

Northwood Conservation Commission

Minutes of sitewalk on the Guptill Lamprey Pasture

May 6, 2017, 9:00 AM

CC members attending: Grace Levergood/chair, Steve Hampl, Tom Chase, Wini Young

Also attending: Scott Bryer/selectman, Penny Hampl, Richard Levergood

W. Young explained that Joe Gunter has secured a grant for \$20,000 to build a shelter/pavilion at the ball fields and possibly to pay for some signage .

In these minutes W. Young uses GLP for Guptill Lamprey Pasture and the name "Guptill Road" for the old logging road that runs the length of the property from route 4 to the Butler Nature Sanctuary, northwest to southeast.

All of the proposed trail route were flagged by W. Young with red surveyor tape during roughly 50 hours of bushwhacking and exploring. She has given the trails preliminary names but expects that the CC will discuss what the final names should be.

We first walked southward downhill on the undeveloped ball fields land then turned and crossed the stone wall to the west and followed a route on the Ledges Loop Trail on the GLP to avoid wetlands at the bottom of the hill. After bypassing wetlands, we turned southeast and back onto the "ballfields" land and walked along a ridge with a view of a stream and ledges to the south. We crossed the stream on stepping stones and discussed that this is one area of concern for Mark West, wetland scientist, to evaluate. The stream is intermittent being dry most of the year. We discussed that the stepping stones may be adequate or a small wooden structure might be made for crossing.

We crossed the stream, then the stone wall boundary back onto GLP and climbed up the hill diagonally to the southeast and reached the discontinued snowmobile trail. From here it was noted that the corner of the GLP that abuts the former Binder property is seen to the east could be a nice place to put a bench or picnic table.

We turned west and followed the snowmobile trail (still considered part of the Ledges Loop Trail) to a point just east of where it intersects the Guptill Road . We turned southeast and climbed diagonally up the side of the hill (on the Hill Loop Trail) reaching an old skidder road and following that to the top of the hill. It was noted that it would be better to make the trail go along the old skidder road all the way up, rather than going along the slope.

At the top of the trail at the stonewall that is the east boundary line, W. Young and G. Levergood assured that on a clear day there is a view to the east. We turned and walked southwest below the outcroppings of rock that run along the stonewall boundary. It was suggested that the trail be moved closer to the outcroppings and below the outcroppings to their end point. This change would keep the trail away from the wet area that we observed in the current flagged route and give a better view of the outcroppings.

We descended westward through a stand of very tall white pine and red pine, one

of the nicest features on the GLP. From there we followed another old skidder road to reach the Guptill Road. Then we turned southwest and in a short distance we turned west down a flagged skidder road to Demon Pond.

W. Young noted that the proposed trail ends where the red blazed Demon Pond trail ends on the east side of the pond. It is close to the orange blazing that she did around the boundary of the Mead Lot for Bear-Paw Regional Greenways . She placed easement markers along the boundary . It was noted that the trail should be moved to the southeast to keep hikers from seeing and possibly mistaking the orange blazes for the trail . The view of the pond is another exceptional feature of the GLP.

We crossed into the Northwood Meadows State Park land and the inlet on the boundary and noted that hikers are using stepping stones to cross this stream. We went along the pond through the park land so that attendees could view the pond. We reached the Guptill Road this way.

We climbed up to the Guptill Road and W. Young was going to have the group view another loop trail over a ridge but it was getting late. It was decided that members or a member would walk this with W. Young at a later date.

W.Young noted that the Guptill Road's south end provides a view of a pond on private property (owners: the Nature Sanctuary owned by the Clara Butler Trust on southeast side and the current owner of the Binder property on the northwest side). It was noted that we may avoid encouraging hikers to that pond.

As we walked northeast on the road we noted several wet areas to be evaluated by Mark West. We viewed a shrub wetland , probably the source of the inlet to the pond. Then we went off the Guptill Road to the east for a short distance to view a "wolf" tree, a large white pine that, due to several attacks of the white pine weevil, has grown 10 trunks (large upward reaching branches) . W. Young explained that this is one evidence that this tree had grown in an open area, part of the Guptill Pasture (most of Northwood was covered by open fields in the past) The white pine weevil only lays her eggs in a sunny exposed place. R. Levergood explained how the female lays her eggs in the terminal but causing the top to die and the branches then grow upward.

We found a great deal of quartz along the hike and T. Chase suggested to have a geologist walk the finished trails and offer insights.

We walked northwest past the old snowmobile trail junction and stopped to view the large boulders, glacial erratics, that are on the northwest boundary. Some of them are on the land owned by the Tower View Trailer Park. There is barbed wire in the trees between the boulders indicating the boundary. It was noted that the wire is a hazard. Is it a boundary marker and S. Hampl noted its historical value. The trees have grown completely around the wire. The boulders are another feature that will draw hikers to the area. A short loop trail will be made into the boulder area. W. Young noted that the forested wetland to the east of the boulders drains toward the park and becomes an inlet to Meadows Lake.

From here the Guptill Road climbs a steep hill and reaches route 4 through a 11 foot wide road access. The trails should avoid this area as it passes very close to private property and the road is too narrow to be developed as an access. So at the bottom of the hill we turned east off the Guptill Road and walked on the northwest side of the Ledges Loop Trail that extends to the trail we started on. Rather than backtrack, we climbed up the steep hill on the GLP and crossed over the stonewall to the ball fields.

End of sitewalk: 11:42 AM

Respectfully submitted by

Wini Young