

**The First Decade**  
of  
**The Northborough Trails Committee**  
January 2001 through December 2010



By  
George Curtis, Northborough Trails Committee



## **Acknowledgments**

*The Northborough Trails Committee demonstrates how common people can come together for the common good. A need was seen and, through the cooperation of like-minded residents within the town, was realized. The following people were valuable in the development of this booklet for their assistance: Andy Dowd, Northborough Town Clerk, for access to the early records; Kathy Joubert, Northborough Town Planner, for her insight in the historical and financial background of the organization; Debbie Grampietro - Northborough Planning Board Administrative Assistant, for her efforts in designing and printing the booklet; the Northborough Department of Public Works, for their continuing support and help; Art Cole - Founder of the Northborough Trails Committee, for his historical knowledge; and Forest Lyford and Charlie Bradley for their knowledge of the workings and on-going contributions to the effectiveness of the organization.*

*I'm sure that more questions have been raised than have been answered. If this is the case, please ask any Trails Committee member about it, because your interest will elicit an enthusiastic response. The willingness of the individual Scouts to help the Northborough Trails Committee as part of Eagle Scout badge requirements has been greatly appreciated. Everyone has benefited from their endeavors. Committee member names came from the minutes. If anybody has been left out, it was not intentional.*

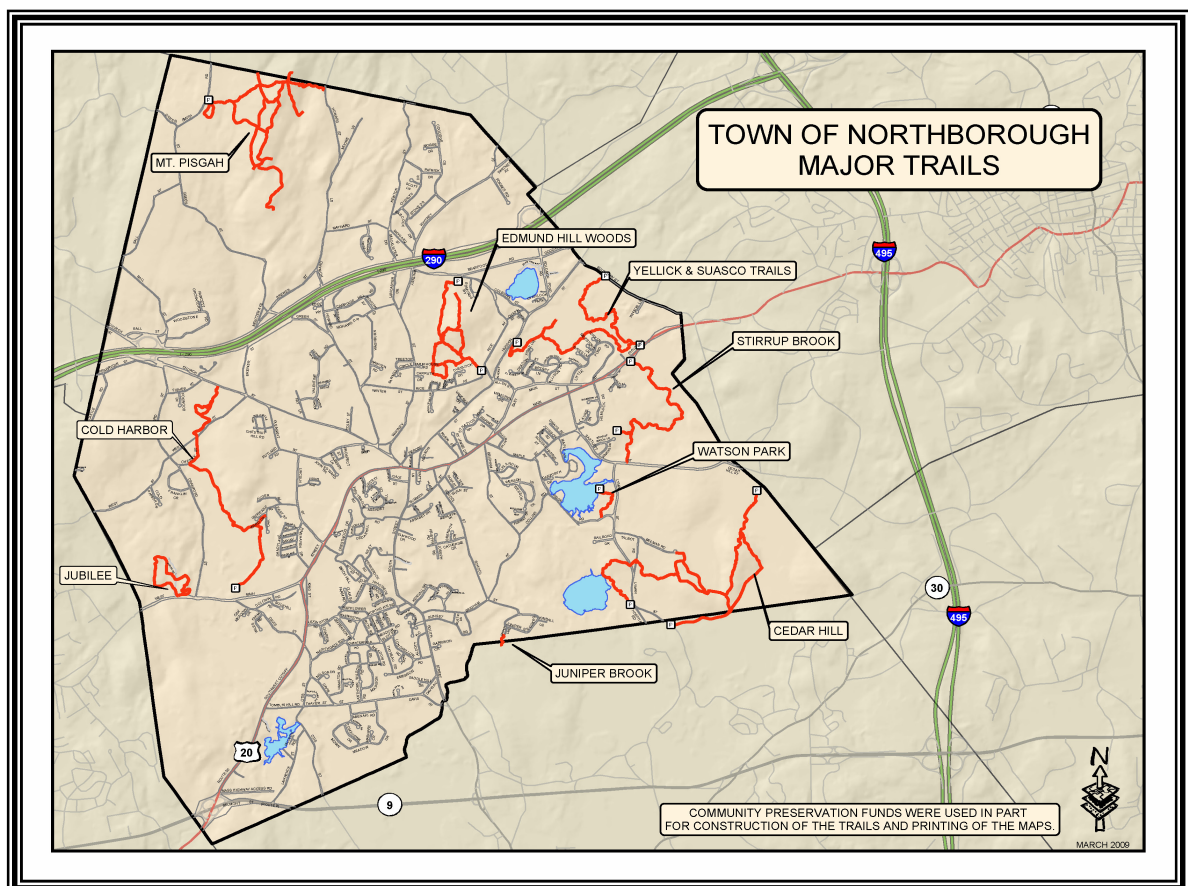
*Some events need to be heard, rather than read. Ask either Art Cole, Jack Hall or Forest Lyford for their recounting of the building of the bridge over the Assabet.*

