

Trail Monitor Responsibilities

- **Walk your assigned trail section about once a month.** Report any problems that need correction at the next Trails meeting or email/call the Chair.
- **Check the trail markers.** Look for missing or damaged arrows/medallions. Make sure markers are visible and not obscured by brush. For nailed markers, if you want to fix them yourself, the Chair can supply you with arrows, medallions and nails. For tie-wrapped markers, contact the Chair to arrange for them to be fixed or replaced.
- **Check trail conditions.** The biggest problem is keeping the trails clear of brush and blowdowns. Suggest that you take clippers along with you to cut back any of the offending branches, brambles and vines. For bigger bush clearing projects we can schedule a trail maintenance project. For blowdowns take a picture, and let the Chair know where they are and approximate diameter. They will be evaluated to determine if Trails or the DPW should clear it.
- **Replenish pamphlets at map houses and dog poop bags.** We have gotten kudos from people on how well we keep the map holders full. Let's keep up the good work! If you run out, and cannot pick them up at the NRC Office, let the Chair know, and handouts will be delivered to you. And of course, we must keep those dog owners happy that rely on us to restock the dog poop bag dispensers.
- **Pick up trash.** Yeah, this is a pain, but it helps keep our trails looking decent and discourages others from adding to the litter. Carry a plastic trash bag with you, and collect some of it. Doing just a little bit every time you monitor the trail can do wonders! And you will be a hero and get a "Thanks!" from people who see you doing it.
- **Look for dumping and abutter problems.** We can help by being good land stewards of open space. If you see or hear of a problem with dumping, encroachment, new construction, wetlands, etc, report it as a possible problem to the Chair, and we will help evaluate it. Sometimes the biggest unknown is deciding if the problem is outside of private property, on Town land or too close to wetlands. If you are unsure, it is better to report it, and let others decide.

Thanks for your help in keeping the town trails and open space well maintained!

3/22/16