

# **HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.**



**Volume XLXI, Fall-Winter**

**December 2018**

# **NEWSLETTER**

Dear Hopkinton Community,  
Autumn is almost over, we've had some turkey, the leaves are down, hopefully the raking is done, and winter will be here soon.

It's at this time of year that we make our appeal to you, our Hopkinton community, for end of year membership renewals and donations. The Hopkinton Area Land Trust serves Hopkinton by helping to conserve your woodlands and provide enjoyable walking trails.

It has been a busy year with the addition of the Peloquin Front Street parcel (16 +/- Acres) and the Cheney School Street parcel (8 +/- Acres), bringing total acreage under the Trust's management to about 1,100 acres. Your consideration will help immensely with our operating fund requirements and help us continue making a difference by retaining enjoyable Green Space in Hopkinton.

In particular, this year we are striving to undertake a long overdue Trail Map updating, including a major website update with easy access to downloadable maps intended to enhance your enjoyment and utilization of our properties. Your support is crucial to these efforts, as it represents quite an incremental funding need above our usual membership receipts.

Please remember that your contributions are tax deductible as the Trust is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation.

I also ask our local businesses to please consider becoming an annual Trust Sponsor with recognition of your assistance to be included on our web site and our documentation.

By maintaining open space in Hopkinton, the Trust is helping to preserve, protect and increase the value of your property and maintain the rural character of the town. **We have exceeded 1000 acres of open space land in the Trusts ownership or under Conservation Restrictions**, which provides for the preservation of that rural character we all want in Hopkinton. If you enjoy the use of the open spaces, please remember to **help support the Trust, by becoming a member or by making a year-end tax deductible donation**, so that we can continue to provide this value to you the residents.

We look forward to seeing you at our next board meeting to be held in the Library training room on November 28 starting at 5:30PM.

Sincerely and Thank You on behalf of the Hopkinton Area Land Trust Board of Directors,

Sincerely, **Barry Rosenbloom**, Vice President

**PO BOX 56, WOODVILLE MA 01784**

# **HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.**

## **PART III: NEW SERIES FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Readers of this newsletter may have noticed that HALT has often named its trails and properties after a particular person or family. Hopkinton residents may be interested in learning more about these particular persons or family, and why HALT would have named a trail or property for them. This series will discuss some of these people or families in upcoming issues.

### **III. The Amy and Rolf Andersen Trail**

The Amy and Rolf Andersen Trail is located on the 12 acre Deer Run property. This is a relatively short trail, approximately a mile long, beginning and ending at the dead end circle at the terminus of Fawn Ridge Road, and circling around the back of the open space development. Mostly uplands, the trail is narrow in spots, but well-defined. Not only walkers, but also bikers and horse riders enjoy this trail.

The trail winds up and down hill through both pine and hardwood forest. It is very shady and quiet, except about the halfway mark where it comes quite close to the new housing on Legacy Farms North. There are four benches along the trail, and a new bridge over a wet area; both projects developed by a local Eagle Scout. There are several side trails, perhaps leading to some of the housing in the area, or possibly to the large acreage owned by Liberty Mutual. There is also a Geo-cache on this trail, as well as an old chimney and fireplace remains

Amy and Rolf Andersen are the daughter and son-in-law of HALT's President David Goldman. They, along with their unborn child, were tragically killed in an automobile accident in May, 2002, while on vacation near Tucson, Arizona.

Amy was born in Malden in 1965. She graduated from Framingham South High School in 1982, and went on to Tufts University, graduating with honors and a double major in mathematics and computer science in 1986. She worked for several years in the computer industry, and along the way graduated from Bentley College with a Masters Degree in Business Administration. She then

became a Sales Representative for Osborne Books, managing several other sales representatives. In her leisure time, she was an avid outdoors woman, hiking, biking and motorcycling.

Friends and relatives have described the couple as adventurous and fun-loving, kind, gentle, bright, cheerful, and full of laughter and high spirits.

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### **Ceremonial Stones in the Landscape**

"Let the Landscape Speak"

These words were the title of a presentation given by Doug Harris at the Hopkinton Historical Society earlier this year. Doug Harris is a Preservationist for Ceremonial Landscapes of Indigenous Peoples, who were early inhabitants in New England. He is concerned with the protection and preservation of Native American sites in the Northeastern states of the United States.

As more land goes into development unrecognized and or unprotected Ceremonial Stones are disturbed or destroyed. The words of Doug Harris speak to the need for protection and preservation of this history of Native Americans which exists in the stone walls and rock piles of New England. According to Harris and persons interested in Native American history, Hopkinton has a number of important sites.