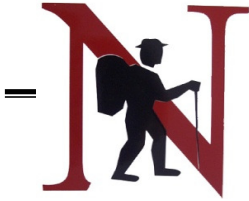
***Northborough's trails - Hike 'em, Bike 'em, Use 'em***



## Northborough's Trail System - The First Decade

*Northborough is a pleasant community in central Massachusetts. It is bigger than small, but not so big as to feel “lost” in it. Long-time residents have enjoyed what it has to offer in terms of new and old. Though the physical space is changing every year, this is generally accepted. And yet, there is a feeling that there are things that must be preserved, especially the ability to enjoy nature in an unfettered way. It was with this in mind that long-time resident, Art Cole, decided to improve and expand upon the hiking and walking trails that existed within the boundaries of the town. Meeting with Sue Brackett, former Assistant Town Engineer and George Bekampis in a purely unofficial way, he established an Ad Hoc Subcommittee referred to as, Trails Subcommittee, Town of Northborough, Open Space Committee. This eventually came to be the Northborough Trails Committee ( NTC ).*





## Year 1 – 2001

*“I had observed over the years that the opportunity existed for an extensive trail system, because such a large percentage of land in town was unable to be developed as it was wet, town-owned, state-owned, or for any other reason and I always liked to be out in wild areas. Also, I was already retired and was looking for something fun to do. Obviously, both reasons had something to do with a selfish, seeking of pleasure.” (Art Cole, Founder of the Northborough Trails Committee, when asked why he started the organization.)*

The first year proved to be an extremely productive one for a fledgling organization. Because Mt. Pisgah and Edmund Hill already had a manner of trails on them, one of the goals of the committee was to determine what could realistically be added to the trail system. Their primary trail construction projects were listed as:

- A. Bartlett Pond at Watson Park
- B. Railroad Drive at Westborough State Hospital ( WSH )
- C. River Street
- D. Cold Harbor Brook from West Main Street to Church Street
- E. Assabet River from South Street to School Street.

Another goal was to build a walkway along the river from Main Street to River Street. As Bread & Circus had an option to buy the Great Dane property, the Trails Committee asked to be informed if any plans were submitted for development. (The Bread & Circus option ran out on May 31 and nothing had been presented by them at that time.)

The March meeting ended with the following comment: *“Smugly satisfied that perhaps we may be getting somewhere, we adjourned the meeting.”*

In July, an anonymous potential buyer for the Great Dane property suggested the idea of building a footpath along the Assabet River where the Trails Committee had also suggested one.

The Northboro Citizens for Community Preservation (NCCP) asked the Trails Committee to liaise with them, and this was done through the efforts of Forest Lyford, who was also a member of the NCCP. In the course of the year, some of the members also went to Newport, NH for a one day workshop on trail building.

The Northborough Conservation Commission (ConCom) met with a representative from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) to discuss a proposed footbridge across Cedar Hill Swamp. This footbridge was constructed by Scout, Andrew Zimmerman under the supervision of Don Burn of the Westborough Community Land Trust. Funding came from the Northborough Conservation Commission and Andrew, himself. Cold Harbor Trail work was postponed until construction at Watson Park was set to proceed.

To coordinate the Trails Committee's trails being put on the Town's GIS map system, Jack Hall began working with David Kane, the GIS Director for the town. (Jack walked the trails with a GPS on top of his head.)

Bill Berry of Talbot Road showed the Trails Committee a trail he had cleared on his own, heading eastward from Talbot Road toward Crane Meadow, but this eventually was "let go" as a project.

In October, it was reported that the Westborough State Hospital trail was completely built, except for one more load's worth of wood chips to be spread at the eastern end of the bog bridges east of Talbot Road. At this time it was decided to walk a potential Assabet River Trail between School Street and Ellsworth-McAfee Park and to map the trails at Mt. Pisgah. (The Assabet River Trail wasn't able to be realized.)

In November, it became known that a Bartlett Pond Trail was nearly done and that plastic, triangular trail markers were used to replace the paint blazes. Preston Turner, a member of Berlin's Conservation Commission came to one of the meetings and discussed mutual issues, including GIS mapping of trails where the two towns' trails intersect. The trails at Edmund Hill were postponed for the time being. At this time, the Watson Park trail had been completed, along with a wheelchair accessible site.

Paul Gallagher abandoned his wish for a park at the West Main Street land he was to give to the town, because too much of the property is wetland. He said he would give the land and money to the town, if it will use both for



walking trails and promptly build them. The Trails Committee told him that a trail from West Main Street north to Church Street had always been a long range goal.

