

West Acton Boardwalk



Proposed Plans

Friends of the West Acton Boardwalk

Board of Selectmen Meeting

November 3, 2008

West Acton Boardwalk



West Acton Boardwalk

Existing Conditions

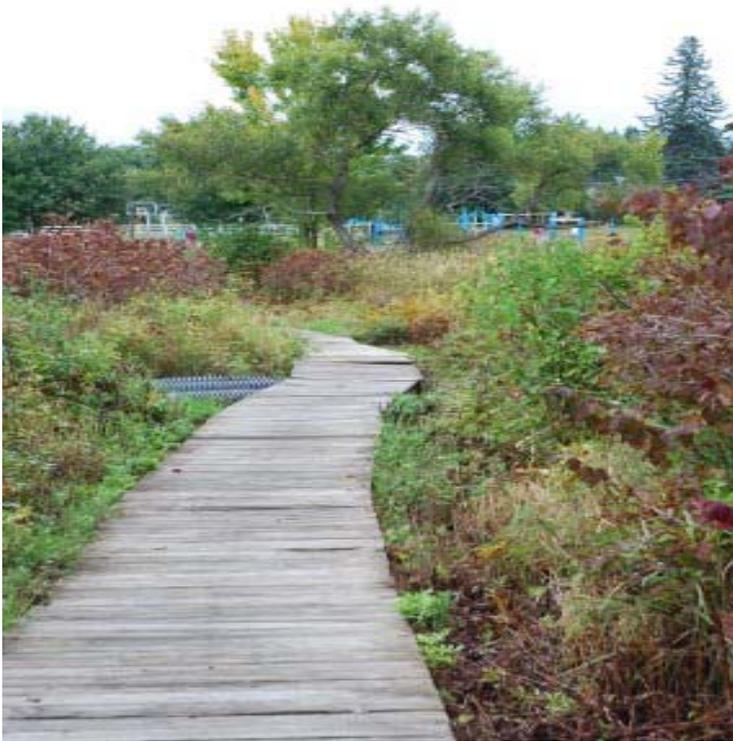


West Acton Boardwalk

Existing Conditions and How they Change

September ↓

October ↓



West Acton Boardwalk



West Acton Boardwalk

- Due to significantly deteriorating conditions, boardwalk would be abandoned
- Friends of West Acton Boardwalk established
- Have raised \$3,100 from preliminary outreach work
- Started community outreach
 - Oktoberfest booth first opportunity to inform citizens of proposed plan
 - Website: www.boardwalk.westacton.net
 - Conducted survey
 - Community outreach is continuing
 - So far, strong support

West Acton Boardwalk

- Surveys
 - In person, very short time period, over 300 people (approx 140 of which were from two hours on the day of Oktoberfest)
 - On-line 167 respondents
 - When asked if they want the Boardwalk as a viable means of connecting different parts of the West Acton Community, 95% said **YES**
 - Use extremely varied: commuting, nature observation, recreation

West Acton Boardwalk

- Overall Plan
 - Propose ideal design for all users
 - Fund all with grants and donations of cash and in kind (Scouts, etc.)
 - Prelim cost estimates \$70k-\$90k
 - Survey and Committee say, create a structure to:
 - Support reliable, safe pedestrian use that is handicap accessible
 - Integrated Nature Center to enable awareness of environment and history
 - Sustain varying water levels and be long-lived
 - Encourage observation
 - Encourage usage for recreation, education, commuting
 - Consider environmental impact

West Acton Boardwalk

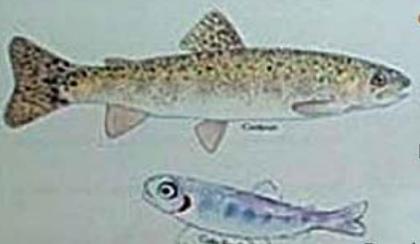
- Integrated Nature Center
 - Interactive interpretive stations that describe the environment and habitat from watershed to ecosystem and history of the area
 - Subtle yet useful design
 - Proposing railings to allow for easier relaxation and safety
 - Proposing small storage area for educational materials
 - Proposing small dock to allow for water sampling for a variety of uses

West Acton Boardwalk

Draft of Possible Interpretive Station Component

Beavers Build New Habitat

*Can you find the signs of beaver
What made the pond?
Was it beaver, People, or mother nature?*



Beaver can alter their environment by building dams

Ponds created by dams provide beavers with access to food.

I saw Rainbow Trout



Beavers may use an area for years until they have exhausted their food supply. Even though the beavers have moved on, the ponds they created can continue to provide habitat for many years.



Beavers create good habitat for willows, one of their favorite foods.

Dams will eventually break, draining the ponds and allowing the alder and willow to grow back until the beavers return.

.....and the cycle begins again



A beaver slapped its tail while it walked by its lodge.

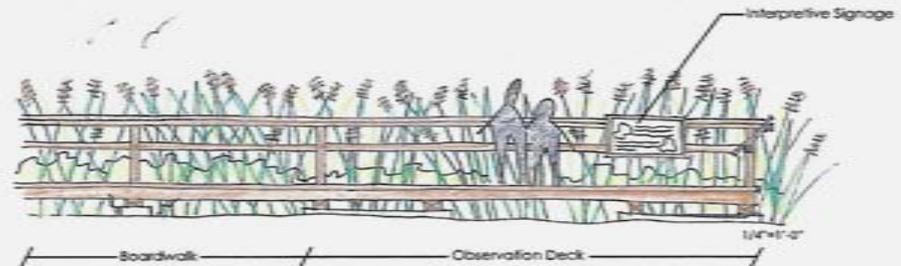


West Acton Boardwalk

- Proposed Design
 - Create structure over water level
 - Use new composite material boards for longer life
 - Make handicap accessible
 - Railing and toe stops
 - Small floating dock for water sampling
 - Small walkway to “kid island”

West Acton Boardwalk

DRAFT- PROPOSED PLAN



West Acton Boardwalk

- Next steps
 - Get Committee endorsement (SC, BOS)
 - Gather more community input
 - Complete CPC application
 - Continue fundraising
 - Propose a plan for ongoing maintenance of structure
 - Visit our website:
www.boardwalk.westacton.net
 - Offer boardwalk site tours