

## Conservation Questions for Rail Trails

### Interview with Richard Williams. Richard is previously member of the Rutland Con Com and owner of the Overlook Farm.

General comments: The rail trail was converted one portion at a time. Most of the lands were owned by Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation. This allowed the trail to go through town very quickly. Rutland is also a town with very little opposition. Richard believes the Mass Highway procedures are flawed and make the process much more difficult than they need to be. Trails could be built much faster without their involvement. He cites Rhode Island as a model for what MA could accomplish.

1. What year was the trail permitted? *Still on going as they build out new sections*
2. Was conservation officer and/or conservation commission of town involved in permitting process of the trail? *Yes, but DCR was the majority applicant.*  
  
*Conservation insisted on hay bales and silt fences around the wetlands, but DCR (MA Department of conservation and recreation) was exempt from town.*
3. Who was the project applicant? *DCR owns most of the land and just notified the town*
4. Does your town have a wetlands bylaw? Was this a WPA only permit or also under a bylaw?  
*No town by-law*  
*Recent ConCom meeting initiated the creation of one. Desire is to have a stipulation for any buildable lot to have a minimum of 65% upland resources*
5. Was a NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit required?  
*No*
6. Which resources were involved?  
*Not detailed*
7. Were any state listed species involved? *Yes, just learned that there are some in the last 30 days. Process just starting.*
8. Were there any particular design challenges and how were they solved?  
*MWRA owns some aqueduct lands. Mediation was to use the existing gravel road along the aqueduct. Much of the trail is on existing overland road.*

9. Did you consider alternatives for the trail surface? If so, why did you end up with the surface you have now? The entire Rutland stretch is Stone dust – medium grade. Medium grade was required to be robust enough for wheel chairs to not sink in. There is now significant concern about Phosphorus coming off stone dust and going into the water supply. The anticipate having to deal with this in the next 5-7 years.

The Trail is not plowed in winter

10. Did the applicant have difficulty complying with the orders?  
No  
Fire chief was told that the trail would not accommodate fire trucks.  
Emergency vehicles would need to access at trail road crossings.
11. Does you town get its water from Municipal groundwater wells? 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?  
No.