

Merriam Daggett and Tasker (Town owned properties)

Participants: Sam Demeritt, Paul Miliotis, Susan Mooney, Liz Kotowski and Leanne Gast, Volunteer.

The purpose of this walk was to determine trail development potential in order to offer public passive access to parking, on site information, and greenway connectivity among abutting lands owned by the town and to privately owned lands with conservation easements that permit public access.

The walk began at 9:00 AM. Participants parked at the entrance to the town's recycling facility. We walked northeast on Freeman Hall Road and entered the Merriam Daggett (MD) property at the young white pine grove at a former log landing.

Proceeded ESE to the North River. Kept the river to our left as we walked ESE. Noted a stake with orange tape and a pin just S of a 30 foot long stonewall. Demeritt took a photo. The pin was marked with "603-627-1101 E C Mitchell". This location appeared to be the intersection of the MD and Tasker properties.

Continued ESE. A stonewall was in front of us, running ESE. Noted a dead balloon, maybe tied up as a marker for a hunter (?). Then we went west toward the landfill clearing on the recycling property. At the landfill we saw one shaggy mane fungus. Demeritt took a photo.

At 9:50 Miliotis and Gast left the site walk.

We reentered the woods and crossed a stonewall that ran SE to NW, the apparent boundary of Tasker and the recycle property. Noted a stake, pin and orange tape on east side of wall. Demeritt took a photo. Kotowski took a photo of Demeritt, Mooney and the stake.

We followed the stonewall in a SE direction. The wall ended shortly. We continued SE. Noted a pin with orange tape and a stake with a sign, "United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, my note) Conservation Easement Boundary Private Property". Determined this site located the three-way point of the three properties, MD, Tasker and recycling (see map). Demeritt took photo.

We continued in an easterly direction back toward the river. At the river noted some blue tape "#1", from wetland scientist Mark West's previous study to restore and enhance wildlife habitat.

Followed a road with a small field opening over a land fill edge, possibly “#2” site as noted by Mark West on his previous map (provided by Celia Abrams, volunteer). There was another stake with a NRCS sign at the west/east boundary of Tasker and the landfill, recycle properties. Is this the “A1” as noted on West’s map?

We continued along the roadway in a recently mowed area in a SSE direction. Noted a pond to the W (Pond D on West’s map). Just further along there were tree branches that were broken and bark was stripped from the trees. It appeared to have been made by a machete. (Who mowed and who wielded a machete?)

Followed along keeping the North River to the left (east), with Pond D to the right (west). Noted well-used animal spoor from the river to the pond. Red leafed trees (red maples?) and shrubs surrounded Pond D. Herbaceous plants were at the pond edge and into the water. No invasives were noted.

We saw deer prints in the sand at Pond E, (West’s map) and cranberries at the pond edge.

We started to go around Pond E counterclockwise, keeping the smaller ponds (Points 9 & 10, West’s map) to the E. Noted a bottle dump. The trees and brush were quite thick so we soon abandoned that direction. There was another easement boundary marker just W of Pond D. Demeritt took a photo. We walked along a similar “road” from the gravel pit days. A wetland was to the W. We entered the landfill/ recycling property, skirted the edge and reentered the Tasker property 180° opposite. At this time, 11:00 AM, we walked back to our cars, and left at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on December 11, 2017.