

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.

NEWSLETTER



Volume L, Autumn

September 2018

A Word from the Vice-President – Barry Rosenbloom

You Are Invited: The Annual Meeting of the Trust is Sunday, September 16, 2018, 2:00PM - 4PM at the John Warren Lodge at 6 Main Street. Please come to meet other members and hear of our accomplishments in contributing to preserving Hopkinton's open space.

A Land Trust in Hopkinton – Why? You may not know the objective and purpose of a land trust. The Hopkinton Area Land Trust focuses only on Hopkinton land conservation alongside many of the town's municipal organizations. We oversee and steward the conservation for over 1,100 acres in town through direct ownership of parcels or conservation restrictions held by the Trust. These parcels contain many beautiful woodland trails, affording the opportunity to embrace green open space away from structures and suburban concrete. We invite you to join us in the enjoyment of this green space.

The protection of the 1,100 acres requires people to monitor the land, ensuring usage according to the deed of ownership. Appropriately, the activity is termed stewardship. Generally, a steward visits the land regularly, notes any vandalism, picks up trash and liter, and takes photos of anything that needs further attention. Please contact us if you are interested in joining as a steward. We can send you information on stewardship responsibilities and property locations.

A recent addition to the Trust's land ownership holdings is the property at 22 School Street. This is an 8.4-acre parcel with a small pond that is scheduled to have a trail added in the near future. To date, we removed a couple of old vehicles and a small cabin that was beyond repair. We are in the process of seeking Boy Scout assistance for general property cleanup and trail cutting. This is a beautiful property nestled on the town's high country of School Street.

The Trust can only exist through your generous contributions. I ask for your ongoing financial support of the Trust's efforts to secure and maintain properties. The newsletter outreach is an opportune time to ask that you to contribute and become a member (your donation is tax-deductible as we are a 501 (c) (3)). We depend on memberships and contributions to cover our ongoing operating expenses.

We are looking forward to seeing you at Polyarts, Family Day or the annual meeting.

Sincerely, ***Barry Rosenbloom***, Vice President

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HALT AROUND TOWN and ANNUAL MEETING

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Trust or our trails can visit our “booths” at Polyarts on the Town Common or Hopkinton Family Day at the High Schools on Saturday, September 15th. Trust members will be manning a table at both events, raising awareness for our cause and answering questions about trails, open space, and our mission.

On Sunday, September 16, HALT will hold its annual meeting at 2 PM at the John Warren Lodge, 6 Main St., Hopkinton. Entrance is in the back of the building. All members are welcomed to attend or stop by to join the Trust.

HALT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The Hopkinton Area Land Trust would like to congratulate Megan Canfield, the winner of the 2018 HALT Scholarship. Megan will be attending Emmanuel College in 2018. The following is excerpted from the required essay for the HALT scholarship: “I am interested in Environmental Sciences, conservation, and sustainable design. I believe not enough is being done by the general public in regard to living life in a more ecofriendly and sustainable way. Throughout some of the science classes I’ve taken, I have learned about different entrepreneurial businesses that are making environmentally friendly products which then go unnoticed or dismissed by the public. I want to major in environmental science or sustainable design to help tackle these problems. It is my goal to tackle some of these issues about why society as a whole doesn’t live sustainably: so instead of people needing to make to make an effort to be more sustainable,

they would have to make an effort to go out of their way to not be environmentally friendly. Many people I have encountered and conversed during my college application process tried to warn me out of majoring in Environmental Science, because they believed it was a lesser science, or a field where finding a job and living comfortably would be impossible. I believe Environmental Science is the future however and helping heal the environment should a global goal. “

SADDLE HILL TRAILS

Saddle Hill links Hopkinton State Park with Hopkinton Area Land Trust (HALT) property to create a network of conservation lands that protect important habitat while allowing hikers considerable opportunities for exploration. See the Sudbury Valley Trustees web site for a trail map. Parking is available at the HALT Sand Trail trailhead, near the corner of Greenwood Road and Saddle Hill Road. HALT partners with SVT to protect Saddle Hill, where both organizations hold a conservation restriction (CR) that ensures the land will never be developed. Highland Park, owned by SVT, protects wetland and upland forest along the banks of the Sudbury River. A parking pull-off and trail head is located on Wedgewood Drive.

Features of Note:

- The hiking trail in Highland Park runs east-west through the property, with bog boardwalks and a bridge crossing a swampy area in the center of the parcel.
- Look for signs of beavers during your visit to Highland Park. The river here is often raised by their damming.
- In Saddle Hill, boulders and outcroppings are common, with topography rising steeply from the central stream corridor to the southern boundary and southeastern hill.
- Keep an eye out for the remnants of an old stone foundation along the trail at Saddle Hill.

