



Andover Village
Improvement Society
Andover's Land Trust
Founded 1894

Fall 2015
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avis update

Rotary and AVIS Salute Dave Doub

AVIS Trustee and Land Maintenance volunteer supreme, Dave Doub, received the coveted Citizens Who Care award from the Rotary Club of Andover at their Awards Dinner on May 7, 2015. In their citation, Rotary noted that: "Dave designed and led the construction of many bridges and



Photo by Rob Huntley

boardwalks throughout AVIS lands, most notably the new truss bridge on the Vale Reservation Trail. He has advised dozens of scouts on various projects, and led the efforts of the 50 adult volunteer wardens who maintain the 30 miles of trails on the reservations. Dave was one of the visionaries of the Shawsheen Greenway river trail concept and was the first person to accomplish the construction of a substantial section of the trail." Congratulations, Dave!

NED Pipeline Update - FERC Scoping Session

by John Hess

Thank you to the 15 Andover people who attended the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Scoping Session on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 in Dracut. It was a well-attended event and FERC employees certainly got an ear full. There were 15 elected officials who spoke first and then 69 citizens who signed up to speak. By the time they took a break at 9:35 pm only 15 citizens had spoken so some did leave.

Karen Martin, Environmental Compliance Officer, Andover DPW, spoke for the Town of Andover. The Town has continued to stay on top of this issue. John Hess spoke for the Andover Pipeline Awareness Committee and Alix Driscoll spoke for the Andover Conservation Commission.

FERC conducted these hearings (the last is 9/29/15 in Rindge, NH) to obtain input for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) their staff must prepare. There were no sessions scheduled in the cities and towns affected by the Lynnfield Lateral.

Kinder Morgan is expected to file its formal application on October 23, 2015. FERC will take about one year to review the proposal, issue a Draft EIS, take comments, and then decide sometime in the Fall of 2016 whether to approve the pipeline.

Disjointed Thoughts of a Wandering Hiker

by Mason Browne

This past fall and winter (2014-2015), I decided to walk or ski every AVIS trail by myself. While the trails are defined, I found my mind was free to take a less constrained and more disjointed route.

Why walk every AVIS trail? I asked myself that question as I circled back (yet again) to ensure that I had traveled every side trail in the Keck Reservation. I began to wonder if my circuitous path was the shortest possible solution. Maybe I needed to solve the famous mathematical 'traveling salesperson' problem of finding an algorithm that delineates the shortest route among multiple destinations. Certainly my present path did not seem short and it was now getting dark. I had yet another loop to hike. As I wandered further, I decided that walking these paths was not a means to solve great mathematical mysteries, but instead offered me an opportunity to explore Andover and learn more about its natural history.

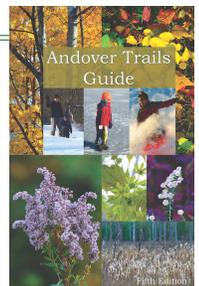
Why the names of the AVIS Reservations? "Skug", what was he or she or it, and who were, Keck, Smith, Rafton and the rest? I could only bet that they too had walked every AVIS path. "Deer Jump" is a peculiar name, so I researched it—There once had been a "Deer Jump Falls" on the Merrimack River. Early entrepreneurs had identified it as one possible dam site and purchased surrounding lands so a dam could be constructed. Ultimately, the engineers chose to situate the dam further downstream at its present site in Lawrence. Deer Jump Falls was consequently flooded in the backwater of the Lawrence dam. The Deer Jump properties became surplus to the needs of the dam builders and portions of these lands eventually were purchased by AVIS. Although that explains a lot, I still wondered why the falls were called "Deer Jump". That explanation may be lost to history.

Why are some paths less traveled? As I ascended Sunset Rock, my back was to the west. But upon reaching the top, I turned and realized that my timing was superb. There I stood atop the rock as the sun was setting. No need for me to further research the reason for this rock's name; but I remained perplexed why this path was much less trodden.

Editor's Note: Mason Browne is an Andover Resident, AVIS Member, and forester. This is the first of a two part article he has written for AVIS. Get the second half in the Spring issue of Update.

Trail Groups Produce New Andover Trail Guide

Volunteers from the Andover Trails Committee and AVIS collaborated on the production of a new edition of the very popular Andover Trails Guide, Edition 5. Published in August 2015, this Guide has already been selling well at the Andover Farmers Market and at Andover Day. You can get a copy from AVIS or ATC or at convenient locations in Andover (Whole Foods, Andover Bookstore, & Andover Historical Society) and North Andover (Rocky's Ace Hardware).



