



FALL 2018

VOL. 16 No. 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE

Sharon Friends of Conservation

SHARE • MAINTAIN • PRESERVE • ENJOY

Happy Trails

Sharon's Beaver Brook trail is now extended. The trail, which was established in 2007, led from the Sharon Trail Station to the Farnham Road "leaf dump." Over the past year two of Sharon's Boy Scouts have done Eagle Scout projects extending the trail by half a mile from Farnham Rd. to Berkshire Ave. Beaver Brook is a particularly scenic trail with interesting terrain. For the most part, the trail follows Beaver Brook, affording many scenic views of the stream. (Beaver Brook has been rated a very healthy waterway. It may have multiple sources. One from Lake Massapoag through permeable sand or gravel and from runoff from Moose Hill.) Jeffrin Daniel established the first trail extension from

Berkshire Ave. to Sandy Ridge Circle. From the circle it still was necessary to walk in the street up Sandy Ridge Circle and down to Farnham Road to reconnect

to the trail. Thanks to Danny Rubenstein, it was possible to create a trail in back of Sandy Ridge Circle through the woods. To sum up, it is now possible to walk the entire length from the Train Station to Berkshire Ave without emerging from the woods except just to cross Farnham Rd. The total distance is under one and a half miles. At this writing the new trails need a few

finishing touches—signage and a few more trail markers. Even so, the trails are now straightforward and quite navigable.



The Newsletter of the
Sharon Friends of Conservation
Kurt Buermann, editor
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Sharon Friends of Conservation is very sad to announce the passing of our Secretary, Alice Cheyer on August 17, 2018. She was a treasured asset for our organization and an effective force for the care and preservation of natural places in Sharon. She will be greatly missed.

cont'd on p. 2





Alice and Her Son Jonathan enjoy a Hike

The Sharon Friends of Conservation (SFOC) have lost a valuable member. Conservation efforts in town have lost a strong advocate.

Alice Cheyer passed away on August 17th of this year. She died peacefully surrounded by her loving family and in her house which abuts Town land that she was instrumental in permanently protecting.

Alice's husband Tom Cheyer had been a vital member of the Conservation Commission (CC) from 1985 to 1994. Sometime after his passing, Alice stepped forward to ask what she could do to help in the Commission's work.

Her work up to that point had been in

manuscript editing and not with open space land protection. It could not be known then, what the impact of her request would be!

The SFOC, founded in 1985 had fallen dormant. Alice spear-headed a group to bring it back in 2001 to the active organization that it is now. It took many hours and much work from her and others; Rita Corey, Beth Collea, Jeremiah Dickenson, Peg Arguimbau, Kurt Buermann, Mike Sherman and Paul Lauenstein. It was not an easy task. Fortunately for the Town and the Conservation Commission, that is exactly the kind of task Alice was good at tackling. The SFOC is back with a solid membership, an annual Pot-Luck dinner meeting, publishing its Newsletter, and conducting numerous trail walks through-out the year. Alice loved walking and believed the trails throughout town should be utilized. Those who have participated in the SFOC sponsored walks, have been the beneficiaries of Alice's planning. As recently as last May, and separate from the SFOC, she had begun a Walking Club in town.

Using Alice's manuscript editing connections, in 2003 the SFOC was able to get published the book Sharon, Massachusetts - Open Spaces, Special Places. It is an alphabet-style book written and illustrated by high school and elementary school students. The book, in memory of Alice's husband Tom, was done as a fundraiser to support land preservation in town and copies are still available for purchase from SFOC.

