

Abutters told precautions needed

by Faye Baynard

Folks who live along the proposed Topsfield Linear Common, better known as the Topsfield Rail Trail, have been told they too need to follow certain guidelines when it comes to this property.

Bob and Cathy Morgan of 20 Washington Street, advocates of the CNI (The Coalition for Neighborhood Information) group, were advised by the town's conservation board that they too need to be cognizant of certain guidelines when working on this stretch of property. Abutters, the Morgans were advised by the cons com that certain regulations must be followed.

The cons com administrator wrote to the Morgans that they should not be cutting plants or treating them with herbicides in areas where the Commission has jurisdiction along the trail. In such instances, they would need to have the board's permission.

The Morgans had earlier told the Rail Trail committee they were attempting to eradicate the poison ivy and Japanese knotweed along the perimeter of their property line which abuts the proposed trail to be developed for walkers, cyclists and horseback riders.

In a separate letter, TRT abutters Susan and Michal DeAmario of 43 Grove Street protested Rail Trail member Joe Geller's claim that their fence might actually be on town property. They suggested that Geller not use the assessors' map, but rather surveyors' benchmarks in the interest of accuracy.

Town Administrator Virginia Wilder responded to the DeAmarios that complaints and issues about the trail should be brought to her attention. She said the TRT will have a survey performed by a licensed surveyor to satisfy the abutters as to the actual location of property lines along the so-called Linear Common section of the trail.

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