



CHARLTON HERITAGE PRESERVATION TRUST

Newsletter: December 2024

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current (12/18/2024) Board of Trustees

Bill Blasius – President

Lisa Westwell – Vice President

Sandy Dam – Treasurer

Karin Johnson – Clerk

Colin Novick (Executive Director of the GWLT)

Elizabeth Moran

James Moran

Janet Blasius

We would like to thank the members of the board for their continuing commitment to conservation and preservation.

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2024?

For the first time in a while, CHPT exhibited on the green at Charlton's annual Old Home Day celebration. It was great to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. The weather was pleasant and it's never a bad thing to be located next to Fay Mountain Farm and their amazing baked goods. Janet Blasius again donated a stained glass chickadee for our give-away. We were able to collaborate with the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission and Charlton Conservation Commission to promote an Open Space and Recreation survey, which is a critical component for towns and trusts to gain access to state grants and reimbursements. Over 600 responses to the survey came in. This is a better response rate than surrounding towns have achieved. Charlton cares

about open space!

Our Fall event brought Nick and Valerie Wisniewski from Walnut Hill Tracking and Nature Center to the Federated Church of Charlton on November 21st for a presentation on “Tracks and Tracking ”. This Thursday evening talk was attended by 28 people who braved the cold, wind and rain. Nick went through tracks and the critters who left them behind, presenting outstanding photographs that he had taken. Valerie added some native flavor with Iriquois stories about some of the featured animals. Questions and answers followed the presentation before Nick and Valerie could make their way back to Orange.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTIES

The big news for the properties was the late summer drought. The Little River was reduced to a trickle. Several ponds were down a foot or more. The bright side was that the preserved areas hosting beaver dams were able to act as natural water reservoirs for the local fauna. It’s nice to have high ground for hiking and recreation, but soggy low lands are important too.

PLANS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2025

We’ll be having our annual meeting in February to elect a Board of Trustees and officers. If preserving nature interests you, please consider this your invitation to join us. The exact date will be on our website and FaceBook page.

Trail maintenance in the spring will fix whatever damage winter brings us.

We will be on the Charlton green for Earth Day and will sponsor a spring event for the public.

MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

CHPT QR Code



Please renew or join. Your support keeps us going.