggestion that Portia and the church stewards meet to mark some trees for cutting (both sides of the line) and the church will do the cutting as it has the time.

Use of the land. There is always a tension between having the land enjoyed and trashing it, or just taking access to the land for granted. Portia tries to monitor its use, but that is time-consuming.

We discussed ways to make folks aware of the importance of this land - possibly incorporating it into a spring RGT walk. Any plan would be discussed with her. Potential monitoring of bird population was mentioned, which she said would be fine.

We did not discuss any other issues. It was agreed that, if she had other concerns, she would talk with Annette and that we would repeat this official visit every year.