

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
SEYMOUR TRAIL SITE VISIT
May 25, 2010**

Present: John Quinn
Dave Tilton
Bob Bancroft

Guests: Sharon Hallman
Michael Thomas
Cindy Yager

The meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m.

All in attendance gathered at the Hallman's driveway walked down the trail, towards Rte 15, to the approximate point where the official start of the trail is (approximately one tenth of a mile down the trail from the Hallman's driveway).

Mike Thomas noted that he has a right of way off the Seymour trail to his parcel of land but was not warned about the site visit. Mike requested that people with right of ways, as well as home owner abutters, be notified of future meetings regarding this topic.

There was a brief discussion of the history of the trail: discontinuance of the Town road in 1972 to the re-establishment of the Town right of way as a Town trail in 1985. Within this time frame, Mike Thomas purchased a 96 acre parcel in 1976 abutting the trail and constructed three homes there from 1976 to 1978.

It was remarked that when the Town right of way reverted to a trail in 1985, the use of the trail by these new homeowners was not properly taken into account with regard to the burden these homeowners now had to bear not only to have to maintain the trail for their personal access to their homes but also to have to pay for trail erosion maintenance caused by recreational users of the trail.

The feeling expressed by the abutters at this time was that the Town should take over responsibility for trail maintenance going forward.

The group then hiked back up the trail to the Hallman's driveway, where the Town's trail signage currently is. The parked cars of recreational users of the trail frequently block the access to the Hallman's driveway. Several suggestions were discussed as to how to try to alleviate this problem. The group walked further up the trail to the site of an old water bar that was now filled in allowing runoff to travel down the trail causing erosion.

Discussion of several potential solutions ensued. Consensus seemed to build around the following approach: The Town could reopen the old water bar up the trail to divert the runoff, alleviating some of the erosion problem and related maintenance expenses. The Town could also officially delineate the trail head at its legal location, approximately 1/10th of a mile down the trail from the Hallman's driveway (in the direction of Rte. 15), by moving the existing trail

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signage by the Hallman's driveway to that location, adding the Town's new trail ordinance sign and establishing accommodations at this location that would allow several cars to park, marked with proper parking signage, out of the travel lane.

The Board and Mike Thomas proceeded back down the trail to the new trail head site discussed and brainstormed ideas about how to possibly implement the options proposed. Bob agreed to get together with Gary at the trail head location at a later date to discuss the ideas proposed and determine feasibility.

This issue will be taken up again during a regular Board meeting in June.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Quinn, Board Member
Westford Selectboard