The workings of Open Town Meeting became another of Alice's new-found passions and she remained very involved in its proper function and was a respected participant in all its facets. In 2006, she worked to pass the article protecting a Native American site on land abutting King Philip's Rock. Alice helped form a neighborhood group – Massapoag Brook Neighborhood Association (MBNA) who worked diligently and tirelessly throughout 2007 and 2008 attending town board meetings, raising money, and petitioning the Town's Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

to use its funds to purchase what is known as The Billings Land. The project was presented by Alice



Alice Tours Our Local Recycling plant

SHARON FRIENDS OF CONSERVATION EVENTS

fall 2018 to fall 2019

Sunday, October 21 at 2 pm Tour of Trustees of Reservations' Moose Hill Farm. Meet and park at Moose Hill Farm (not Audubon) 396 Moose Hill Street, Sharon
Co-leader: Dan. Questions? please call Dan at 781-784-5705 or Kurt: 781-784-4625.
<http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/greater-boston/moose-hill-farm.html>

Tuesday, November 13 from 7 to 8:30 pm Dan & Marilyn Brielmann and Alan French will be your virtual guides along the Bay Circuit Trail, a 200 walking trail arcing around Boston from Newburyport to Kingston. A video hike on Sharon's Rattlesnake Hill will feature its natural beauty, environmental importance and interviews with staunch advocates for its protection. We look forward seeing you at this fun and informative event. At the Community Room, Sharon Public Library, 11 North Main St..

Saturday, November 17 at 1:30 pm Elson-Cross Trail walk. Off Mountain Street near Rattlesnake Hill area. ~1 mile round trip. The going is easy- some moderate. Meet and at park at lot 276 Mountain St. Questions? 781-784-4533 (Rita) or 781-784-4625 (Kurt)

Monday, January 21 at 1 pm Martin Luther King Day Walk 2019. A tradition for SFOC since 2001, we hike down Mountain St and return through Borderland woods. At the end we are met with a warm house, apple cider, breads, doughnuts and good conversation with good people. A wonderful chance to shake off winter cabin fever. Meet and park at 282 Mountain St. Questions? Kurt 781-784-4625 or Rita 781-784-4533

Saturday April 6 6:30 pm Annual SFOC Potluck Supper & Annual Meeting Starts 6:30 pm at O'Connell Hall at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 52 Cottage St, Sharon. Details to come.

SFOC may sponsor a Bike Collection event in spring. No date has been set yet. If you have a bike that you'd like to donate, along with \$10 voluntary contribution to Bikes Not Bombs (BNB), leave a message for Rita Corey, 781-784-4533. If you see bikes put out for the trash and can pick them up, call her. A volunteer from Canton can pick them up from your house.

Sunday, May 19 at 2 pm Massapoag Trail walk # 1: Mann's Pond to Massapoag Brook (Chase Memorial) Bridge) & return to Mann's Pond. Distance about 1 mile. Easy walking. Meet and park at Mann's Pond parking lot, 161 Billings St.

Sunday June 9 at 2 pm Massapoag Trail walk # 2: Brook Rd. to Devil's Rock. Pleasant, easy going along the Massapoag Brook Distance about ½ mile. Meet & park at the end of Brook Road. Questions? Call Kurt 781-784-4625

Sunday, June 23 at 2 pm Beaver Brook Trail walk # 1
Sandy Ridge to Farnham Rd. We will explore this newly (2017) established extension to the Beaver Brook Trail. Meet and park at the cul-de sac at the end of Sandy Ridge Circle. Questions? Call Kurt at 781-784-4625

Sunday September 29 at 2 pm Beaver Brook Trail walk # 2 One half mile. Moderate-easy going. Sandy Ridge to Berkshire Ave. Park at the cul-de-sac at the end of Sandy Ridge Circle. We may



Trails and Tribulations

Last winter was hard on Sharon's hiking trails and natural spaces. For whatever reason, there was an overabundance of downed trees and limbs. Members of Sharon Friends of Conservation's offshoot group, the Trail Stewards, have and are tackling the removal work. I should also praise those anonymous folks who pass through, picking up litter and debris, keeping the trails open. In some cases, trees fell on and damaged boardwalks. Removal was sometimes tricky. In one case high boots were needed to work in an area of deep mud alongside a broken boardwalk. In another, a Trail Steward devised a clever structure of log props to cut away an awkwardly leaning tree which was blocking a bridge and threatening further damage. Currently, most of the trails should be restored or are at least passable. If you should find any problem on a trail, please notify Kurt Buermann at kurt237@comcast.net. Also, contact me if you would like to enlist as a Trail Steward. For more information please visit: www.sharonfoc.org/be-a-trail-steward/



Photos by Kurt Buermann

[Alice \(cont'd from p. 2\)](#)

by Alice at Town Meeting and funding was approved. The annual Town meeting of May 2017 saw another Conservation Commission land preservation article pass, assisted by Alice's diligent work, to permanently protect, for open space purposes, the remaining land at Gavin's Pond. Alice also was instrumental in establishing that the new field area created by the removal of the old Sacred Heart dormitory would remain open for all residents to use and enjoy.

