

The background is a solid dark red color with various silhouettes of autumn leaves scattered across it. The leaves are in shades of brown and orange, some with detailed vein patterns and others as simple shapes. They are positioned around the edges and corners of the slide.

Organizing, Engaging and Sustaining Volunteers

MA Trails Conference
November 14, 2015

Lancaster Trail & Bike Way Coalition

- Formation of the Lancaster Trail & Bike Way Coalition (LTBC)
- LTBC mission statement and goals
- LTBC work plan and implementation
- Existing inventory
- New trails and connections
- Maintenance challenges
- Regional collaboration

Formation of the LTBC

Directives from:

- Master Plan and Open Space & Recreation Plan
- Membership in Montachusett Regional Trail Coalition
- Different “splinter” groups with their own areas/trails
- All were a catalyst for the formation of the LTBC
- Planning Director made a call out to all stakeholders

LTBC Mission Statement

To enrich the lives of our residents by advancing the development, and ensuring the maintenance , of a diverse system of trails and bike ways, all in a manner that protects the ecologically-sensitive landscape.

LTBC Goals

LTBC seeks trails and bike paths that promote:

- Accessibility
- Healthy lifestyles
- Economic vitality
- Sustainable development
- Best practices
- Experiences in the outdoors
- Appreciation for the outdoors
- Learning in the outdoors
- Connectivity

LTBC Work Plan

Three-year work plan (2013-2015)

2013

- Identify existing trails and bike ways
- Identify trail connections
- Promote the trails

2014

- Identify new trails and bike ways
- Identify all points of interest
- Identify new connections

2015

- Begin construction of all new trails

Existing Inventory

- Cataloging all public trails:
 - Conservation Commission
 - Town Forest Committee
 - Land Trust
 - MA Fish & Game
 - New England Forestry Foundation
 - Trustees of Reservations
- Mapping – in a consistent style
- Signage – in a consistent style
- Promotion – as a cohesive organization

New Trails and Connections

- Same process
- Cataloging
- Mapping
- Construction and signage

Maintenance Challenges

- Keeping the trails cleared annually
- Attracting more volunteers so as to not burn out the usual suspects
- Finding clever ways to keep volunteers coming back
- Separate out the “planners” from the “doers”
- Adopt-A-Trail program will be kick-started

Regional Collaboration

- Working with surrounding towns to connect trails
- Working with Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition (MRTC) and Freedom's Way to promote trails
- Working with Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) to create a Trail Vision Plan
- Working with MRPC to create a Complete Streets Study

Happy Trails!

Noreen Piazza, Planning Director
Community Development and Planning
978-365-3326 x1311
npiazza@lancasterma.net