

RGT Stewardship Plan

Site: Whitney Road Conservation Area

Plan for year: 2013

and Marvell Family Conservation Area

1. Description: size, location, access, brief description

Both properties are located north of/behind the cliffs on the lower section of Rattlesnake Gutter.

Whitney Road Conservation Area: Donated to RGT by the developers of Ryan Hill, Richie Roberts and Williams Pearson in 1999. 26 acres. Access is from Rattlesnake Gutter Road north on Old Cave Hill Road (or from Ryan Road south on Old Cave Hill Road). Near the junction of the discontinued Old Cave Hill and Whitney Roads is the cellar hole and well of the Whitney homestead. There are also Native American stone structures in two clusters on the property.

Marvell Family Conservation Area: Purchased from Alberta Marvell Cronen and Pascal Marvell in 2002. 20 acres. Access is from Rattlesnake Gutter Road north on Old Cave Hill Road and the northeast on Whitney Road (or from Ryan Road south on Old Cave Hill Road and northeast on Whitney Road). The property slopes down to a series of ridges above the Rattlesnake Gutter cliffs. There is no indication of a house lot in the past.

or same as last year

2. Site Significance:

Whitney Road and Marvell Family: These two properties and the Rattlesnake Gutter Conservation Area owned by the town form an important protected area. While all trail access agreements have not been completed, there is a loop trail made up of Rattlesnake Gutter Road, a trail connection to Whitney Road and then back down Old Cave Hill Road.

or same as last year

3. Deed Restrictions/Responsibilities:

Whitney Road:

1. Right of way:

a. Right of way to pass and repass over a 30 foot wide strip of land along the easterly boundary where premises abut land now or formerly owned by Clifford and Carol Blinn.

b. Right of way for ingress and egress over a 30 foot wide strip of land running along the westerly side of the revised Lot 6 and continuing along Hidden Acres Lane to Cave Hill Road.

c. Right of way for emergency vehicles, 25 foot right of way appurtenant to

Revised Lot 3. [note: no longer passable]

2. Trails:

- a. may NOT create any new trails or structures
- b. EXCEPT may construct a trail within a 30 foot wide strip along the easterly boundary (see first right-of-way above)
- c. may erect entrance and trail marking signs upon the premises

Marvell Family:

There are no restrictions in the deed.

or same as last year

4. Site Restrictions/Limitations:

Whitney Road and Marvell Family: Since the Marvell Family Conservation Area ends at the top of the cliffs, any trail would need to be sensitive to the habitat – and the danger.

or same as last year

5. Plant Communities, Wildlife Communities, Natural Features:

Whitney Road and Marvel Family: No systematics inventories/surveys have been done. While the area was surely cleared for pasture, it is presently wooded and hosts a variety of woodland nesting species. There is a seasonal stream that flows from the area of the Whitney homestead (foundation) through the Marvell land down to the Gutter.

or same as last year

6. Historic Land Use and Cultural Resources:

Whitney Road:

There are Native American ceremonial stones in two clusters, one near the homestead, another closer to Old Cave Hill Road (approximately opposite the woods road leading to one of the Gibavic vernal pools).

Remnants of a nineteenth century homestead the foundation and well for the Whitney homestead, are near the trail. Maps indicate that a house was there in 1858 (Walling map) but gone by 1871 (Beers Atlas). It was lived in by Apollos (spelling varies) and his wife Charlotte Whitney. The 1858 map lists the house be being A.H. Whitney (their son). Stone walls indicate that the land was probably in pasture (sheep?).

Marvell Family: No ceremonial stone structures have been found. There are stone walls near the south border suggesting that the shared area of pasture in the 19th century.

or same as last year

7. Trails Present and Potential (also complete/revise Trail Assessment on last pages):

Whitney Road and Marvell Family: Old Cave Hill Road (discontinued) borders the Whitney property; Whitney Road (discontinued) borders both the Whitney and the Marvel properties. These trails need access deeds and a re-routing at the north end of Whitney Road.

There is a yellow dot trail on the Marvell Family property which is not on the map (needs to be)

There is a planned trail from the Whitney Road property through private property to the town-owned Rattlesnake Hill (RGT-CR).

Trail Assessment will be done when the access/network is complete.

or same as last year

8. Potential Threats: (boundaries/access, unauthorized use, hydrology/wetlands, soil erosion/sedimentation, invasive species, sensitive resources)

Whitney Road and Marvell Family: While some boundary lines are easy (along discontinued road) and the cliff of Marvel abuts another conserved area, the other lines border private land. To avoid problems on these lines, the line with the Ryan Road houses should be repainted and other lines painted for the first time.

or same as last year

9. Management Goals Last Year and Accomplishments:

Whitney Road and Marvell Family:

Annual monitoring

Accomplishments: done

Legal Access to trails

Accomplishments: a work in progress

10. Comparison last year's budget (year _____) with actual costs:

a. Estimated every-year costs:

none

b. Estimated single-year costs:

none

c. Unanticipated costs:

none

11. Management Goals This Year:

Whitney Road and Marvell Family:

1. Monitor Annually
2. Locate all corners and paint all borders
3. Develop way to protect stone structure on Whitney Road (probably with a CR held by another land trust)
4. Protect the Marvell Family property (which does not have any conservation statement in the deed) with a CR held by another land trust.

12. Schedule of Planned Activities (including monitoring) to Meet Goals:

Monitoring and corner-finding needs to be done with leaves off, preferably this winter/spring.

Trail access will be completed this winter.

Protection of each property may take more time.

13. Budget: Description	Estimated cost	Estimated Total
a. Costs every year		
b. Costs just this year		
deeds for access 4x\$75	\$300	
(Total for this year)	\$300	
<i>c. Anticipate additional costs next year</i>		<i>(do not add to total)</i>

<p>Plan completed by:</p> <p>Eva Gibavic and Mary Alice Wilson</p> <p>Accepted by the RGT Board at their meeting December 17, 2012</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>..... date presented to Board date copies provided for archive/web</p>		

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