

Conservation Commission Minutes Merriam-Daggett Easement Walk, August 10, 2017

At 9:15 AM, participants parked at the north end of Priest Road and met along Freeman Hall Road just east of the Freeman Hall bridge over the North River. Members present were Sam Demeritt, Paul Miliotis, Susan Mooney and Liz Kotowski, Alternate. Volunteers were Celia Abrams and Leanne Gast. This walk is one of a series of walks to determine trail and facility upgrades of easement properties that permit access in anticipation of grant proposals to be submitted by the commission. Mooney provided three copies of the property tax maps and Abrams had an aerial topographical/habitat cover map.

The Merriam-Daggett property is identified as Map 19, Lot 1 and consists of 46.41 acres. The North river runs through the property entering at the North River Bridge and exiting at the south boundary into the Tasker parcel (Map 20, Lot 2). The Merriam-Daggett property has 3950' of frontage along the North River. Both properties are protected by federal Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) conservation easements and are owned in fee by the Town of Nottingham.

Following are notes of the trails walked and some discussions held along the way:

- Participants entered the property just east of the bridge over the North River. Walked through the power line corridor and down a steep embankment to the river's edge. River was low.
- Noted survey pin, signpost, no sign and two trees with three (3) white paint blazes, marking a boundary. Across the river, downstream at narrows, another metal green signpost, no sign. (Abrams took GPS points during the walk and will submit her final map for the record.)
- Crossed the river to the west side at a narrow crossing. (Abrams took a GPS point.) Noted signpost on west side of river because at this point the river flows for a short distance through an abutting property (Map 19, Lot 1-1).
- Later, (10:17 AM) came upon an old bridge crossing site made of large squared stones and cement, wide enough for one vehicle. Also noted nearby several square 12" concrete blocks with metal pins.
- Continued on. Noted a stonewall to the west. Met another wall as we walked southward. Abrams took a GPS point. (Not all points will be noted in these minutes.) There are several gaps in the wall. Noted old woods road. Old metal gatepost with barbed wire at base at one gap in the wall.
- As we walked westerly along the wall (toward Freeman Hall Road), noted an elbow corner (east and south) in the wall. We continued northwest.
- Noted signpost about 50 feet from Freeman Hall Road. Then another signpost just off the road. The two posts appear to be about 50 feet apart. At this area the Merriam-Daggett parcel abuts Freeman Hall Road between Map 19, Lots 2 and 2-A. (The tax map indicates that the road frontage of the Merriam-Daggett parcel at this point is 86 feet.)

- Miliotis and Gast left at 11:00 AM.
- Reaching Freeman Hall Road we walked westerly toward Route 152 and the Recycling Center parcel (Map 19, Lot 3). Noted two green metal signposts and a short roadway to a clearing.
- At the entrance to the recycling Center we retraced our steps and continued back along the road to just beyond the bridge. We looked for survey pins, stonewalls, wetlands indicated on the aerial map, possible sites for parking, etc.
- Kotowski left at 11:35 AM.
- Entered property again to look for a suitable entrance point for a walking trail that would be a gradual incline/decline. Abrams took a GPS point at the river's edge, possibly marks the power line easement corridor.
- The easement walk ended at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on August 14, 2017.