



Trail Markers



See our home page at <http://www.westonforesttrail.org>

Annual Meeting Sunday May 6, 2012

Our 67th Annual Meeting will take place at 4:00 p.m. , at the Weston Scout House on School Street, across from the Weston Public Library. You can park in front of the Scout House or in the Library parking lot (at the back, please, to leave room for the normal library patrons).

At 2:00 p.m. prior to the Meeting our usual Sunday guided walk will take place, to explore the Case Estates area. Marty Carlock will lead the walk. (See our home page for details).

Kids and dogs are welcome, but the latter should be leashed.

Refreshments will be served at the Scout House after the walk..

The brief Annual business meeting will be followed by a slide presentation by

Peter Von Mertens, Co-Chair of Conservation Commission for the Town of Lincoln
Connecting Our Two Communities—Shared Values and Vision



Peter will talk about the preservation of 21 acres of land in Lincoln known as the Van Leer Property. This parcel forms the keystone between the already protected conservation lands of Lincoln and Weston. Key to raising private funds for this preservation project was the promise to create a connecting pathway between our two communities.

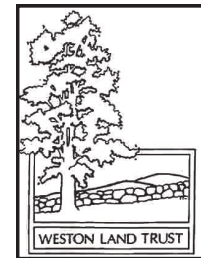
As the only route for this path was across an 800 foot wide red maple swamp a major boardwalk needed to be designed, approved and constructed. Please come and find out how our two communities came together with creativity, generosity and lots of hard work to build a trail that connects them and preserves the beauty and habitat of this rich area.

Peter von Mertens grew up in Weston from Middle School onward and as his parents enjoyed and participated in outdoor recreation he too became involved, including with the then nascent Weston Forest and Trails Association. That early bonding with nature and conservation has led him to active duty with the Lincoln (where he and his wife now live) Conservation Commission. Peter taught for many years in the Wayland Public School System and, now retired, divides his energies between conservation work and helping create affordable housing.



WFTA and WLT have combined to strengthen and enhance stewardship of Weston's trails, outlooks and open space.

The combined organization will encourage the enjoyment and use of Weston's woods, fields, outlooks and trails, and will also focus attention on land planning for the future, in concert with the Conservation Commission and other Town organizations and committees.



On December 13 2011, the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved the merger of the Weston Land Trust with the Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc. For legal reasons, the name of the new organization will remain Weston Forest and Trail Association Inc., but the combined organization's mission will now encompass that of the former Weston Land Trust. The combined organization will have over 700 member families, and will have a strong voice in maintaining Weston's conservation land and open space, for the enjoyment and benefit of everyone in Town. Initially, the two Boards of Trustees have been combined, and Tom Selldorff and Meg Kelly will act as co-Presidents. A "governance" committee has been formed (Tom Selldorff, Meg Kelly, George Bates, Cindy Lawry, Bill Stevenson, Kirk Jensen) to develop and propose an organizational structure that can best implement the larger mission, and will develop the details of this over the summer. It is anticipated that, sometime this fall, there will be formal announcement of the new structure, combined with an event to celebrate this historic merger.

Generous Donation:

We are pleased to report the donation by the Highland Street Realty Trust of an easement to provide access to Town Conservation land from Highland Street.

Hobbs Pond restoration:

Hobbs pond has been a lovely amenity on the Cat Rock portion of the Town's conservation land, with a beautiful viewscape and habitat for waterfowl and a place where dogs can often get a quick swim on their walks. The severe weather a couple of years ago caused flooding that breached and heavily damaged the dam at the pond outlet, and the Conservation Commission has been studying various options for the site. At the upcoming Town meeting on May 7 voters will be asked to choose between basically two options: building a dam and bringing the level of the pond back up to nearly the earlier level, or removing the rest of the existing dam and letting nature take its course, which will turn the area into a creek with adjacent swamps or marshland.

