

**ACTON CONSERVATION TRUST AND
SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES
CR MONITORING REPORT**

1. Property name: Donald CR
2. Location (street address): Minot Avenue, Acton, Mass. 01720
3. Date of inspection: May 1, 2016
4. Date of last inspection: June 25, 2015
5. Size in acres: 11 acres
6. Year conservation restriction recorded: 2001
7. Owner name: Town of Acton
8. Owner address: 472 Main St., Acton, MA 01720
9. Length of present ownership (years, months): 14.5 years
10. Is owner the grantor?: No
11. Did the owner of the property accompany you on the inspection? Yes, the Town CR Coordinator, Fran Portante, accompanied us.

- Identify how notice of visit was given or permission obtained:

Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Acton Conservation Trust (ACT), on behalf of the inspection team comprised of SVT and ACT, co-holders of the CR, emailed and called ahead to Fran Portante, Town of Acton CR Coordinator, Dr. Donald, and Laura Mattei, Director of Stewardship, SVT to schedule the walk on the property for a mutually convenient time. The Inspection team consisted of David Hardt (ACT), and Fran Portante, Town of Acton CR Coordinator and Susan Mitchell-Hardt, (ACT).

- Describe the details of your inspection (where you walked, etc.)

David, Susan, and Fran, met at 11 AM at 42 Taylor Rd.

We walked down Taylor Road to Minot Avenue on the sidewalk put in by the town last year. We observed the two-year old wooden guard rail set into the sidewalk above a new culvert between the two N/S stonewalls which bound the CR'd land. The first north – south stone wall now comes to a point at the sidewalk. One can see a red flagged pipe bound inside of the wall. It was commented that the stream looked healthy. (We saw four deer bound across the road).

We paused at the end of the newly constructed stonewall bounding the CR. Dave walked down the stonewall boundary (along the west side of the property) part way. He observed the wire and white flags signifying the dog fence on the adjacent property; no encroachment was noted.

We continued down Minot Avenue to the eastern boundary of the CR and entered the property walking on the north/south trail. Last year we observed several large piles of leaves. This year no new piles were observed. (After last year a "No Dumping" sign was posted and came down before winter. A new reminder sign would be helpful.)

The path from Minot Avenue was a bit wet from recent rain. We took the secondary trail on higher ground. Along the way we observed fiddlehead fern.

We walked the trail to the west of the esker that borders the CR and then turned toward the center of the property on the trail bordering the large wetlands to the west. We followed the path walking across the area covered with rocks to provide a water crossing and came to the large stone pile and stone culvert, which signify the western end of the CR'd area. We continued on a private trail to Dr. Donald's historic home at 42 Taylor Road.

Walking the boundaries of the CR, we picked up trash along the road. We also observed glossy buckthorn and other invasives. Concern was expressed that the invasives would take over if they weren't managed. Land Steward, Jim Snyder-Grant is working with a wide variety of volunteers to remove invasive plants (mainly garlic mustard) from the CR. To get access to the large crop, he has also been pulling out or cutting back invasive honeysuckle and some multiflora rose. He also has been trimming back some bramble including a couple species of raspberry and blackberry to provide safe access to the picking areas. His work does not include use of herbicides.

12. Present use of restricted property: Conservation, passive recreation, and education.

13. Note any possible violations of the terms of the conservation restriction (be as specific as possible): None noted.

14. Present use of abutting properties (including the owner's unrestricted lands): Conservation, passive recreation, and education. Residential.

15. Describe examples of uses permitted by the terms of the restriction which have taken place since the last inspection: Passive recreation. Removal of invasive species ,.

16. Describe any rare or unusual plant or sign thereof: None noted.

17. Additional remarks (particularly as to the present condition of the property).

The general condition is good. Fran observed lilies of the valley, wild geranium, royal ferns in the wetlands, and holes in maple tree leaves caused by winter moth. Skunk cabbage grew near the stone culvert.

Invasive plants are beginning to take over, and it's wonderful to have Jim Snyder-Grant and his volunteers removing them under supervision.

18. Names of monitoring team members:

David Hardt (Clerk, ACT), Susan Mitchell-Hardt (President, ACT), Fran Portante, (Town of Acton CR Coordinator)

Time spent on property: 1 hour

Inspection team leader: David Hardt



Date sent: 6/1/16

Attachments:

Map of Donald CR with Route of Walk

Donald CR Inspection

May 1, 2016

Line of Walk - - - - -

Direction of Walk ->