As you can see, the first year was as successful a year as could have been wished for. Trails were proposed. Trails were built. Public support was acquired through the effort of the members in various public relations activities, including a booth at Applefest, which was shared with the Sudbury Valley Trustees, and public demand urged the creation of trail hikes for Birchwood residents and others.

From the original membership of three people, the Trails Committee grew to include Forest Lyford, Bill Brackett, Al Sanders, Jack Hall, Robert Duncan, Anne Hudzikiewicz, John Timoshenko, Betty and Shirley Tetreault and Hector, Betty's Black Lab, who came to every meeting and expressed his approval of the committee's work by lapping everyone's face. The word was out and it was all positive.



*Butterfly Garden at Watson Park Sign*



## Year 2 - 2002

The success and enthusiasm of the first year rolled over into 2002. A proposed trail on the Gallagher property was flagged for the Conservation Commission to inspect. The SUASCO (Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers) Community Council verbally agreed to the Trails Committee's plans for a trail from West Main Street on its land, all the way to the town's land on Church Street. A proposed trail from the Bartlett Pond trail, heading westward and parallel to Ridge Road, to the point where Stirrup Brook feeds the pond, was flagged in April, but did not materialize. It was decided to plan and build the northern end of the Cold Harbor trail and to build a trail from Colburn Street to the existing trails on Edmund Hill and mark the existing unmarked trails on the Edmund Hill property. Also, a landowner on Howard Street at the Berlin line (the McMenemy family) allowed the use of a trail on their land connecting to the Mt. Pisgah trails, which later was named the Bennett Trail after Mrs. McMenemy's family.

Considering the amount of trails that were completed and/or proposed during the year, it was decided to officially name the trails, so they could be used on any descriptive literature that would be created in the future. The westerly trail of the two new trails on the Northborough Fish and Game land was named the Goldfinch Trail and the easterly of the two trails was named the Summit Trail. The existing trails on Edmund Hill became the Edmund Hill Trail. Also, the trail connecting the Edmund Hill Trail, and the intersection of Edmund Hill and the Goldfinch Trail, became the Proctor Trail and the trail connecting the Proctor Trail to Overlock Drive became the Frog Pond Trail.

The Westborough State Hospital trail became the Talbot Trail in honor of the old passenger-train station nearby and a section of the Talbot Trail running from the Fisherman's Access Road to Talbot Road was renamed Little Chauncy Trail.

It was hoped to establish a "trail fund" and Kathy Joubert, Town Planner, explained the details. Donations to it would be tax deductible to the donor. It would be legal for the Trails Committee to sell products or services and deposit the profits in the fund. Any monies received in a fiscal year would have to be spent in the same year, or be forfeited to the town's general fund.

The chairman was asked to have the Annual Town Meeting warrant contain a provision to make the trail fund into a revolving account. It was also relayed by Kathy Joubert that the Northborough Trails Committee's parent Open Space Committee (OSC) would like a checklist and protocol to be followed for future trails.

An "N" was added to the red trail marker and public relations endeavors included participation in Applefest and a discussion for creating tee shirts with the logo being the same as the trailhead sign. This was unresolved at the end of the year. There was a feeling of tremendous growth in what was now a two-year old organization, which added Donna Rooks, Marilyn Driscoe, Beth Ewy and Lynn Welsh to the roll call.



*Man-Made Pond – Edmund Hill Woods Trail*





### Year 3 - 2003

The beginning of the year, unfortunately, had the news that the revolving account was not possible because of the small amount of money involved. If it were to consistently contain approximately \$2,000, it could be accepted. In January, it contained \$71.91. In April, Kathy Joubert reported the fund had \$45.00 in it. (These monies that were available came primarily from trail members and Applefest donations.)

It was also during this year that the committee's name was changed by dropping the words "and walkways". However, it still remained a subcommittee of the Open Space Committee. Two more trails were officially named. The Bennett Trail (Howard Street to Mt. Pisgah) and the Crane Swamp Trail (Westborough State Hospital power plant to Crane Swamp and connecting to the Cedar Hill Trail).

The Conservation Commission approved the use of used carpeting for the purpose of controlling vegetation, except in wetlands, and The Birchwood Condominium Association agreed to allow the use of its rough terrain mower in return for the Trails Committee's maintenance of it. Timken Latrobe Corporation permitted the Trails Committee to build a trail across its property on Beeman Road. Kathy Joubert reported that SUASCO had drawn up a legal document permitting the Trails Committee to build the Cold Harbor Trail.

The building of bluebird nesting boxes at Watson Park was begun and the Trails Committee was listed on the website of the American Hiking Society. In the course of the year, Chris Maider and Deidre NiChonal were welcomed into the group and Deidre volunteered to create a website on the town's webpage for the Trails Committee. This is still in use today and continues to be updated.

It was all a case of little things happening that allowed the Trails Committee to function more thoroughly and effectively. The year drew to a close with a feeling of some permanency, both in terms of growth and acceptance by the town.



