



DECEMBER 2017

LEEDS LETTER

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Expanding Hunting in Conservation Areas Community Meeting - December 19, 7:00-8:30 Leeds School Cafetorium - Alisa Klein

You may have heard that Northampton is currently considering a proposal to permit hunting in two additional conservation areas in the City. Both of these areas are in Leeds -- a 40-acre parcel south of Beaver Brook and a portion of the Mineral Hills Conservation Area off of Chesterfield Road. The proposal also includes the possible expansion of the types of hunting permitted in the Beaver Brook Greenway (aka the Girl Scouts conservation area) off of Route 9, which currently allows only bow hunting. In response to the questions and concerns of many Ward 7 residents about these proposed changes, our City Councilor, Alisa Klein, along with the LCA, requested a meeting for the community with the City's Director of Planning and Sustainability, Wayne Feiden. You are encouraged to come learn more about the hunting proposal from Mr. Feiden and to voice your views at the meeting. The City's Conservation Commission, which is ultimately responsible for setting the hunting regulations on the conservation land under their care and custody has three options as it considers these potential changes (as modified from material provided by Wayne Feiden):

- 1. Not allowing hunting on any conservation land.** Benefits: avoids user conflicts and potential safety issues; satisfies animal rights interests and those who think hunting is not consistent with conservation. Disadvantages: excludes a portion of the community that desires more hunting grounds in the City and those who think that hunting is consistent with conservation. Neutral: There is no significant environmental impact either way; there would be more natural die-off of deer and slightly more ticks without hunting.
- 2. Allowing hunting at alternative locations.** Disadvantages: increases user conflicts since most other conservation areas in the City have higher user visitation.
- 3. Expanding hunting in Leeds conservation areas.** Proponents say it will provide opportunities for varied uses of conservation areas yet minimize user conflict by allowing hunting only in the conservation areas with the lowest user visitation in the City. This expansion would open up about 1% of the City's protected conservation land to hunting, which proponents say is not adequate for the number of hunters in the City and represents less land than hunting proponents would wish.

Robert's Hill Gets Some Trail Love + A New 2018 Trail Map Heidi Stevens

David Litterer, friend to the LCA and trail enthusiast from UMass has done a remarkable job defining the major and minor trails on Robert's Hill over the past four years. He worked his magic again on a warm Saturday in November. Finally, the Robert's Hill trail network is complete!

IMPROVED RED TRIANGLE TRAIL AND NEW PINK CIRCLE TRAIL - The Red Triangle trail east of the Blue trail is much easier to follow. David blazed a beautiful new trail loop off of the Red trail. This new trail is blazed with pink circles.

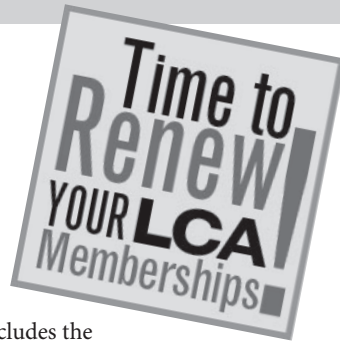
NEW YELLOW CONNECTOR TRAILS TO NEW PINK CIRCLE TRAIL - Two new yellow paths makes for easy access from the long yellow path to the new pink loop.

NEW ICE POND YELLOW CONNECTOR TRAIL - That path west of the Ice Pond is very easy to follow now, and hopefully this loop will get more traffic.

You can download the newly updated Robert's Hill trail map at LeedsCivic.org.

Helping those in Need

Leeds Civic Association received a distressing email from a woman asking for food for her momma, daughter and grand kids. She left her phone number and her family's street without the house number. It turns out the address wasn't in Leeds, Massachusetts, but in Leeds, Alabama! A call was made to the Leeds Alabama police department alerting them of the call for help. They in turn passed the information on to one of their local relief organizations. The Leeds Civic Association - looking out for the wellbeing of all Leeds residents...even those in Alabama!



*****ECRWSS*****

**Local
Postal Customer**

WINTER AND SPRING LCA EVENTS

EXPANDING HUNTING IN CONSERVATION AREAS COMMUNITY MEETING

December 19, Tuesday, 7:00pm
Leeds School Cafetorium

LCA MONTHLY MEETING

January 9, Tuesday, 7:00pm
Leeds School teacher's lounge

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES PIZZA PARTY

Mid February or early March
Saturday, 4:30 - 8:30
Northampton Country Club

LEEDS SPRING CLEAN UP

April 21, Saturday, 8:45 - 12:00
HOT DOG - DOGGIE SOCIAL
May - Date TBD, Leeds Main Street Green

LEEDS HISTORY CELEBRATION

May- May - Date TBD, Leeds Main Street Green

LCA P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053
LeedsCivicAssoc@gmail.com | LeedsCivic.org

Beaver Brook Southern Trail - Steve McDonough

Thanks to everyone that contributed to clearing out the trails on the south side of Beaver Brook. There is an entrance off Beaver Brook Loop on the southeast corner of the retention area marked with rock cairns and pink flagging. That trail intersects with another trail with yellow flagging. Both trails will lead you down to Beaver Brook. I tried to minimize the flagging by the brook so as not to encourage random traffic coming up into the neighborhoods. Once they are bit more established, I'll remove all the flagging. Please keep your pets leashed as there is at least one active animal den that I am aware of.

Holiday Lights

Thank you Marc, Madelyne and Maren Freedman, and Otto and Alissa Geis for hanging the holiday lights at Mulberry Street Garden park.