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• A 2017 collaborative effort by local Scouts, HALT, and SVT served to link the Sands Trail with the Betty Fitzpatrick Trail and with Hopkinton State Park.

Reprinted from SVT web site

HOPKINTON RESERVOIR

By Jeff Furber

This is the third installment describing the varied and different lakes that are in the Hopkinton area. In this final series we will discuss the Hopkinton Reservoir, conveniently located on Rt. 85, within the bounds of the Hopkinton State Park.

As with many lakes this reservoir was built between 1891 and 1894 as a possible water resource for Boston, and like most small reservoirs, with the building of the Quabbin Reservoir, these were abandoned. The reservoir impounds Indian Brook which is part of the Sudbury River system. Originally, the current reservoir started as a small brook that was enlarged via excavation and a 500 foot concrete/earthen covered dam was built creating the reservoir as it was allowed to fill. The excavated material was removed by a small train that ran the length of the lake. That material was used to fill in what is now the Back Bay of Boston.

The spillway is at the northern end of the dam, and is a 650-foot (200 m) series of steps lined with granite set in concrete. Unlike other dams in the system, this one apparently never had gatehouses built above the chambers from which water flow is controlled.^[2]

The dam and spillway were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

Hopkinton Reservoir is unique in that no outboard motors are allowed and the only power for water craft are electric motors, thus ensuring plenty of room for kayaks, canoes and swimmers during the summer.

The reservoir also differs from the other lakes in its depths. At the dam when the lake is full, it is almost fifty feet deep. There are numerous springs that feed the reservoir along with Indian Brook, this ensures that the water is always quite cold.

Hopkinton Reservoir over the years has been stocked with trout and salmon by MassWildlife. The other species that reside in the lake are largemouth bass, bluegills and perch. The salmon introduced to the reservoir were salmon from hatcheries that were no longer used for breeding and it was hoped that public fishing for them would allow some people to bring home a good meal. A few salmon introduced were as large as 18 pounds. Trout and salmon fishing are quite popular during the spring and early summer periods.

Kayaks, sailboards and canoes can be rented during the summer at Hopkinton Reservoir and are very popular during the summer months there is a small charge to enter the State Park. If you are a novice in the use of kayaks, sailboards or canoes, there are hands on learning classes at the rental shop. Paddles and life preservers are supplied.

The lakes in Hopkinton provide its residents with wide and diverse options when it comes to boating, fishing and small watercraft. Enjoy.

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HUMAN BENEFITS of PROTECTING NATURE

The Land Trust Alliance and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Coastal Program have partnered to produce a downloadable brochure called “Investing in Nature: The Economic Benefits of Protecting Our Lands and Waters.” Research shows that land conservation has an impressive economic worth in the form of tourism and jobs, health care savings, water quality protection, natural disaster mitigation and more. The brochure can be downloaded at: www.lta.org/investinnature.

Some brochure highlights:

Health – Nature is good for you – from reducing stress and depression to improving cardiovascular health, research shows that nature can help people be healthier and spend less on medical costs.

Clean Water – Forests, grasslands and wetlands help filter storm water and recharge groundwater. By protecting the land around water sources, we can provide clean drinking water to people and reduce water treatment costs.

Local Economies – Experts are connecting the dots using economic impact studies that identify the value nature provides in the form of jobs, recreation, tourism, increased home values and more.

Storm Protection – Marshes, wetlands, forests, mangroves, and oyster reefs can reduce flooding and erosion caused by storms and defend coastal communities from sea-level rise.

Protecting nature makes good financial sense:

- People who engage in moderate exercise outdoors can save an average of \$1,100 in medical costs annually.
- Treating drinking water from an unprotected watershed can cost ten times more than treating water from a protected watershed.
- Proximity to protected lands, like National Wildlife Refuges, can increase urban home values by 3% to 9%.
- Coastal wetlands provide storm protection valued at \$23.2 billion per year by helping to reduce the severity of impacts from hurricanes in the United States. (from LTA Saving Land Fall 2017)

You can take an important step for your community: Offer your leadership, political support, and charitable gifts to a land trust. Better yet, consider donating a conservation easement on your land. It is an investment in the future that offers attractive tax benefits and the satisfaction that the land you love will be protected forever.

Become a Member of HALT

Family	\$30 _____
Sentinel	\$50 _____
Centurion	\$100 _____
Steward	\$250 _____
Protector	\$500 _____
Conservator	\$1,000 _____
President's Circle	\$1,000+ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

All contributions to HALT are deductible for income tax purposes.

Mail to:
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Or email: info@hopkintonarealandtrust.org

Choose your membership level now at:
www.hopkintonarealandtrust.org



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