## Year 4 – 2004

In the beginning of the year, it was voted to spend the balance of the money in the trails grant for materials to build a floating bridge across Cold Harbor Brook. Jack Hall prepared the necessary purchase orders, so as to get the materials before the end of the fiscal year. Jeff Cate, the Regional Manager for the Department of Conservation and Recreation, approved a plan for the proposed Assabet Trail except for the two bridges, for which he needed approval from a higher authority within the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Conservation Commission approved the work done on the Bennett Trail and also the proposed route of the Railroad Trail.

It was voted to rename the Railroad Trail, the Pine Tree Trail and the Beeman Trail, the Cole Trail, in honor of the chairman.

Upon completion of all work on the new water treatment plant, the MWRA agreed to rebuild and reconnect all trails that were disturbed by the process of completing construction. They also agreed to add new trails along the open channel portion of the Hultman Aqueduct in Marlborough, Northborough and Southborough, all of which will be downstream from the place where the Cedar Hill Trail crosses the aqueduct. These new trails made a long loop trail possible in the Cedar Hill area.

The Rotary Club recommended a loop trail on town land between the two bridges at the northerly end of the Cold Harbor Trail to make it more usable for people looking for a short walk. The Trails Committee began proceedings toward that end. Rotary Club members and the Trails Committee added a loop trail on Cold Harbor and built a floating bridge using pontoons in the Cherry Street area. This floating bridge was designed by Jack Hall. Rotary Club President, “Skip” Doyle and his wife, Pat, were instrumental in convincing many members of their organization to participate in the building of this bridge. A true example of community support by a well-known group.

In August, the Conservation Commission viewed the site of the proposed Assabet River trail at the Yellick Conservation Area prior to a hearing on the proposal, which was later approved.

In November, there was a four-town trails grant meeting, which was attended by Don Burn, Westborough; Frederica Gillespie, Southborough; Priscilla Ryder, Marlborough; Forest Lyford, Northborough and Tom Lindberg, MWRA. These participants agreed with the following action plan:

- In partnership, representatives from the towns of Marlborough, Northborough, Southborough and Westborough will prepare and submit a 'Recreation Trails Grant Request'.
- The grant request will cover the following:
  - Phase 1: Completion of the trails leading to the Walnut Hill treatment plant area (linking the four towns), to include trail design, brochure, signs and an education component.
  - Phase 2: Develop trails in the adjacent MWRA property to include a maintenance plan.

This was achieved by the members of the Trails Grant Committee.

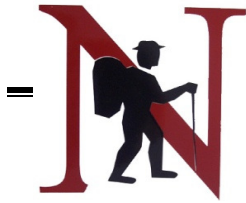
A meeting was held between the Trails Committee, the Berlin Trails Committee and Sudbury Valley Trustees with the prospects of connecting Northborough's Mt. Pisgah trails with those of Berlin and the Sudbury Valley Trustees.



The Trails Committee also adopted a plan to establish an interpretive and educational trail with markers, brochures, etc., identifying fauna and geological conditions focusing on cultural and natural history. This trail was created along the Proctor Trail and the lower loop of the Edmund Hill trail.

In the course of the year, Josie Kaufmann, Nancy Gale, Jim Stein, Donna DeAngelis, Lisa Stebbins and George Bender became valuable additions to the Trails Committee.

Another close to another year in the life of the Northborough Trails Committee, which produced many plans, promises and achievements.



## Year 5 - 2005

The year began by learning that Forest Lyford had reached an agreement with the state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for the Trails Committee to build a trail from the end of Juniper Brook Lane to connect with Westborough's Charm Bracelet on Lyman School property. Forest and Deidre NiChonall continued to work on the interpretive booklet for the trail on Edmund Hill, culminating with the Trails Committee leading a hike on the new historic and cultural trail on Edmund Hill during National Trails Day.

Betty Tetreault addressed the Northborough Woman's Club on the subject of the towns' trails. A subcommittee named "Country Gardens" consisting of Nancy Gale, Betty Tetreault and Donna Rooks was established to provide and install plantings of non-invasive plants at trailheads. As a result, five blueberry bushes were planted at the Gallagher property. Participation in Applefest was again initiated. (The word is out and it's all good.)

In May, SUASCO informed Art Cole that a downstream bridge across the river on the Assabet Trail was a practical impossibility and they suggested an extension of a bog-bridged trail all the way to Boundary Street on both sides of the river. A \$2,000 Federal Trail Grant became available for a bridge on the Assabet River Trail and Forest Lyford worked with Scout Ryan Halpin to design and build a new bridge on the Proctor Trail.

The funding for this bridge came from Home Depot and Mom and Dad. The general public was quite enthusiastic about the guided hikes that were in order this year on the Bennett Trail, Edmund Hill and the Talbot Trail.

