

Monitoring Report



ALT monitored four properties in the past year and we happily anticipate monitoring a few more in 2019. The Wiita Conservation Land, AKA Blood Hill, was monitored in December in conjunction with the North County Land Trust, co-holders of the CR. The Arnold property, the South Road Fields, and the Morrison property were all monitored in January. ATV use continues to be a problem on Blood Hill. We are striving to find a reasonable solution that allows permitted uses while still enforcing the requirements of the CR. A logging operation will be taking place on land abutting Blood Hill, but all flagging was done appropriately and no boundary issues are foreseen. Both the Arnold property and the South Road Fields are experiencing invasive species; South Road to a much greater extent than the Arnold property. We are investigating methods of removing the invasive species in an environmentally ethical manner and with minimal impact to the overall property. We noted there was a lot of roadside trash on the Morrison property and will be removing that in the spring. Also of note was the drying up of a swamp on the Morrison land. Managing ATV use and encroachment of invasive species continue to be a priority of the lands we monitor.

It's our 20th anniversary!

During the early 1990's the land trust movement was gaining momentum all over the country. I was interested in having a land conservation organization in town, so in 1998 I began exploring how one founds a land trust. I can't remember how I first discovered conservationist Keith Ross, but I thought he'd be a great choice of speaker at a community meeting. I called him up and asked him if he would come and talk to us about founding a land trust. I put up posters around town, bought some doughnuts, and crossed my fingers. I was pretty nervous! About 25 very interested people showed up and we decided to proceed. Our first decision was to choose our name and then to set up another meeting to start working out a mission and some by-laws.



Keith had big ideas for us, proposing that we pursue the preservation of Mount Watatic, since it was clearly the most important desire of the group. We thought he was more or less out of his mind. We certainly never imagined that a mere six years later we would have successfully completed a million-dollar fundraising campaign and have preserved Mount Watatic for perpetuity.

The Ashby Land Trust was founded in 1998 and incorporated in May, 1999. The founders are listed in the incorporation papers as Jean Lindquist, Christopher Nash, Janet Flinkstrom, Michael Travis, Robert Leary, and Roberta Flashman. Since 1999 we have been involved with the preservation of over 1800 acres of land in Ashby.

From the beginning, we have strived to protect and care for the land, provide engaging and educational programming, and build a sound organization. What a pleasure it has been to witness our little upstart organization grow and flourish until it has become an effective and respected part of our community.

If land preservation and wild open spaces are important to you, please do consider getting more actively involved in the work of the Trust. Thanks!

Jeanie Lindquist