New Leeds Business

DAVID'S AUTO

120 River Road

You know them already, now let them get to know your cars and trucks! In a rented section of the CRD Metalworks building (formerly Berkshire Cable) on River Road and - with the help of the community - David's Auto has been formed. David Rondina has been fixing things in Leeds since the day he moved here in 2002. He works on cars mostly, but ailing motorcycles, lawn mowers, or snow blowers are often sighted circling his shop.

"When I was about 10 years old, my attention was caught by an old snowblower sitting in my garage that my grandparents had given to my parents for their wedding, but it never worked properly. I tore the engine down and rebuilt it. I then used it's self-propelled wheels to tow a Radio Flyer wooden wagon behind to pull myself and my next door neighbors around in for amusement rides. Yeah, I was about 10." That was just the beginning. After selling auto parts, which began at the age of 16, David worked for NTC Automotive Repair in North Chelmsford, MA where he first earned ASE certifications in 1996. Times have changed but he keeps up with technology and schooling. Whether restoring a vintage 1927 Ford Model T, a German imported 1982 Mercedes 500SL, or diagnosing a faulty oxygen sensor on a 2012 Honda Accord, business has been good to him. Hence the expansion to the new location. "But wait, there's more!"

Highly certified (ASE L1) Leeds-local Dana Collins has moved his tools in with David's, creating a very experienced team. Two quality-obsessed car nuts under the same roof! Both highly intuitive, kind hearted, honest, fun, hard working, people-oriented mechanics: here to serve Leeds.

David's Auto is that neighborhood garage of yesteryear, where all are welcome to stop by for a wide variety of repair needs. Call the shop at 413.570.4477 or cell 413.250.1826 or come on over for a visit to 120 River Road. You know how to get there from here..."HONEST WORK, HONESTLY"

Leeds Historical Signage is Up! - Heidi Stevens

After nearly two years, the Leeds Historical Interpretive Signage project is complete! You may have noticed the sleek black posts with signs positioned around the village at key locations of historical significance to Leeds. These signs were designed to inform, inspire an appreciation for Leeds vibrant manufacturing past and an understanding of the horror inflicted on Leeds by the 1874 Mill River Flood, and maybe even a bit of awe as to how the town bounced back even stronger after the Flood.

Signs are located at both ends of the Mulberry Street Bridge, along the bike path at the Mulberry Street garden, across from the Hotel Bridge on Main Street, at the Flood Memorial on Main Street, on Front Street near Grove Ave, at Memorial Park across from Leeds School, and at Cook's Dam. The

project was funded by a 2016 Northampton Community Preservation Act grant. Self-Guided Leeds Historical Walking Tour brochures are available to take along with you as you tour the new signs, email to LeedsCivicAssociation@gmail.org.

LAUGH CORNER

by Madelyne Freedman

1. What word becomes shorter when you add two letters?
2. Feed me and I live, give me a drink and I die. What am I?

Answers to the riddles below are hidden somewhere in this newsletter!

LEEDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION -2017 THANK YOU LCA VOLUNTEERS!

- Hosted Annual LCA Pizza and Raffle Party
- Held Spring Litter Pick Up Day
- Awarded two LCA-Bradford Memorial educational scholarships
- Hosted Memorial Day Celebration at Memorial Park
- Held meeting with City officials to address summer abuse at dams and river
- Maintained Mulberry Street Garden and Flood Memorial site on Main Street
- Held Village Wide Tag Sale in June
- Sponsored two Saratoga Race Track summer bus trip
- Sponsored book reading of *Lost Village of Robert's Meadow*, by John Clapp
- Co-sponsored Robert's Hill Walking Tour with Laurie Sanders
- Sponsored Historical Walk at Old Mosquito Road, led by John Clapp
- Hosted an outdoor theater production, *The Mill Project*, by Theatre Truck
- Published ten LCA newsletters, maintained the LCA website
- Held Annual October Pumpkin Carving Contest Party
- Held four Kid's Summer Outdoor Movie Nights
- Partnered with Broadbrook Coalition to create the Beaver Brook Greenway
- Members helped build a Wildlife Blind at Beaver Brook Greenway along Rt 9
- Hosted Ice Cream Social with free Mt. Tom's Ice Cream
- Planted flowers in containers at Hotel Bridge's Main Street entrance
- Continue the campaign to restore Hotel Bridge to a walking bridge
- New trails blazed on Robert's Hill Conservation Area (see article on flip side)
- Updated Roberts Hill Map (now available for download at LeedsCivic.org)
- Trail maintenance and blazing on Southern Beaver Brook trail
- Decorated Mulberry Street garden with holiday lights
- Coordinated with DPW posting the eight Leeds historical interpretive signs

Please renew your LCA membership or become a new member soon!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- ☐ I would like to receive my newsletter electronically.
- ☐ I would like my newsletter hand delivered.
- ☐ I would like my newsletter mailed (Include additional \$2.50 for postage.)
- ☐ I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me.

New

☐

Renew

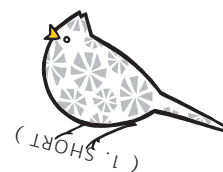
☐

\$10 Family Yearly Membership

☐☐

\$25 Business Yearly Membership

(1 year LCA website advertising, please enclose business card)



Additional Donation \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Leeds Civic Association

Mail to: P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053

Or pay online at: LeedsCivic.org

Thank you! Your membership helps keep our community connected!