The Trails Committee's participation at Applefest continued with the raffle and donations totaling \$80. More good publicity for the "Not So New" Trails Committee. Even the bluebird boxes were half full. (of bluebirds). More valuable members added to the Trails Committee were Paula Dettorre, Ingrid Molnar, Ellie Guild, Marielle Stone and Rob Horne.





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## Year 6 - 2006

*“ I joined the Trails Committee after meeting with Art Cole about the trails on the Mass Wildlife property on Mt. Pisgah. Art told me that he wanted to step down as Chairman, so he asked me to join the NTC and take over as Chairman. I, of course, said yes, but only if he and I worked as Co-Chairs for one year. My feeling about constructing trails in town is that you don’t want to drive an hour to hike an hour.” (Charlie Bradley, when asked why he became involved with the Northborough Trails Committee. )*

Because of the size and scope of the activities of the Northborough Trails Committee, a new organizational format was established. There were now two Co-Chairmen, Art Cole and Charlie Bradley, with each of them taking on the leadership of two subcommittees - Management and Operations.



*Trails Committee Co-Chairmen  
Art Cole (left) and Charlie Bradley at the Old Farm Trail Bridge.*



Guests from the Berlin Conservation Commission came to a meeting in January to say that their group was working to upgrade trails maps. They will use colored plastic markers similar to the Northborough markers.

The planning stages were initiated for a connecting trail from the sewage pumping plant on Hudson Street along the Chapinville Canal. It was agreed to name this proposed trail the Chapinville Canal Trail, and the area of the Coyote and Chapinville Canal Trails was to be referred to as the Assabet River area.

The Town Engineer, Fred Litchfield, agreed on the plans to relocate the Little Chauncy Trail and he also approved a new upland trail off the Cold Harbor Trail. At this time, many trails were springing up at various points throughout the town, providing diverse opportunities for the people of Northborough and surrounding towns to enjoy their natural surroundings.

In 2004, the Town of Northborough voted to adopt a program called the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The monies from this fund were to be spent in the following three categories: Open Space, Historical Preservation and Affordable Housing. The Trails Committee's request for \$3100 from this fund was approved by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for materials to improve the condition of the existing trails.

The Conservation Commission approved the bridge in Edmund Woods. There was a naming of the re-established trails in the Cedar Hill area that were impacted by the filtration construction. These became: Crane Swamp, Plantation, Sawink Loop (which belongs to the Sudbury Valley Trustees and will be maintained by them ) and Cedar Hill Trail. A section of the Talbot Trail was relocated to avoid wetlands. Scout Miles Ferguson built a double-wide bog bridge and removed the old bridges. Lumber for the project was donated by Shrewsbury Lumber.



A new trail, initially named Carlstrom II Trail, but later changed to Jubilee Trail, was opened in August. This was on New England Forestry land near the Shrewsbury Town Line. It was also proposed to turn the aqueduct bridge into a "Bridge of Flowers", but it was quite eroded and would need too much money for this to be accomplished.



*Planting the Butterfly Garden*

A Blue Spruce was planted for Betty Tetreault near the butterfly garden and the “Jack Hall Memorial Bridge” on the Bartlett Pond Trail was replaced with a new twenty-one inch wide bridge. (The original bridge was a 5” railroad tie across a trench, which was duly named after Jack Hall for his participation in the construction.)

During this time, a 5’x 8’ trailer was purchased with a donor’s gift of \$2850. This was more than the cost of the trailer and the rest was set aside to help pay for a new mower. CPA grant money in the amount of \$2,070 was requested to purchase a mower and also to be used for an MP3 player project. In October, the monthly meetings were moved from the Town Hall to the Police Station, where they are currently being held.

A “stewardship component” suggested by Charlie Bradley was implemented, wherein various Trails Committee members would be responsible for the condition of their respective trails and any excessive work would be performed on volunteer “work days”. Trails were not assigned, but were chosen by the individual members.

New members this year were George Curtis, Josh Richardson, Scott Karpuk, Sue Demarais, Claude Guerlain and Ken Butler.

It was with regret that Art Cole stepped down as Co-Chairman of the Trails Committee, but he promised to be an active volunteer. Marielle Stone agreed to fill in the remainder of his term.



Coyote Trail  
Yellick Conservation Area

At the January meeting, it was agreed to name the new trail along the Assabet River, the Coyote Trail. The reason for this is the narrative that follows as told by Art Cole, concerning himself and his grandson, Nick.