Sanborn Reservation Expansion

by Susan Stott

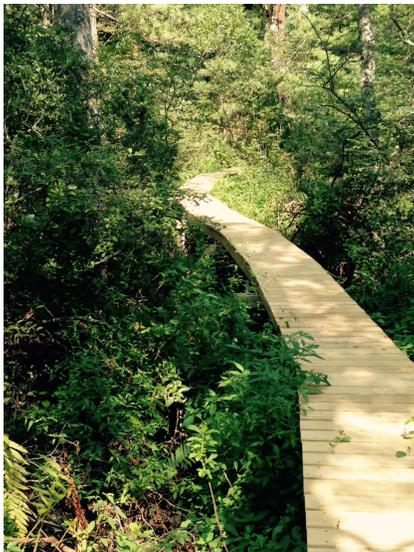
In December 2014 the Town of Andover received a 61A notice of a purchase and sale agreement (P&S) for the 21 acre Tisbert property at the end of South St. on the Shawsheen River. The Town received the notice because the Tisbert property had received an agricultural tax reduction in past years. AVIS recommended that the Town exercise its 61A right to purchase the property at the price in the P&S. AVIS also asked the Town to assign its 61A right to AVIS, if the Town chose not to buy. For more than a decade AVIS' goal has been to protect the land along the section of the Shawsheen River between Tewksbury and Route 93, to keep open the possibility of a pedestrian path that might someday run from the Tewksbury line to the Town line with Lawrence.

Most of the land along the river between Tewksbury and Rt. 93 is already protected by the AVIS Sanborn Reservation (15 acres) and the Conservation Commission's new Lightning Tree Reservation (24 acres). The town chose not to purchase the property and did assign its rights to AVIS. After the assignment in February, AVIS offered to acquire the land along the river from the original buyer, who subsequently withdrew his offer. While AVIS continued to research the cost of acquisition of the entire property, it offered to purchase eleven acres, primarily the land along the river, from Jean Tisbert. Fortunately, another buyer was interested in the Tisbert house and the remaining ten acres.

In July 2015 AVIS closed on the purchase of about 11 acres on the Shawsheen River from Jean Tisbert.

This acquisition is part of the dream to develop the Shawsheen River Greenway, a trail the length of the Shawsheen River, from the Tewksbury town line to the City of Lawrence, building on the section already completed by AVIS from Ballardvale to Central St.

Burt Batcheller and Bob Rauseo are wardens of the Sanborn Reservation. Neighbors in Tewksbury will be enlisted to maintain this area. Once AVIS wardens and volunteers have completed trail work, AVIS will hold a dedication of this expansion of the Sanborn Reservation next spring or summer.



Doyle Link Boardwalk

Congratulations to the Andover Conservation Commission and the Andover Trails Committee for obtaining a grant to extend the Bay Circuit Trail in the Doyle Link Reservation. Hundreds of volunteer hours have been used to build this wonderful new 700 foot boardwalk which gets a portion of the BCT off High Plain Road.

New Members since 9/1/14

We thank those who have recently joined us in our mission to preserve and protect Andover's open space.

Willa Abel	Richard and Jane Morrissey
Scott Alexander	Virginia Muldoon
Steve Brown	Anil and Naomi Navkal
Mason and Joan Browne	Dr. Andre Paradis
Rebecca Bularzik	Dot and Joe Pelc
Layne Cargill	Howard Perkins
James Czarnecki	Curt Raffi
Robert DelPonte	Himanshu Shah
Roy Dobbelaar	James Stewart
Selena Evans	Rukhsana Tawheed
Shirley Ferguson	Karin Theodorus
Tracy Gauthier-Peters	Jamison Tomasek
Dave Hopwood	Jon Trachtenberg
James Hornby	David Trangali
Kristen and Don Hunt	Paul Upson
Douglas and Jowita Klein	Peter Vachon
Joyce Krekorian	Luminita Velicanu
Lyndie and Tom Lamson	Chris Vieira
Lana Lau	Carl Weggel
Jose Loureiro	Michael Yeates
Jodi MacDonald	Lesley Yen
Remi and Kathleen Machet	Forever Green
Martha and James McQuade	

Financial Report for CY2014

Income	
Membership Dues	\$ 24,560
Contributions/Grants	61,091
Investment	32,000
Other	4,485
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Total	\$ 122,136

Expense	
Fundraising	\$ 1,310
Improvements to Reservations	5,802
Program Services	23,553
Management & General	29,747
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Total	\$ 60,412

