

# CHARLTON HERITAGE PRESERVATION TRUST



Newsletter: December 2025

## Midstate Hike

Charlton Section

October 25, 2025



A group photo of some of the 57 hikers who made the 5 mile trek .

Karin at the RT 20 Cow Tunnel



## Trunk or Treat

Charlton Arts Center

October 26, 2025



Karin manning the hatch.

## Current 12/29/2025) Board of Trustees

Bill Blasius – President

Lisa Westwell – Vice President

Elizabeth Moran – Treasurer

Karen Johnson – Clerk

Colin Novick (Executive Director of the GWLT)

Sandy Dam

James Moran

Janet Blasius

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*We would like to thank the members of the board for their continuing commitment to conservation and preservation.*

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## WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2025?

It was a fairly quiet summer with the usual stewardship things like making sure there are no downed trees or hazards on our trailed properties and checking up on the trail cams to see how the deer, coyotes and bobcats are doing.

Our fall event was an outdoors adventure. We chose a five mile hike from our Little River property on Fulling Mill Drive to Fay Mountain Farm, along the Midstate Trail. Karin, Jim and Bill were the leaders for the hike. Not to diminish the motivational effect of fresh cider, donuts and pastries at Fay Mountain, but the highlight of the hike was walking through the fabled RT 20 Cow Tunnel. The tunnel has existed as a compromise that allowed farmers, whose property was split by the road, to utilize divided pastures. Cows aren't passing through any longer but the structure was kept during the last widening, allowing safe passage for hikers on the Midstate Trail.

Fifty seven people and one dog made the trip with volunteers helping out with shuttling hikers from Fay Mountain back to their cars parked at Little River. One of our favorite experiences from this hike was hearing from residents who have been in town for 70 or 80+ years and had never been through the cow tunnel before. It was great being able to show off this unique artifact.

A huge shout out goes to Karin Johnson for winning the non-profit category at Charlton Arts Center Halloween "Trunk or Treat" with her camping themed trunk. We appreciate the creativity and effort!



*The first December snow at the old Cranberry Meadow Cemetery and the best access point to our 57-acre Cranberry Meadow conservation property.*

## Contact Us

### **Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust**

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<https://www.charltontrust.org/>

## OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Bill Blasius has been participating on the Charlton Open Space and Recreation Committee. The Central Mass Regional Planning Commission has been helping to update the OS&R plan that is needed for state grants. CHPT is an important part of that plan. The final version was presented to the Select Board by CMRPC in September and accepted by the board. Now we wait for State feedback.

## PLANS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2026

We will be having our annual meeting early in the year to elect a slate of trustees and officers for the new year. If you are interested in serving, you can either drop us an email or just show up. The meeting will be posted on our website and Facebook. We'll be at Charlton's Earth Day fest and organizing a spring event.

Stewardship items for the new year: The kiosk at Little River is in need to rehabilitation. Signage is needed to replace what was removed at Hammond Woods. The Little River boardwalks seem to be in good shape right now.

## MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

CHPT QR Code



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### **Recipient Name**

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code