*“ In October 2005, Nick and I had a memorable experience. I was 76 and he was, as he put it, four and three quarters years old. He and I had walked to the Assabet River bank a quarter mile or so from our house. We left Peter and Barbara ( my son and wife ) sitting on our back deck shucking corn for supper, while Nick and I did a little goofing off. We were standing on the river bank when a coyote burst out of some brush and bit me in the behind and then began biting fiercely on my legs. Nick and I were about ten feet apart with Nick standing with his back to the river. We were simply standing there talking when the attack started. I desperately tried to keep myself between Nick and the coyote, while the coyote kept biting my legs and feet and I kept trying to kick her (we later learned that she was a female and rabid).*

*I was definitely losing the battle when she suddenly turned and ran away about fifty feet. Oh good, she is giving up, we thought, but we were wrong. She only wanted to get at my throat and the fifty foot gap was only for the purpose of getting up enough speed to do that. She came at me lickety split, as they used to say at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and she leaped for my neck.*

*Her mistake was that I could now get my hands into the battle and I tried to grab her by the neck when she was in midair. Her teeth missed my carotid artery and merely took a small chunk out of my left cheek. I missed her neck, but did catch her tail in one hand and we both fell to the ground together.*

*By great luck I landed on top and pinned her to the ground with my head, still holding her tail in one hand. I was gasping for breath when Nick*

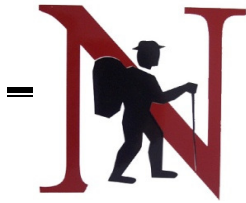
*calmly asked, "Grampy, should I go for help?" I was really impressed with his calmness and I sent him running home to get Peter and then I got really scared because I had to hold the coyote down so she couldn't catch Nick. I knew if she got loose she could kill him and I could not prevent it. Before my adrenalin had been working full time and I wasn't scared. Now I really was scared. The coyote kept biting one of my arms and was struggling hard to escape, but I did succeed in holding her down for the next half hour, during which first Peter, then Barbara, then policemen, then animal control specialists and finally emergency medical technicians arrived on the scene.*

*Nick had run to our house and told Barbara and Peter that I was being attacked by a "wolf." Barbara thought he was kidding or playing a practical joke, but Peter took one look at his face and believed him. He, Peter, ran to his truck and asked Nick to show where I was but Nick was too frightened to show him so he went anyway, hoping to find me. He did see me lying there holding down the coyote. He tried to stomp the coyote's head only to have her pull the boot right off of his foot, so he called 911 and reported to the police where to find us. Then Barbara arrived on the scene and I stopped worrying.*

*Two or three policemen arrived with impressive speed and thought to shoot the animal, but decided not to risk shooting me because my arms were entangled with the coyote. I concurred in that decision. Since they could not shoot her, they called animal control experts from the state and they came equally promptly and strangled my furry adversary with some sort of noose on a stick. During this activity, I was unable to see what was going on because my face was buried in the coyote's fur and I dared not lift my head for fear of her getting loose. Thus, I heard a man's voice say, "OK, you can get up now." Lovely sounding words.*

*The EMT's took me to a nearby hospital for stitching up and while Barbara and I were there, partly for treatment but mostly waiting, because the emergency room was busy, the EMT's kept coming back to chat. I thought that was odd until a nurse came into the room and told us that news people from all over the place were calling about the incident. We then learned that this was a classic feel-good personal interest type of news story. It seems that the combination of a wild animal, a child, a geezer and a happy ending was newsworthy. The following days featured a swarm of interviews on radio and television. Nick and I got fed up with this after a while. We were even invited to New York City to appear on a national morning TV show, but we declined."*





## Year 7 - 2007

*"I was willing to become part of the committee, because I love to play in the woods and utilize the trails. I had already been involved with some of the trail development plans at Mount Pisgah in 1990 and had other ideas for trails in town. My favorite part was, and is, trail development, bush-whacking through the woods to determine the best trail layout and ultimately seeing the trails completed.*

*In 1990 for my graduate school (Antioch NE in Keene, NH) masters project, I conducted a Natural Resource Inventory and Land Management Plan for the Mt. Pisgah Conservation Area. Smith Road was still a dirt road back then! As part of that project, I recommended that land be used for recreational purposes and that a trail network be developed. I mapped out the trails that existed at the time (mainly the Berlin Road Trail) and proposed the connecting trails that exist today." (Marielle Stone, new Co-Chairperson on why she became involved with the Northborough Trails Committee.)*

The Trails Committee learned that the Regional School Committee unanimously approved a proposal to construct a trail around Algonquin Regional High School, which would not conflict with school athletics. Art Cole talked to the Conservation Commission about this plan.

More good PR: Art Cole, Forest Lyford and George Curtis volunteered to lead guided hikes in cooperation with the Northborough Recreation Department, who in turn put the information in their Spring Brochure.

