

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF TRAILS IN LEE

There is an increasing use of trails in Lee. To reduce the impact of this increased use it is important to remember the following guidelines.

Town Owned Lands with Trails

The Town of Lee has several properties with popular walking trails. Some of the better known properties are the Town Forest (behind Mast Way and the Safety Complex all the way to Wheelwright Pond), Maude Jones Memorial Forest (between Garrity Road and Turtle Pond Road), and the wooded areas of Little River Park. A more detailed list of Town owned lands and trail maps can be found on the Town website at <https://www.leenh.org/conservation-commission/pages/conservation-maps>

1. Town owned land is controlled by the Select Board. Only the Select Board can approve or disapprove of changes/improvements to town owned land. Examples of changes or improvements include, but are not limited to: making new paths or trails, cutting trees or branches, placement of benches or bridges, placement of signs on trees or in the ground, changing or adding trail signs, etc.
2. If a resident or group of residents would like to make a new trail or make any changes to the Town owned property, they should first contact the Conservation Commission to ensure that the proposed changes are in keeping with the intent of the conservation easement, are ecologically sound, do no harm, and provide public benefit. The Conservation Commission can be contacted via the email link on the town website to be put on the agenda for the next meeting to present the proposed activity. Residents may also arrange to meet on site with a few members of the Commission who would then bring the proposal back to the full Commission at the next available meeting. The Conservation Commission meets monthly, typically within the first 10 days of the month.
3. When downed trees or limbs need to be removed for public safety or to clear approved trails residents should contact the Conservation Commission. Residents should never take it upon themselves to use chain saws or other equipment to make changes on Town land. Tree or limb clearing is done by the Town of Lee Public Works Department.

Privately Owned Land with Conservation Easements

There are approximately 20 properties in town that are privately owned that have deeded conservation easements. Use of private property should only be with the permission of the landowner and the request should be made in person. The landowner is not obligated to allow access. No changes should ever be made to private property without the full knowledge and permission of the landowner. Conservation easement properties are monitored on an annual basis by the Conservation Commission.

In Summary

Town owned land is for everyone and it must be kept ecologically healthy so that it can be used sustainably. Private property is private and it is under the control of the landowner. Please respect both Town owned and private property and the protocols associated with the use of each parcel.