

CHARLTON HERITAGE PRESERVATION TRUST



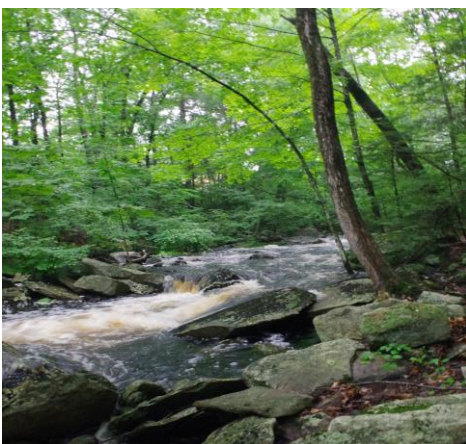
December 2023

CORNERSTONE BANK DISPLAY

Month of August, 2023

Cornerstone Bank (2 Center Depot Rd, Charlton) offered CHPT an opportunity to have a table top display through August to help let folks know more about CHPT.

Newsletters and brochures are available in the town hall.



Little River raging into Buffum in July

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current (12/16/2023) Board of Trustees

Lisa Westwell – President

Janet Blasius – Vice President

Sandy Dam – Treasurer

Bill Blasius – Clerk

Colin Novick (Executive Director of the GWLT)

Elizabeth Moran

James Moran

Karin Johnson

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2023?

The short answer is that it rained. The long answer is that it rained almost every single weekend. Fortunately, we were spared the flooding that made life so difficult in New York and Vermont. Most years, we can stand in awe of the raging Little River as it is channeled past the old mill ruins in the spring. This year, we didn't need to settle for leafless, brown pictures since the river was as high in July as during the spring melt.

Between storms, the Hammond Woods Pond Loop Trail received some needed sprucing up, but plans for two adjacent trails were postponed for better weather. We think stone wall fans will really appreciate the new trails.

Cornerstone Bank in Charlton is supportive of community oriented organizations and offered us the month of August to display CHPT information in the lobby. Janet Blasius deployed the CHPT road show, complete with giant tri-fold maps, trail information, membership forms and binders showing off each of our properties.

STEWARDSHIP

Succession is a word that is used routinely by ecologists. No terrestrial or aquatic ecosystem is static and will move towards some mature state, unless it is disturbed and the maturation (succession) process begins again. CHPT's Stonegate Estates property (Haggerty Road Extension) is a great example of succession in action. Beaver have moved in and thoroughly flooded the area. Eventually, the pond will fill up with silt and become a swampy wetland which



Beaver den at Haggerty Rd

will end up as a meadow. Trees will overtake the meadow, which will invite beaver to move in and dam up any streams flowing through the woods.

PLANS FOR 2023

We'll be back at Charlton's Earth Day event in the spring and plan to have a talk at the Charlton Library on rewilding or naturalizing your yard for the benefit of pollinators, birds and animals. We have also been in touch with a nationally recognized author and professor from Holy Cross, and hope to

have her share insights about beaver; based on historical literature (folklore).

We'll also be working on acquiring more open space. There might even be a sheep (skinny cow?) tunnel or two involved! There will be more news to share as things evolve. Every subdivision comes with a silver lining.



Mystery sheep tunnel

We're always looking for new members and volunteers to help out with trail building/maintenance, public education and outreach, and representation at town board meetings. If you care about conservation, town open space or just hate the sight of Castle Amazon, this is a great way to be involved without the baggage of being on an official town committee.

We all saw Castle Amazon rise out of what was an open field. It's a stark, daily reminder that we can't take private open spaces for granted.

MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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