Claude Guerlain and Scott Karpuk with the help of their sons, Mike and John, produced a DVD called "Northborough Trails 2006." which is available in the public library. The DVD contains 600 images selected from 4,000 to 6,000 digital images taken by the family on many of the trails in town. The DVD took two years to complete and also utilized aerial views with the help of Dr. Steve Kapeon, who flew Scott over the area many times in Spring 2006. It has been shown to the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), which Scott and Claude belong to, as well as the Northborough Historical Society. Jodie Martinson, Northborough Historical Society member, said at their meeting that, *"It has historical interest because the trails include Edmund Hill Woods, the acreage*



*given to the town for conservation in the late 1960's by Edwin Proctor, who was dedicated to local history. Also, the Mt. Pisgah land was given to the town around that time."*

Forest Lyford led the Girl Scouts along the Cedar Hill and Crane Swamp Trails at the request of a Girl Scout leader and the Telegram and Gazette published a nice article about the Trails Committee.

Kathy Joubert reported that the legal division of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has approved the pending agreement to permit construction of the Coyote Trail extension.

Discussions began on an internet blog for the purpose of exchanging news and comments. This was to be worked out with Kathy Joubert and the Town's MIS/GIS Director, David Kane.

Marielle Stone reported that Bill Davis of Mass Wildlife was opposed to a causeway proposed by Westborough. A possible relocation will be discussed in the Spring. There was also a discussion about a Mary Goodnow Trail, but it was decided that it should be maintained by the Historical Commission. Charlie Bradley met with the Conservation Commission for permission to build a walkway over the brook or reroute the trail by Algonquin.

Potential trails included a Coyote Trail extension and a trail along the sewer line on Hudson Street. Charlie Bradley reported that as of October 2006, the Trails Committee had funds of \$1,119 after paying for trail sign materials.

Scout Miles Ferguson completed a new trail location on Talbot Trail, which also included new boardwalks. This was funded by Mom and Dad.

The Stirrup Brook bridge on the Old Farm Trail was constructed by Charlie Bradley, Adam Bradley and Rob Horne, with a steel girder donation from Heritage Welding and a masonry donation from DelGreco Supply. The bridge is three feet wide.

Sherral Devine became the newest member of the Northborough Trails Committee.



## Year 8 - 2008

The Fire Department sought and received unanimous support for an all-terrain vehicle, which would be able to be used by the NTC. They also sought and received town support for its purchase.

More guided hikes were instituted by Forest Lyford on Old Farm Trail and a public hike for the library on Little Chauncy Trail. As well as these, Claude Guerlain and Scott Karpuk led Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) hikes on Cold Harbor Brook Trail contributing to the continuing use of the trails in town. The



*Bridge Over Little Chauncy and Crane Swamp Trails*

dead-end section of the Coyote Trail was renamed Tall Grass Trail in honor of the meadow grass in the flood plain which grows to seven feet tall in many summers. Flooding caused by beavers on the Crane Swamp Trail was still an issue.

Under the auspices of the Trails Committee, a new section of the Coyote Trail was created by Scout Ethan Langer, constructing .3 miles of trail and building and installing 112 feet of boardwalk on this section. Ethan built the bridge on Birdsong with some monies from the AMC Worcester Chapter Endowment Fund. Scout Daniel Rowe completed .8 miles of the middle section of the new trail, where Ethan ended. This 1.1-mile section connected to another 1.1-mile section from Rt. 20 to Boundary Street. (Be aware that when power equipment, such as chain saws, are involved in Scout projects, it is Trail Committee members who use them.)

A proposed trail around Algonquin Regional High School was strongly

supported by Rosemary Joseph, Superintendent of the Northborough & Southborough Public Schools, with The National Heritage Committee and the Conservation Commission both approving this trail. (Unfortunately, Rosemary passed away before she was able to see the completion of this project.)

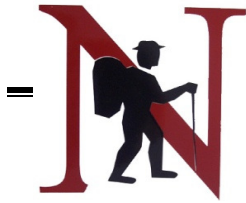
The construction of the trail around Algonquin Regional High School was done as two Scout projects by Stephan Coughlin and Jake Vancour, also under the auspices of the Trails Committee, with funding by the Trails Committee through the Community Preservation Act. Stephan completed construction of the first .7 mile section of the new trail and built two 12' sections of boardwalk, which were installed across two small brooks. Jake completed the .7 mile section of the new trail where Stephan ended and built three 12' sections of boardwalk, which were installed across two small brooks. Charlie Bradley, Adam Bradley and Rob Horne installed a 40' bridge span and boardwalks in the 3<sup>rd</sup> section of Stirrup Brook Trail with CPA funding. On the Coyote Trail and Stirrup Brook Trail expansions, Bob Mihalik, Rob Horne and Charlie Bradley worked closely with the scouts.

One-hundred (\$100) dollars was approved for Betty Tetreault to purchase plants for the Watson Park entrance garden and Scott Karpuk was authorized to spend up to \$200 each for picnic tables. The Northborough Trails Committee website remains as part of the official town website, but any changes will be made by the Trails Committee.