The expenses above do not include the tens of thousands of dollars' worth of time contributed by volunteers, including Wardens, Trustees, work parties, and pro bono lawyers and graphic designers, who do the work to keep AVIS running and its reservations available for the public.

www.avisandover.org
978-494-6089
facebook.com/avisandover

Letter from the President

By Mike Timko

In the Spring Update, I mentioned a 20-acre parcel of land along the Merrimack River that the Land Acquisition Committee had its eye on. The land had been used and taxed as agricultural land so the Town of Andover had a right of first refusal on any purchase. This led to a complicated series of negotiations, led by Susan Stott, with the owner, the Town and potential buyers that eventually resulted in an excellent result for AVIS. During the summer, we purchased the 10+ acres that we wanted, including all of the river-front, and another buyer bought the rest at a residential rate. We have talked about the Shawsheen River Greenway in the past. The concept is a continuous path along the Shawsheen as it flows through Andover. This new piece of land, which will be added to the Sanborn Reservation, runs from the Tewksbury border to the Andover Conservation Commission's new Lightning Tree Reservation to anchor the upstream end of the Greenway.

During the summer, a committee of representatives of AVIS and the Andover Trails Committee published a new edition, the 6th, of the Andover Trails Guide. We added two new reservations and updated two-thirds of the maps and descriptions. The new edition is still \$15 and can be purchased at several places around town including the Andover Historical Society, the Andover Book Store and Rocky's Ace Hardware in North Andover.



Continued Thanks to our Volunteers

There were many volunteers who contributed this year to maintaining and upgrading AVIS reservations. Josh King, Eagle Scout candidate, led one of these efforts, including cutting and leveling 90' of trail along the Shawsheen River Reservation. This photo shows Josh (middle with black shirt) with his volunteers at one of the four picnic tables they constructed and installed in the reservation.



Photo by John King

Please Update Your Contact Information

We want to be in touch with our members in as many ways as possible. Please update your name, address, phone number, and email by sending an email to info@avisandover.org or by writing to us at AVIS, PO Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810. We will send an email to all current addresses on or about 10/28/15. If you do not get that email, please send us your correct address. Thank you

Deer Jump Reservation Improvements



Photo by John Hess

Dave Doub and David Dargie are shown with some of the volunteers who cleared the trail along the access trail from Inwood Lane, May 9, 2015.

Another Way to Support AVIS

Dear Supporter - here is an easy way to support AVIS and the work we do in Andover. When you make purchases on-line you can use AmazonSmile and, when you select Andover Village Improvement Society before shopping, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to AVIS.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

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_____ \$40 Family _____ \$10 Student & Senior

You can join or renew online at www.avisandover.org/join.html or make check payable to "AVIS" and mail to :

AVIS
PO Box 5097
Andover, MA 01810.

For information about planned giving or stock donations contact info@avisandover.org. Contributions and dues are tax deductible to the extent permitted by federal regulations.
Thank you!

Fall 2015 Calendar

Sat., Oct. 24, 2015

Work Party

Deer Jump Reservation
9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Meet on Nollett Road

Volunteers are needed to help AVIS tackle a small section of the Deer Jump Reservation that has two weeds that are taking over the area. Workers will be hand-pulling narrow-leafed bittercress, a small plant that does not require much force, but it is prolific. They may also target a plant called Dames Rocket, which is growing nearby.

Please wear gardening gloves if you have them. AVIS will provide extra gloves, water and snacks. It should be a fun project, and volunteers will learn how to identify wildflowers in the fall.

Please let me know if you plan to join us:
amy-janovsky@avisandover.org

Tues., March 8, 2016

AVIS Annual Dinner and Meeting

6:00 PM
Old Town Hall
20 Main Street, Andover

Details of Registration and Speaker - to be determined

TBD, 2016

Sanborn Hike

Hike and Reception for the addition of 10 acres to the AVIS Sanborn Reservation

TBD, 2016

Ironstone Farm Rail Trail Hike

Hike and Reception for the addition of the Ironstone Farm Rail Trail to AVIS

For additional AVIS events, see avisandover.org.
For AMC walks, see amcboston.org/andover.
To check for other hikes, visit andovertrails.org.

PO Box 5097 Andover, MA 01810 www.avisandover.org
update@avisandover.org

The AVIS Update is a biannual publication of the Andover Village Improvement Society. The mission of AVIS is to acquire and preserve Andover land in its natural state. More than 1,000 acres of land are managed by AVIS and are open to all for passive recreation.

Mike Timko President
Rob Ciampa Membership
John Hess Editor
Lindsey Timko Designer

