



November 2001  
Volume 3, Issue 3

## Inside this Issue

- 1 Letter from the President
- 1 Stats on Town Development
- 2 The BCT and the BCC
- 2 Trail Clearing
- 3 Wildlife Tracking
- 4 New Member Registration Form

The Boxborough Conservation Trust is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) corporation with mailing address at 462 Hill Road, Boxborough, MA, 01719, Telephone: (978) 264-0113 ; Web address: [www.bctrust.org](http://www.bctrust.org)

This Newsletter is an infrequent publication of the Boxborough Conservation Trust, Boxborough, Massachusetts

### Letter from the President

## LOST: 532 Acres

Since 1990, 532 acres of Boxborough's open land has been converted by developers into 198 single-family house lots. This is open space permanently lost. One-third of the area of Boxborough is comprised of wetlands, so 532 acres represents about one-eighth of all the buildable land in town.

How much buildable land do we have left? There are now approximately 1250 acres of remaining land zoned Agricultural/Residential. Thus in just the last ten years, Boxborough has lost almost one-third of its available buildable land to residential development.

The impact of development on the town's character is irreversible. Change is inevitable, but the rapid pace of this change in recent years and the resulting financial pressures on the town are distressing. That is why the Boxborough Conservation Trust was formed four years ago, dedicated to preserving and protecting Boxborough's undeveloped land. In this effort, the Trust can really make a difference with your interest and support.

### Town Development Since 1990

- **9.8** miles of new paved subdivision roads
- **21** new subdivisions on **532** acres
- **459** permits issued for single-family homes
- **Fastest population growth rate (45.62%)** in 495 corridor; 5th fastest in the state.
- School population up by over **150%**
- **73** fewer acres in Agricultural Chapter 61A since **1997**

### The Boxborough Conservation Trust:

Dedicated to preserving the rural character of Boxborough through land conservation and environmental education.

## Why We Need a Conservation Trust When We Already Have a Perfectly Good Conservation Commission

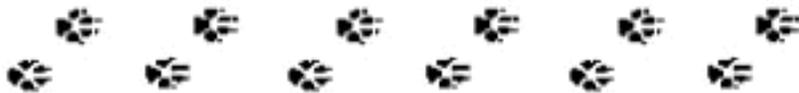
Some people are confused about the difference between the Boxborough Conservation Trust and the town's Conservation Commission. Obviously both are concerned with the conservation of land and natural resources. The differences are in structure and focus.

The **Boxborough Conservation Commission** is a municipal agency of 7 members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Commission's main focus is its regulatory responsibility for protecting the town's wetlands and other natural resources. Consequently, the Commission spends much of its time on wetlands hearings and permitting. Land conservation/protection is also a central part of the Commission's constitutional mandate, but regulatory demands limit the time available for such efforts.

The **Boxborough Conservation Trust (BCT)** is a private, nonprofit, tax-exempt land trust formed in 1998, dedicated solely to preserving and protecting the town's undeveloped land. The BCT's main activities include:

- Informing town residents of land preservation options;
- Facilitating land appraisals and negotiations with landowners, especially those who may prefer to work with a private, rather than a public entity;
- Acquiring land and negotiating conservation restrictions and easements;
- Pursuing creative "limited development" options, using financing from the development of a small part of a parcel to fund the conservation of the remaining portion;
- Advocating for town acquisition of new conservation parcels.

Both the BCT and the Conservation Commission are committed to protecting the natural resources of the town. But saving land is as much about relationships as it is about money. As a private organization, the BCT does not have to follow the long process required for public land acquisition, including various reviews, approvals, and town meeting votes. The speed and privacy of land trust negotiations can be an important consideration for some landowners. Towns all around Boxborough have private land trusts with long and successful track records of land conservation. At a time when Boxborough is fast developing, the BCT has important work to do. Please join us!



## Clean Up Your Ax!

### And Bring it to Trail-Clearing Day

Help maintain  
Boxborough's trails.  
Come to a trail-clearing day  
on

**Saturday, Nov. 10**  
**9am-12pm**

Meet at the Library Parking Lot.

