

CHARLTON HERITAGE PRESERVATION TRUST



Newsletter: July 2026

ANNUAL MEETING

Charlton Public Library

April 29, 2026



EARTH FEST

Charlton Commons

April 25, 2026



Land, Revolution and Charlton

Charlton Public Library,

June 30, 2026



Jim presenting to a packed room at the Rider Tavern

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current (7/11/2026) Board of Trustees

Bill Blasius – President

Mary Caulway – Vice President

Sandy Dam – Treasurer

Karin Johnson – Clerk

Colin Novick (Executive Director of the GWLT)

Elizabeth Moran

James Moran

Janet Blasius

Evans Waldron

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

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2026?

CHPT started the year with its annual meeting on April 29th at the Charlton Public Library. Lisa Westwell stepped down from the board and we sincerely thank her for her dedication to conserving land in Charlton. We welcomed new board members Mary Caulway and Evans Waldron.

The weather for Earth Day cooperated this year and we had a presence on the town commons. We had good traffic with a lot of questions about places to get out onto trails without having to travel out of town. A drawing was held for a stained glass chickadee, which was won by a delighted resident.

Our spring event was held at the Rider Tavern in conjunction with the Charlton Historical Society. Our own Jim Moran, a retired VP of Programs and Outreach at the American Antiquarian Society, gave a presentation entitled “Land, Revolution and Charlton”. Jim’s talk was overly well attended with 86 people cramming into upstairs meeting room of the tavern. He did a great job of tying land ownership, especially the crown edict to not expand westward beyond the Appalachian Mountains with other constraints inhibiting the colonist’s ability to profitably farm. The role of clergy in spreading the word of revolution had a very local connection with a very early reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Charlton Congregational Church.



New bridge at Little River. Photo by Vanessa Noyes

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTIES

Charlton Scout Troop 338 replaced one of our bridges at Little River with one constructed of pressure treated wood and designed to last. Thanks to the scouts, parents and leaders who made this happen. The old bridge is being repurposed up slope for a potential new return trail with a view of the mill ruins from above.

PLANS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2026

A new loop trail at Hammond Woods has been roughed out and we plan on finishing the improvements and marking it.

We are considering a toddlers and grandparents walk at our Willow Tree property in conjunction with Old Home Day. The loop cart road is around a third of a mile and pretty level. It will be a nice introduction to hiking for little ones.

Tentatively, the Forbush Bird Club (Worcester) will have a birding trip, leaving from our Little River property and circumnavigating the north half of Buffumville Reservoir in October.

After the success of our Cow Tunnel hike last year, a similar hike could be in our future.

Potentially, we will bring a conservation based talk to the Library in the fall. Maybe on Chestnut Tree restoration?

Contact Us

Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust

P.O. Box 92

Charlton Depot, MA 01509

Charltonlandtrust@gmail.com

<https://www.charltontrust.org/>

CHPT QR Code



MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Please renew or join. Your support keeps us going. Without your financial support, we can't pay for lumber to repair and replace bridges or to bring you our spring and fall events.