The North East Region of the US contains the greatest concentration of collections of stones built into structures.

Jim Haskins, a volunteer at the Hopkinton Historical Society with an interest in Ceremonial Stones history, states "the Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscape surrounds us in New England, often hidden in plain sight in forests and fields. Most people who come across enigmatic stone structures don't know that some are remnants of a network built by Indigenous Americans for ceremonial and other purposes."

According to Haskins, "The forests of New England are dotted with living prayers of stone (Ceremonial Stone Landscapes) created by Indigenous peoples of this region. The traditional belief is that these structures were placed to create and restore harmony between human beings and Mother Earth. The prayers they embody continue to live as long as the stones are kept intact."

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Ceremonial Landscapes are generally described as structures made of differing sized stones randomly found in fields and forests. Some examples are stone walls, "beehive" structures, niches, chambers, cairns, rock piles, altars and symbolic patterns of stone laid on the earth. The structural placement of stones in these structures represent the Indigenous peoples' belief in mythology and spirits.

Native Americans built stone structures such as a stone wall and placed flat stones in it or on it, to create altars or provide a roof over an entry niche into a stone wall or rock pile. A niche-entry into a small space made of stone with an opening in the top which was directed in such a way to allow sunlight to enter or to observe astronomical signs related to Native American beliefs in the presence of spirits and mythology.

Piles of small stones seen at the end of stone walls were symbolic for Native Americans. For instance, a pile of small, hand sized stones might be placed to form an animal effigy, important in the beliefs of Native Americans.. Pictures of snakes and turtle formations are found in the literature about Native American stone works. Turtle effigies were of mythical significance to Native Americans. A pile of small stones might also indicate a burial site in Native American history.

A flat stone, large or small, with a broad base and sides leading to 'points' at the shoulder, narrowing into a central point at the 'head' is considered a stone representative of Manitou. For Native Americans a stone shape of this nature is symbolic of "gods" or Manitou.

The word Manitou is the spiritual and fundamental life force among Algonquian groups in the Native American mythology. It is omnipresent and manifests everywhere: organisms, the environment, events, etc. (Wikipedia)

According to Jim Haskins stone structures and stone walls with effigies abound in Hopkinton. He adds that stone walls with effigies are usually found near water.

In 2015 blogger Matthew Howes wrote about and attached pictures of stone walls and structures around Echo Lake in Hopkinton on his blog page. Howes included a link to his blogpost about the intricate hillside cairns around Echo Lake:

<http://www.nativenewenglandstones.blogspot.com/2015/01/stone-cairns-on-the-hillside-by-echo-lake.html>.

Howes starts by pointing out that Echo Lake is at the

headwaters of three major water-ways in this region - the Charles, Blackstone and Sudbury rivers. This is no doubt the reason why the general broad area around Echo Lake and its tributaries seems to be a hot spot for stone works (such as cairn sites) in the state of Massachusetts, Howes writes. Howes states that the Echo Lake is the highest point in the immediate region of its locality.

Howes goes on to list his observations and discoveries of many pre-colonial stone structures in and around Echo Lake including Propped Boulders, ruins of several significant altars and the "Stone Chamber or Lodge". Howes also notes that there are additional stone structures in the College Rock area plus many more such ceremonial stones in adjacent and nearby towns.

While the focus of this article is about the evidence of stone structures built by the Native Americans in Hopkinton there is another popular and historically correct reason for the existence of stone walls in New England.

Stone walls were a practical way for farmers to use the many stones found in the land that they cleared for farming or house building. Other uses included boundary markers and the confinement of animals. The stone structure of the Town Pound used to keep wandering animals off the town roads, remains on West Main Street west of the intersection of Wood Street today.

HALT properties are "stewards" of some sites containing ancient ceremonial stones. Jim Haskins notes that some ceremonial sites in Hopkinton are found at Cedar and Wilson Street (small length of stone wall near water), Rocky Woods (ceremonial circle with platform in center), Cameron Woods (niche), and Lake Whitehall area (beehive structure).

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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](http://www.lta.org/investinnature).

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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:  
Hopkinton Area Land Trust, Inc.  
PO Box 56  
Woodville, MA 01784  
508-435-6578

Email: [info@hopkintonlandtrust.org](mailto:info@hopkintonlandtrust.org)

Visit our web site:  
[www.hopkintonlandtrust.org](http://www.hopkintonlandtrust.org)



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**PO BOX 56, WOODVILLE MA 01784**