It is important to note that the cost of rebuilding the dam and restoring the pond to nearly its earlier level will have no effect on the tax rate. The cost estimate is between \$ 450,000 and \$ 500,000 (depending on the level decided upon), which will be met from Community Preservation Act funds already set aside for such purposes, supplemented by significant private donations and FEMA funding.

We urge everyone in Town to make an informed choice on this issue and to vote at the upcoming Town meeting. Much information is on the Town website, but best of all is to take a walk and see the area for yourself. My personal view is that it would be a pity to lose the pond, the lovely viewscape, much of the habitat for birds and wildlife, and the venue for skating in the winter and for swimming (dogs only) at other times of the year.

Tom Selldorff, Co- President WFTA

Hobbs Pond viewed
from Cat Rock trail



Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc. Operations – 2011

Cash & Cash Equivalents 1/1/11 \$30,422.44

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 21,836.30
Endowment Fund	23,870.00
Gifts	3,836.00
Map sales	810.00
Book sales	444.00
Interest	1,018.92
Operations Fund	7,567.00
Weston Reservoir Fund	<u>4,325.00</u>

Total Receipts

63,707.22

Disbursements:

Office Expense	\$ 8,194.75
Insurance Expense	2,427.36
Accounting	1,635.00
Maintenance:	
Land's Sake	\$10,288.47
Contract Services	20,077.03
Other	<u>2,990.21</u>
Weston Reservoir Fund	33,355.71
Map Expense	3,963.25
Surveying	294.00
	<u>245.00</u>

Total Disbursements

(50,115.07)

Cash and Cash Equivalents 12/31/11

Checking Account	\$29,899.08
Vanguard GNMA Fund	<u>14,115.51</u>

Total Cash and Cash Equivalents

\$ 44,014.59*

*This total includes Restricted Funds as follows:

Restricted:

Operations Fund (2012)	\$ 200.00
Weston Reservoir Fund	<u>5,201.56</u>

Total Restricted

\$ 5,401.56

Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc. Endowment Fund - 2011

Balance 1/1/11 \$996,886.70

Income and Capital Gains 34,236.10

Balance 12/31/11 \$1,031,122.80

The average market value of the Fund in 2011 was \$1,014,004.75. The Cost of Living Index for all Urban Consumers in the Boston Area increased 2.9% during the year ended November 2011. 2.9% of \$1,014,004.75 is \$29,406.14. Real income from the Fund in 2011 is calculated as follows:

Income and Capital Gains	\$ 34,236.10
Less inflation adjustment	<u>(29,406.14)</u>

Real Income or (loss) \$4,829.96

\$4,829.96 is 0.48% of the average market value of the Fund in 2011. The average real rate of return on the Fund starting in 1989 is 2.98%.

During the year we received contributions to the Endowment Fund in the amount of \$23,870.00 which have been retained as operating funds.





Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.
266 Glen Road, Weston, MA 02493

Annual Meeting Sunday May 6, 2012
4 P.M.
The Scout House, School Street

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
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Boston, MA
Permit No. 59119



Join the Association...make us stronger than ever

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership | \$ 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership | \$ 50 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership* | \$ 100 * (recommended) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Support | \$ 1000* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership** | \$ 2,000 or more** |

Note that all membership contributions are fully tax-deductible

* If you wish to receive the exclusive, unique WF&T coffee mug, please check here ☐

** Life Members will receive a framed certificate of appreciation, unless checked here ☐

Also, please send me ☐ copies of **"Walks on Weston Conservation Land"** by Elmer E. Jones @ \$ 15.00 each, plus \$ 2.00 for postage and handling. This book and the maps of the Weston Trail System (\$ 10.00) are available at the Conservation Commission office, in the Town Hall. **All can also be purchased on the WF&TA website at www.westonforesttrail.org**

CHECK HERE (☐) TO GET IT ALL:

Supporting Membership + Trail Map + Trail Guide + coffee mug for \$ 125.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make checks payable to the **Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.**
and mail, together with the above form, to Mr. George Bates, Treasurer, 266 Glen Road, Weston, MA 02493. You can also
join over the web at www.westonforesttrail.org