Bring tools  
(all kinds) and gloves.  
Rain date: November 17

Please visit our  
website  
at

**[www.bctrust.org](http://www.bctrust.org)**

Our newly-updated site  
provides valuable  
information about the Trust  
and its efforts, and how you  
can help!

In keeping with our commitment to conservation-related education and research, the BCT is proud to sponsor the newly-formed



## Boxborough “Keeping Track” Team



### Informational Meeting

Tuesday, November 13

7:30p.m.- 9:00p.m.

At Karen Smolin’s

57 Meetinghouse Lane



We are looking for a few more people to join the first “Keeping Track” Team in Boxborough.



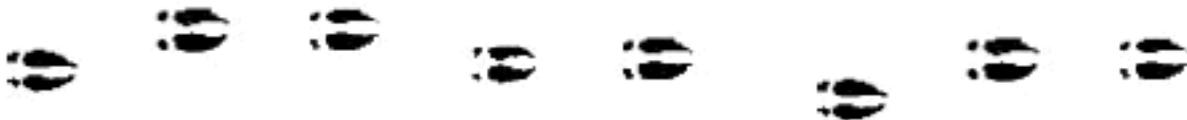
This winter, we will have the opportunity to train with Sue Morse of “Keeping Track,” a non-profit organization whose mission is to create community participation in the long-term stewardship of wildlife habitat. We will have six field days of animal sign and tracking training: 3 days in Jericho, Vermont and 3 days here in Boxborough.



As the Boxborough “KT” Team, we will monitor wildlife habitat for our focal carnivore species, which will probably include fisher, mink, bobcat, gray and red fox. We will survey specific habitats four times a year, looking for credible evidence of their presence or absence. Over time, the data we collect will present a picture of how Boxborough is being used by wildlife that often travel unseen in the night. In other communities with Keeping Track teams, this data has been used for local and regional conservation planning.



If you have questions, come Tuesday night or call Barbara Warren at 978-635-9428.



### **Changed Your e-mail address?**

A number of e-mails have bounced back to us recently. If yours has changed, please let us know so we can keep our list up-to-date.

### **Estate Planning?**

Consider the tax advantages of a gift of land to the Boxborough Conservation Trust.

## New Member Registration Form

BCT welcomes new members to join in the effort of preserving and protecting Boxborough's undeveloped land. Regular (voting) members must be 18 years of age or older and residents of Boxborough. All others are honorary members. Membership is on an annual basis.

There are several giving levels. Please indicate the level of your tax deductible contribution:

\$ 25 Individual       \$ 50 Family       \$ 75 Friend       \$100 Associate       \$ 250 Patron  
 \$ 500 Sustaining       \$ 1000 Sponsor       \$ 2500 Preservationist       \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ / / \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (town) (zip)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (phone) (e-mail)

Please make your check payable to: **The Boxborough Conservation Trust**, and mail, with this form, to:  
Treasurer, Boxborough Conservation Trust, 60 Barteau Lane, Boxborough, MA 01719

An acknowledgement of your tax-deductible contribution will be mailed to you. Please contact your employer to see if it may be willing to match your contribution.

## BCT Board of Directors

Frank Coolidge, President	264-0113	fcool@world.std.com	David Koonce	263-1052	dkoonce@progress.com
Sam Fisk, Treasurer	263-4522	fiskcoe@aol.com	Dan MacPhail	263-7404	docdan@fiam.net
Scott Bundy	263-5811	scott.r.bundy@rssmb.com	Barbara Warren	635-9428	bwarren@alum.wellesley.edu
Jeff and Mary Fuhrer	263-3284	fuhrej@earthlink.net	Tara Zantow	263-6226	tzantow@brooks.com
Debbie Gray	263-8101	debgray48@hotmail.com	Ruth Zimmerman	263-3139	zimyard@aol.com
Glynis Hamel	263-6456	ghamel@cs.wpi.edu			

Please call or e-mail any time with your questions or comments.



462 Hill Road, Boxborough, MA 01719

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 156  
Acton, MA 01720

**Resident**  
**Boxborough, MA 01719**

*Preserving and Protecting Boxborough's Undeveloped Land*