

SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
April 20, 2010

Present:	Dave Tilton Bob Bancroft	John Quinn
Guests:	Tim and Della Budell Peter Girr	Trevor Ainsworth

The meeting was called to order by David Tilton at 6:00 p.m.

Re: Site visits related to trail permit requests from Tim & Della Budell

Site 1: Goodrich Trail

The group walked to the location of a water bar the Budells have been maintaining since 2003 on the Goodrich Trail. The water bar was silted in and needs some maintenance in order to properly direct the run off coming from the trail above.

There was a brief discussion of the process the Board has been following regarding permit requests to work on the trails. The need for basic sketch plans of work proposed to be done on the trails was discussed. The sketch plans should be submitted for review by the Town Road Foreman and the Board. Decision to grant or deny trail work permit requests are discussed at regular Selectboard meetings.

There was also some discussion about contacting the A. Johnson Co. about their use and maintenance of the trail.

At this point, Peter Girr excused himself from the meeting.

Site 2: Schultz Trail

The group then walked to the Shultz Trail head. Tim advised the group that he may be taking pictures and recording audio and video. We walked down the trail to the point where it intersects the Budell's driveway. The trail area on either side of the Budell's driveway was covered with carpet and some cardboard.

The Board inquired the purpose for which the Budells were seeking a permit to place carpeting in the trail area. Tim stated the purpose of the carpet is to smother Goutweed, a Class B noxious weed. He believed killing the goutweed using this method could take up to 3 to 4 years per information he received from the Nature Conservancy. Tim also stated he was able to eradicate the goutweed at the head of the trail by hand pulling.

Tim said that underground shoots are a way goutweed spreads. Tim said he has spoken with several horseback riders using the trail who have indicated the area of the trail covered in carpet was fine with them and some even said it was the best part of the trail.

Tim said he had also found goutweed present on the Lee's property across the street from the trail head, on Machia Hill Rd. He felt this area of plants could be eradicated by hand pulling. The Board inquired what was done with the hand pulled plants. Tim stated that the hand pulled plants are recommended to be double bagged for disposal, per the Nature Conservancy. Dave

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indicated that he has garlic mustard on his property and has been trying to eradicate it by hand pulling for several years without success. He stated he would try using Roundup this year. Tim stated that Roundup would not work on goutweed according to the Nature Conservancy. He stated he tried it in a few places without much success.

Tim stated there was a reason he had the Board walk down the trail, versus his driveway, to visit the permit site. He wanted to put into context the trail users' ability to walk the portion of the trail leading up to his driveway compared to the area covered in carpet at the trail intersection with his driveway.

The group proceeded up the Budell's driveway to the site off Machia Hill Road., on the Lee's property, where another patch of goutweed had been discovered.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Tilton, Chair
Westford Selectboard