



NOVEMBER 2015

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Good Deeds in Leeds by Heidi Stevens

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and so its a good time to look up and around and notice what others do for our community. Here is one example of an individual who noticed something he could make better, sought out collaboration partners and got the job done. Unlike Tom Sawyer who cleverly tricked his friends into doing the work, Jason Greene, and the J. Greene Painting crew took on the task for themselves, donating their expertise and labor. The fence along Florence Street near Leeds Elementary School has looked cruddy for years – a mottled mess of chipped off paint.

Several months ago Jason contacted Jesse Adams, City Councilor At-Large (who is now a resident of Leeds!) to see if the DPW could repair the rotting and missing fence boards. Jason offered to donate the labor and have the material donated as well. Jason spoke with Lee Pitrat at Florence Paint who agreed to donate the Benjamin Moore material. DPW made the repairs, however the painting was held up during the warm summer months because of poison ivy growing in the area. After recent frosts the poison ivy is now dormant and so Jason and his crew were able to get in and paint. Jason says, "So far, my ankles are not itchy...fingers crossed!"

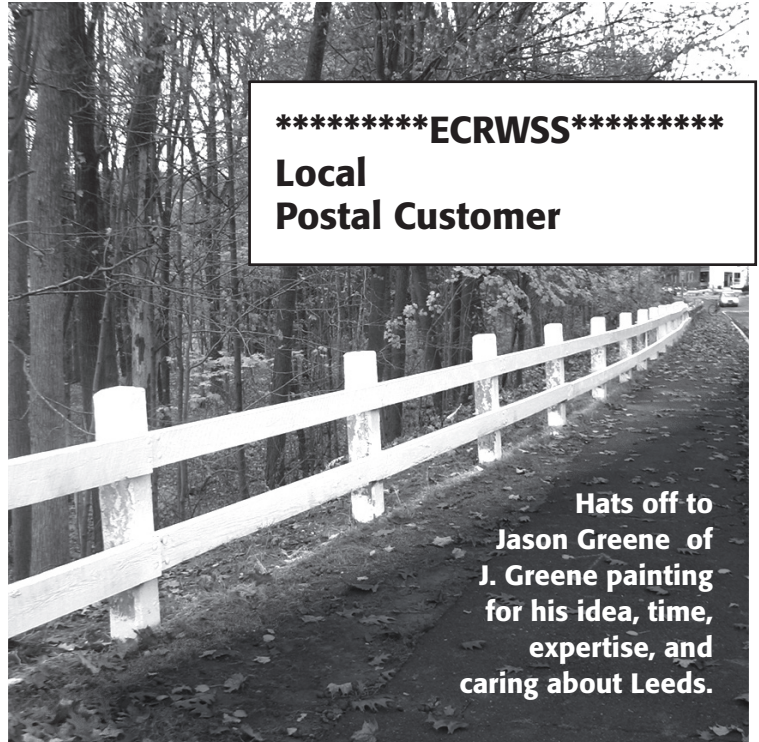
Roberts Hill- Another Jewel in Leeds by Karyn Nelson

Roberts Hill is a unique treasure in Leeds. When I mention to non-residents that I love hiking, running, snowshoeing, or exploring in the woods there, most admit that they've never heard of it. It is rare for me to encounter others on my outings, which on the one hand is nice because it allows for uninterrupted meditation and observation, but on the other hand I feel that folks are missing an opportunity to connect with their surrounding environment, which is so accessible. Maybe they are, and our paths have not crossed yet!

After Hotel Bridge was closed to pedestrians, I started accessing the trails via Dimock Street, not particularly a safe road on which to walk. Last fall, Dave Litterer, Heidi Stevens, and I cleared and marked a small access trail from Cook's Dam to the old stage route (Green Diamond Trail). You can't park your car there, but I walk, jog, or ride my bike to the trailhead. Once I cross the Cook's bridge, I can quickly and easily get into the woods, and I'm almost immediately afforded an amazing view of the river.

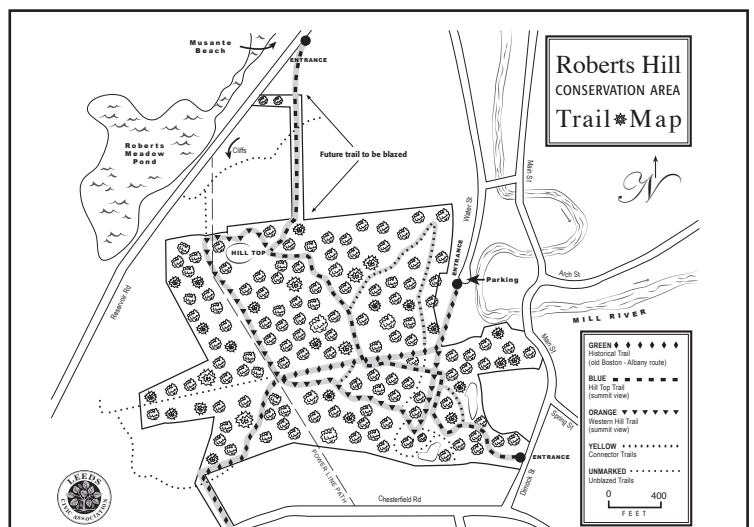
The trail network is pretty diverse. If you are looking for a quiet, easy walk, the Green Diamond Trail is lovely. If you are interested in a dynamic trail, the Blue Rectangle Trail will take you through a hemlock grove, along a stream, up the hill to the beautiful summit, into dense mountain laurel patches, over "cliffs," and down to Mustante Beach. The Orange Triangle Trail is quite technical (rocky & steep), the most remote, and least used.

