

President's Report

This will be my last President's report after 10 years as President of the Ashby Land Trust. During that time, the land trust has preserved Mount Watatic, assisted in the conservation of 600 acres of land through the Forest Legacy program, helped the State acquire property around Willard Brook State Forest, and obtained accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance. These have been amazing team efforts by a dedicated board of directors and other partners.

I have been most involved personally with the Forest Legacy projects and other purchases by the State. I've particularly enjoyed interacting with landowners, State agencies and other conservation organizations to find solutions that work for everyone. That and getting out on the land. We have some amazing open space in the Town of Ashby!

On a personal note, all of my children have grown up "with" the Ashby Land Trust. They've attended hikes and the events at our annual meetings, touching animals, doing Native American dances, and trying on furs. My son Dan has volunteered for monitoring conservation restrictions and conducting baselines, and has given a talk about conservation restrictions at one of our annual meetings. Ben and Dan have both pursued college educations that include aspects of conservation, sustainability and environmental studies. Andrew is considering a college education that includes sustainable design. All of them are avid outdoorsmen. As a parent and advocate for conservation and the environment, I couldn't ask for more.

I will continue to serve on the land trust's board of directors after stepping down as President. I would like to thank all the board members that I have served with. Special thanks to founding Directors Bob Leary, Janet Flinkstrom, and especially Jeanie Lindquist for her vision in co-founding the land trust back in 1998. It's because of you all that we have preserved over 1500 acres of open space in Ashby to date. You're what makes the Ashby Land Trust go!

Annual Monitoring Report

Each year the Land Trust monitors its conservation restrictions. Monitoring is a vital part of our mission as a land trust and is required by law; it maintains the integrity of the features of the property that people have deemed worthy of a special status.

In 2015, monitoring started in early spring with the South Road Fields. We had one violation, involving some road debris that was deposited with snow dumping into the southern corner of the field. After some inquiries the debris was removed and a snow removal & placement policy was agreed upon thanks to the efforts of the Ashby Conservation Commission.

This year the Wiita Conservation Land (Blood Hill) was monitored by North County Land Trust with no violations noted. The Arnold Property was monitored by Sue Chapman and Bob Leary with no violation noted. The Morrison Property was also monitored by Sue & Bob, no violation noted.

Both the Morrison Property and the Arnold Property need to have their boundaries marked with signage. If you like hiking in the woods, you may be interested in helping us to monitor our properties. Contact us at Directors@ashbylandtrust.org



South Road Fields



Fall on Wapack Trail



Debris in Monitored Field



Ashby Rainbow in Fall