



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Ashland Town Forest Committee

DRAFT Minutes of August 22, 2020 Forest Planning Meeting

Harrington Drive Cul-de-Sac

Members Present: Brian Forestal, Mike Jones, Robert St. Germain, Brian McGrattan (Associate)

Members Absent: Catherine Rooney, Bill Moulton

Public / Non-members Present: Cory Chase, Terrence McDonough, Jamie Tripp
Meeting opened at 9:00 AM

Agenda Items

- Walk sections of the trail that are near or on the newly acquired Harrington Property 2.
- Walk possible trail reroutes in and around same property

Forest Planning Meeting

The meeting opened having realized a quorum of three voting members.

The Harrington Drive property owners were introduced, and the committee explained its intention to better understand the current trail layout around the cul-de-sac. The new owner of the property at the end of the road is developing his land and has initiated construction of his driveway and marked where he intends to build his new home. Two unofficial (i.e., not town owned or maintained) trails are in the vicinity of this development. One trail originates on the property of 11 Harrington Drive and joins with an unmarked trail at 42°16'18.2"N 71°28'40.8"W. A spur off this trail turns west at approximately 42°16'16.3"N 71°28'40.3"W, crosses the new owner's driveway and proceeds through other private properties in a westerly direction. For the most part, these trails serve as access to adjacent residents, but are not marked or broadly known to the town residents.

At the invitation of the attending property owners, the committee toured the existing unofficial trails. The residents noted that they have no objection to an occasional walker to cross their property, but quite emphatically, they do not want the trail or spur to become a general access point to the forest. The new property owner has already had some bad experiences with members of the public harassing him and conducting malicious acts as he develops his lot. After a short discussion, the committee agreed that these trails may remain private, but the Ashland Town Forest Committee (ATFC) will neither publicize nor maintain the existing private trails.

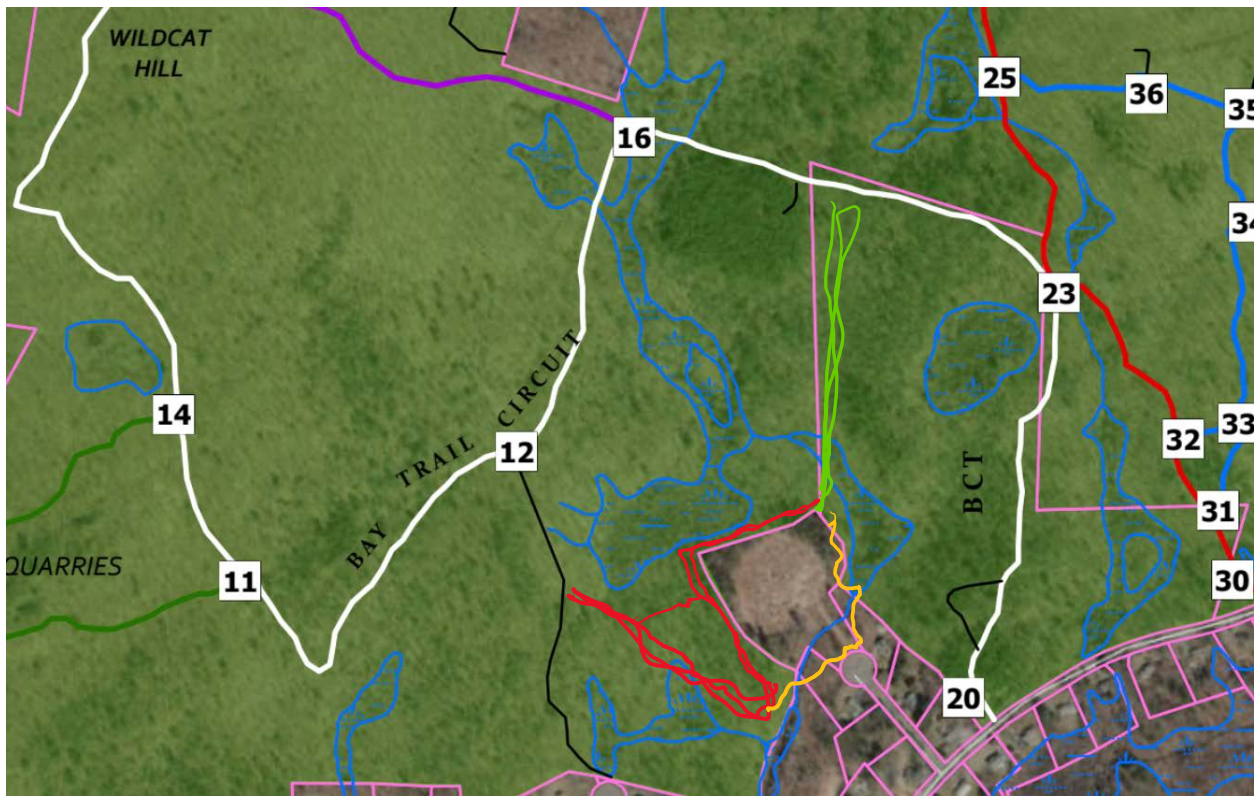
The committee then proceeded to the existing although unmarked trail at 42°16'18.2"N 71°28'40.8"W. Presently, the trail leaves the existing white trail through the pine forest and

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44 terminates at the aforementioned location, terminating at the private trail. As the trail is quite
45 attractive and rather unique, the committee would like to extend the trail along the private
46 property lines and eventually join up back on the white trail. The committee then conducted a
47 tour of the existing property boundaries to consider alternatives for the new path. A few points
48 were noted:

- 49 • The start of the extension of the trail might pass through wet lands adjacent to the new
50 property owners border, requiring Conservation Commission permission for the trail.
- 51 • There is a possibility that indigenous people had stone structures line just off the trail,
52 which require investigation and possibly protection.
- 53 • There is an existing rough, private trail near a brook. This trail segment would have to
54 be moved to the opposite side of the brook to be on town forest land.
- 55 • An existing unmaintained trail then continues again from private property to join up to the
56 white trail.
- 57 • This unmaintained trail passes at its closest point a few hundred yards back to the new
58 owner's property line, and consequently, some felt that the committee should create a
59 short additional trail

60 These are shown in the map below as approximate locations (green: existing trail through pine
61 forest that terminates at yellow/orange private trail. The hand drawn red line is the proposed
62 extension of the existing trail rerouted through town land to eventually rejoin the white trail.
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- 68 Following this tour, a motion was made to table further discussion until it can be discussed in a
69 traditional meeting. The motioned passed on a 3-0-0 vote.
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71 The forest planning meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.