I love taking my family, including my husband, my three sons, and my dog, out into the woods. The kids love to explore the diverse



habitats and discover clues to Leeds history, and my dog loves the scents left behind by deer, bear, and other forest creatures. I also cherish the times I get to be by myself, whether I am training for a trail race or need a peaceful retreat.

I hope to see you out on the trail or hear about your own adventures soon!



Download a color trail map at LeedsCivic.org or contact Heidi Stevens at 585-9923, heidi@heidistevens.com.

LCA VOLUNTEERS MAKE STUFF HAPPEN IN 2015!

- Provided research, copy, photos, and layout of the Mill River Greenway - Leeds Self Guided History Walk Brochure (contact Heidi @585-9923 for a free color brochure packed with local info)
- Wrote and submitted application for Hotel Bridge to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Hosted Annual "Beat the Winter Blues" Pizza and Raffle Party
- Organized Workin' Bridges March 1st site visit + assessment of Hotel Bridge
- Held follow up meeting with Workin' Bridges and DPW
- Trimmed Crabapple trees at Mulberry Street Garden
- Held Spring Litter Pick Up Day
- Awarded three LCA-Bradford Memorial educational scholarships
- Hosted Memorial Day Celebration at Memorial Park
- Held June 1st Hotel Bridge Community Meeting with Workin' Bridges
- Maintain Mulberry Street Garden
- Held June Village Wide Tag Sale
- Maintain Flood Memorial site on Main Street
- Co-sponsored Saratoga Race Track bus trip with Leeds Mart
- Helped petition for a traffic study on Main Street
- Organized Leeds community service for the Orange Dam graffiti vandals
- Met with Northampton Police Chief, Chartpak, City Councilor, Alisa Klein, and Mill River Greenway Chair to address river and dam abuse
- Published 10 LCA newsletters
- Maintain the LCA website
- Held Annual October Pumpkin Party
- Hosted 6 Kids Summer Movie nights
- Led Mill River Greenway Leeds history walk
- Hosted Ice Cream Social on Main St. Green with free Mt. Tom's Ice Cream
- Maintain flower planters at Hotel Bridge's Main Street entrance
- Co-sponsored October Candidate Forum with League of Women Voters
- Continue the campaign to restore Hotel Bridge to walking bridge
- Put up holiday light display at Mulberry Street garden

Fun for the family - November 22!

Join in and help string the LCA holiday light display at Mulberry Street Garden (where Mulberry Street meets Florence Street at the bike path). Volunteers will meet on site at 1:00 pm. We'd love to borrow your light hanging poles to get to the taller branches.!

Leeds Civic Association Elections - Dec 8th by Heidi Stevens

The LCA has been held together by a handful of dedicated board members who reach out to new and seasoned volunteers for help with specific projects. We are very fortunate to have professionals offering their skills and others who simply understand that lending a hand when needed is what helps make Leeds a nice place to live. Our mission is to design fun gatherings to keep the community connected, host meetings to keep you informed about things that matter to Leeds, and look for ways to improve the quality of life in Leeds. We hope more of you will get involved in some way, shape or form in 2016. Every two years the Association holds elections for officers and board members. All seats and positions are open. We could use your energy and ideas. Consider coming to the next LCA meeting on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00pm in the Leeds School Teacher's Lounge. Come to run for a seat on the board, or come to hear what we are up to. We are definitely not a strict, uptight group. Rather, we're a casual, friendly bunch who like to get stuff done and have fun while doing it! Everyone is welcome to join in.

Green Tip - Power Down by Amy Stamm

Most people are interested in saving energy and reducing waste. One easy way to do this (and to save on your electricity bill as well) is to plug your appliances, televisions, computers, and other devices into power strips with on/off switches. Once you are done watching television or using an appliance, just turn the on/off switch to off. When individual plugs are plugged directly into the wall, they often draw energy even after you turn them off. This is called standby power, and you can save a lot of energy by eliminating the use of standby power in your house if you convert to power strips. You'll be surprised by how much energy you save.

Thank you for renewing for 2016! Thank you for becoming a new member for 2016!

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 \$5 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
and return this form to: P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053

You can also join and pay online with paypal at LeedsCivic.org

Your membership helps!