Her input and direction was woven into so many projects and so many lives. Alice came late to the work of protecting the natural resources of the town. The effects of her work will be in evidence for perpetuity – an impressive legacy.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has." This quote is credited to Margaret Mead, but Alice Cheyer has brought it to action on numerous occasions. We are saddened by her loss, but grateful for her work and the example she has set for us all in the efforts of land preservation.

*

See Alice's grandchildren's records of their trail experiences on p. 9

Workout in the Woods

In 2010 Kyle Seggelin was aware of Sharon's dilapidated exercise trail off Gunhouse Street. But an opportunity for action arose. For an Eagle Scout project, Kyle completely renovated the trail, building sturdy new structures including "monkey bars" and others designed to facilitate various exercises. Mounted signs allow you to compare your efforts to established standards. Running through the Town woods off Gunhouse Street, near the old Sacred Heart site, the exercise trail winds through the woods for about 7/10 of a mile and includes nine exercise stations. Having completed his project, Kyle was glad that he had an opportunity to give something back to Sharon. He had wanted to thank the Town for affording him a wonderful place to grow up. Kyle's father, Larry, maintains the trail today. Trail users discover a rewarding experience combining the natural world with exercise. So much nicer than a stinky, stuffy indoor gyms! One can do as little or as much as they like on the trail which is conveniently nestled in between the Sharon Dog Park and the Community Gardens, the general use athletic field, and the Sacred Heart skating pond. The exercise trail is just one of many Boy Scout and Eagle Scout projects completed over the years in Sharon. These include improvements to and restoration of Town landmarks, monuments and historical sites as well as Town hiking trails and natural places. It is astonishing to realize the extent that the Scouts, especially Troop 95, have enhanced life throughout the Town. It is hard to go anywhere and not find the handiwork of our local Boy Scouts.



Photos by Kurt Buermann

Gardens of Sunshine

For a number of years, we sought ways to add solar power to our house. We are much shaded by surrounding trees. Two solar panel companies surveyed our situation and decided that we would not reap much benefit from rooftop solar panels. Time went by and then a friend suggested I look into solar farms. These are located at a distance—roughly within a 50 mile radius-- from the user's home. The farm consists of acres of solar panels. (Panels, by the way, which the solar company maintains.) It took a while but once we were hooked up to a solar farm (near Plymouth, MA) we began to reap real rewards in terms of net metering credits. These are units of electricity generated by your allotment of solar panels on the farm. Once earned, they show up as credits on your regular electric bill. You receive two bills. One is your regular electric bill. It indicates your electric usage minus your solar credits, "net metering credits." The amount of credits can vary—more in summer and less in winter. It is conceivable that, for a prudent and energy-wise customer, net metering credits could offset your entire electric bill. The second bill is from your solar company and is essentially the rent for your allotment of panels at the solar farm. If you want to investigate community solar, you can check the Sustainable Sharon Coalition website: www.sustainablesharon.org/ For us, community solar really helps trim down our electric bills. At present, our solar company (NRG) guarantees us at least a 10% reduction off our average bill prior to joining community solar. (This may vary from company to company.) It is very gratifying to save the planet and save money at the same time. We are unabashedly smug about it. For more see:

<https://www.nrgcommunitysolar.com/resource-center/community-solar-101/>

EVERSOURCE
Account Number: [REDACTED]
Statement Date: 08/23/18
KURT BUERMANN
45 FURNACE ST
SHARON MA 02067-2807

No Payment Due
Amount Due On 08/15/18 \$100.37
Last Payment Received On 06/08/18 -\$100.37
Balance Forward \$0.00
Total Current Charges -\$111.83

