

Portia Weiskel Conservation Restriction, Putney Road
May 18, 2004

Present: Portia Weiskel (owner), Annette Gibavic and Mary Alice Wilson (Rattlesnake Gutter Trust)

Last year when we met it was cold and beginning to rain. This year it was warm and almost raining. At least we know how to break any threatened drought.

The major/southerly section of the meadow was brush-hogged by Gordon Fretwell last fall. Horses are also helping to keep the land open. Portia plans to talk with Gordon about repeating the brush-hogging this year in an never-ending effort to beat back the woody plants. It looks wonderful at the moment.

Portia has been clipping the sumac and other woody plants on the smaller, more northerly section greatly increasing the views of the lake. She plans to enclosed it with wire fencing so that the goats can graze there.

The area to the north of the road going down to the church property (forming a triangle with the stone wall) is growing up and it is hoped that the church youth group can do some trimming in this area as well as along the lake-side border to that there can be even more views of the lake. The area is probably too wet to be brush-hogged.

This year's Rattlesnake Gutter Trust Annual Meeting, June 6, will be held at the church lakeside property and will be, in part, a celebration of the Weiskel Conservation Restriction and the value of keeping this wonderful view open for the all those who pass through Leverett.

We agreed to continue our previous plan of contacting Portia during the year if we had any concerns and/or if the Trust could plan a workday to help with the property.

Mary Alice Wilson and Annette Gibavic, May 18, 2004