

Conservation Questions for Rail Trails

Interview with Pam Hardy, Conservation Officer for Holden MA

1. What year was the trail permitted? *Four years ago, 2000*
2. Was conservation officer and/or conservation commission of town involved in permitting process of the trail? *Yes, but only for one bridge crossing. Rest of the trail did not require permitting*
3. Who was the project applicant? *Wachusett Greenways*
4. Does your town have a wetlands bylaw? Was this a WPA only permit or also under a bylaw? *Yes 25' no disturb line from marked edge of wetlands. They also have a broader definition of vernal pools.*
5. Was a NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit required? *No*
6. Which resources were involved? *Quinapoxet River*
7. Were any state listed species involved? *No*
8. Were there any particular design challenges and how were they solved? *No*
9. Did you consider alternatives for the trail surface? If so, why did you end up with the surface you have now? *It is a combination of paved and stone dust. There is also sections that travel on the road. The trail is maintained by Wachusett Greenway volunteers with equipment loans from local DPW.*
10. Did the applicant have difficulty complying with the orders? *No*
11. Does you town get its water from Municipal groundwater wells? *There are some wells in town*
 1. If so, is any of the trail in a Zone I or Zone II of these wells? *No*
12. If you were to redesign the trail today, is there anything you would do differently and why? *It was a very positive experience for the town. The Wachusett Greenway organization is very good at making the trail work*