Electric Usage History - 90 month (75%)

Current Charges for Electricity

Category	Amount
Supply	\$91.75
Delivery	\$94.89

Cost of electricity from Eversource: \$91.75
Cost to deliver electricity from Eversource: \$94.89

Your electric supplier is
Eversource
245 Station Drive
Westford, MA 02090

Electric Usage Summary
This month your average daily electric use was 27.8 kWh
This month you used 45.5% more than at the same time last year

News For You
We're always working to serve you better and we've heard your feedback regarding the timeliness of payment processing by mail. To process your payments faster, we're bringing our payment processing back from Texas to New England. Look for our new payment address on your next billing statement.
Remit Payment To: Eversource, PO Box 860753, Dallas, TX 75296-0753
Please make your check payable to Eversource or to make your payment today visit Eversource.com.
Pending your payment, please allow 7-12 business days to post to your account.

EVERSOURCE
Account Number: [REDACTED]

No Payment Due
Amount Enclosed

Savings and Simplicity! - Sign up for autopay and receive a one-time \$40 account credit after your first three payments. Call or email us today to sign up.

NRG Community Solar
P.O. Box 1304
Houston, TX 77251-1304
Brook Street Solar Farm

Account Name: KURT BUERMANN
Customer Account: [REDACTED]
Agreement number: [REDACTED]
Invoice number: [REDACTED]
Service Address: [REDACTED]

Your Monthly Solar Statement Due Date: 9/10/2018

Statement Date:	8/20/2018
Period:	7/1/2018 thru 7/31/2018
Previous Amount Due:	\$65.59
Payment	(\$65.59)
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Charges/Credits this period	
Jul-2018 Amount	\$65.59
Total Current Charges or Credits	\$65.59
Amount Due	\$65.59
Questions or Comments?	Contact us toll free at 1.855.712.7508 Monday Through Friday, 7am to 7pm Central Time Email us at: communitysolarsupport@nrg.com



Have You Seen One?

Are you aware that Sharon Friends of Conservation features a Wildlife Sightings feature on its website? While many wildlife surveys are regional, we thought it would be fun to see what species dwell just within our Town's borders. Anyone can make an entry. While photos are nice, we accept drawings and just descriptions. If you don't know what it is, we have the resources to find out. Presently our Wildlife Sightings pages comprise over 700 entries. Plants and animals welcome. The only requirement is that it be found within Sharon. If a species is rare or subject to molestation, we sometimes withhold its location. Check it out!
<http://www.sharonfoc.org/sightings-grid/>



Observation Date: 7/15/13
Observation Time: 4:15 p.m.
Observation Location: Gavins Pond area
Common Name: Blue Dasher Dragonfly (female)
Scientific Name: *Pachydiplax longipennis*
Comments: The male has a blue abdomen, hence the name.



Observation Date: 7/7/10
Observation Time: 7:05 a.m.
Observation Location: Gavins Pond Road near soccer fields
Common Name: Chicory
Scientific Name: *Cichorium intybus*
Comments: A perennial herb with blue, lavender, or occasionally white flowers, chicory grows as a wild plant on roadsides in its native Europe, and in North America and Australia, where it has become naturalized. Common chicory is also known as blue sailors, succory, and coffeeweed.
More Information: Wikipedia: <https://www.wikipedia.org/>



Observation Date: 6/7/14
Observation Time: 8:15 a.m.
Observation Location: 155 Billings St
Common Name: Bobcat
Scientific Name: *Lynx rufus*
Comments: The bobcat was calmly sitting in my backyard looking at my house cat who was sitting in a window. There were three snapping turtles in the backyard at the same time. Then the bobcat quietly walked away into the wood.



**Join the Sharon Friends of Conservation
or Renew Your Membership**



Name: _____

Address: _____

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Check one. Dues are \$25 per year.

Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Would you like to volunteer? Special skills? _____

Send to SFOC, 45 Furnace St., Sharon, MA 02067. Or join/renew online at www.sharonfoc.org/support/membership.html

Sharon Friends of Conservation does not share or make your membership information available to anyone!