The Coyote Trail system was completed and potential names were floated. Charlie Bradley submitted a request to the Community Preservation Committee(CPC) for \$5,000 for future trail development and Nancy Kellner submitted a request to the CPC for \$1,000 for field packs for library use on the trails.

During this year, Josh Richardson announced that the Mp3 system for trail guidance on Edmund Hill became ready for delivery to the Library. The narration was done by Forest Lyford from the booklet created by he and Deidre. It illustrates many points of interest, which you can hear as you follow the markers. Headphones and players can be taken out by inquiring at the front desk of the Northborough Free Public Library. The library also instituted a guided, educational hike for children and parents that was conducted by Forest Lyford.

Nancy Kellner and Bob Mihalek were the new members to join the group.



## Year 9 - 2009

There was also a renaming of parts of the Coyote Trail, so that Route 20 to Boundary Street became Old Farm Trail, Route 20 to the existing Coyote Trail at the “T” intersection became Birdsong Trail and the remaining Coyote Trail and Tall Grass Trail continued as such. The two picnic tables that were approved last year were placed on the Old Farm Trail. These were built by Scott Karpuk’s Technology Engineering 8<sup>th</sup> Graders at Clinton Middle School. Upon completion, they were carried manually by Scott, his two sons, Mike and John, and Charlie Bradley and placed at two overlooks named Beaver Point and Owl’s Point.

On completion, to maintain the “nature” designations, the trail around Algonquin Regional High School became Stirrup Brook Trail.

More potential trails include New Loop trail near Talbot, Route 20/Tomblin Hill, Conservation Commission land near Smith Pond, Sulfur/Sulfur Hill, Chapin Canal. (There was approval from both the DCR and Town Water/Sewer for the Chapin Canal, although this must be called an Historical Site, rather than a trail.)

CPA funding was approved at the Town Meeting in the amount of \$5,000. No CPA funding was requested for the following year. George Curtis, Applefest Coordinator, arranged for a double booth to be shared with the Sudbury Valley Trustees and the Open Space Committee.

It was decided to alert hikers to wear orange during hunting season.

There were two new Scout projects:

- Greg Farrell to work on Cold Harbor Trail. (200’ of boardwalks were placed in the meadow near Cherry Street with funding by the Trails Committee.)
- Harry Silverstein to work on the new Canal Trail. (This is ongoing.)



A Google Group for reporting trail conditions was set up by Jim Stein, and Nancy Kellner reported that a grant request she had submitted was awarded to the Library for the creation of Nature Trek Packs. Bob Mihalek became the new chairman of the Northborough Trails Committee due to Charlie Bradley's move to Connecticut. Charlie, however, continues to be an active member.

New members Jeff Pierce, Tim Porter, Mike Karpuk and John Karpuk were welcomed into the Northborough Trails Committee.



*Butterfly Garden at Carney Park Sign*





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## Year 10 – 2010

*“My older brother, Tom, took me to French Creek State Park, outside of Philadelphia, when I was 8 years old, and I’ve been “hooked” on hiking and camping ever since. Around 2006, or so, I met Charlie and Rob when I was out trail running. I talked with them a bit about if they needed help and they said, “yes!” I wanted to start taking my daughters on hikes, so I figured I could direct my passion and energy towards maintaining and improving this valuable resource”. (Bob Mihalek - New Chairman of the Northborough Trails Committee))*

The Department of Conservation and Recreation approved a project for Chapin Canal to be considered an historical site and a spur off of the existing trail at Yellick’s.

Scout Andrew Savarese created a “Nature’s Classroom” site in back of Algonquin on Stirrup Brook Trail to include picnic tables, a kiosk with educational information about ticks and a podium/platform to be used for lectures. (This was ongoing at the end of the year.)

As well as making a presentation at the request of the Selectmen, Bob Mihalek also discovered a pine on Edmund Hill, tentatively measured at 126 feet tall. Forest Lyford initiated a weekly hike program through the Senior Center which will take place on Thursday mornings. Kathy Joubert says she often receives small donations from individuals who have used the trails and is appreciative of them. The beavers were still working at Stirrup Brook, Jim Stein became the official webmaster for the Northborough Trails Committee; the Trails Committee, Open Space Committee and Sudbury Valley Trustees continued to share booth space at Applefest; and there were three new members: Matt Scott, Arnold Ayola and Mary Jaiswal.

A Holiday Gathering for committee and 9trails alumni was held at the Police Station in December, in lieu of a meeting. Conviviality was abundant and would have done old Fezziwig proud. Glasses were raised, food was enjoyed and songs were sung. A finer group of people ne’er walked the face of the Earth. All in all, a fitting ending to the first decade of the Northborough Trails Committee.