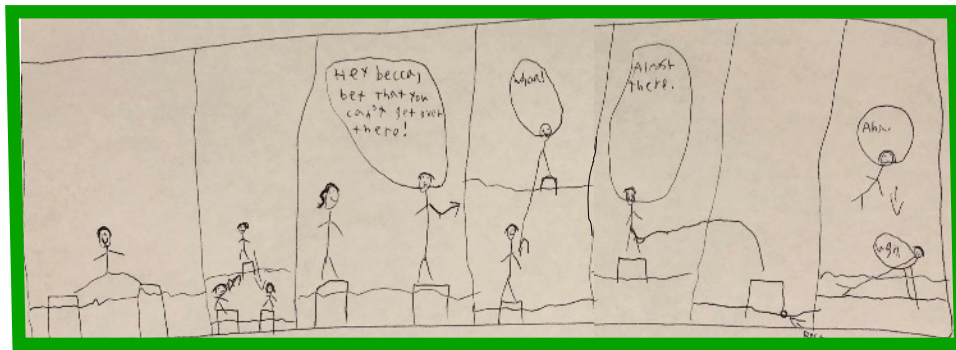
The story and drawings here were created by Daniel and Rebecca Cheyer,
Alice's grandchildren

Visits to a Pond & a Rock

By Daniel Cheyer

Hi, my name is Daniel. I'm here to talk about the trails. A trail that I did when I was in Boston was the Mann's Pond trail. If you don't know what the Mann's Pond trail is, at Mann's Pond go to the bridge and right before it you will find some overgrown plants. If you look closely, you will see some stairs. Go down the stairs and you will find a path. You are now on the Mann's Pond trail. While I was on the Mann's Pond trail, I saw an amazing sight. It was a beautiful waterfall. As you continue on the trail, you can hear the stream next to you. Halfway through the trail you will find two bridges, the second bridge is a good place to have lunch. A funny thing happened when I was on the bridge. I had decided to jump on the rocks in the water and here's what happened. (See the comic strip.) So that is pretty much what happened when I went to Mann's Pond. I hope you enjoy the trail.

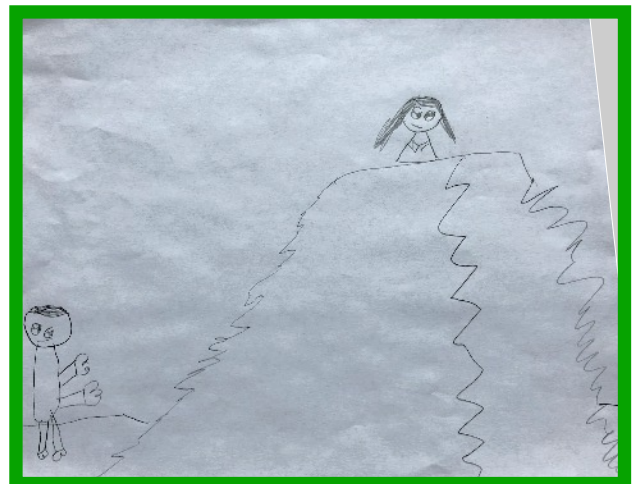
Now I am going to talk about the trail to Devil's Rock. As you walk down the trail, you will get to a bridge. On the left, there is a swing that you can go on. It is a lot of fun. Just be careful when you get off. When you are almost to Devil's Rock, and it is after lunch, you can get a really good view of the sun reflecting off the trees. It is awesome! When you get to Devil's Rock, there is a rock right next to it called Split Rock. I climbed to the top of Devil's Rock. And no, there is not a Devil's foot at the top. Devil's and Split Rock is a really cool place and it is fun trail to walk. You should try it sometime!



Daniel's comic strip of he and Rebecca trying to cross the stream. They are having fun stepping on each rock. As they almost make it to the other side, they both slip and end up falling into the stream. Neither they nor Alice mind their wet feet, and they continue walking on the trail.



by Daniel Cheyer
Daniel climbs Devil's Rock while his sister,
Rebecca sits atop Split Rock



by Rebecca Cheyer
Rebecca climbs Devil's Rock with a push
assist from her brother, Daniel