



TOWN OF HOPKINTON

Notice of Vacancies - Trails Committee

December 4, 2024

The Town of Hopkinton is seeking residents who have an interest in the development, management and use of public trails to serve on a **new 9-member Trails Committee**. The purpose of the Trails Committee is to provide for a coordinated and efficient approach to planning, constructing, developing, maintaining and enhancing the network of trails throughout Hopkinton. The general duties of the Committee are listed below. Membership is open to all Town residents.

Interested residents must apply via the Online Volunteer form here: [Town of Hopkinton, MA: Board Application](#)

For questions, please contact Vasudha Dutta in the Town Manager's office at 508-497-9701.

General Duties of the Trails Committee:

- 1) Make the Town more pedestrian-friendly including enhancing connectivity between trails, shared use paths, sidewalks, conservation land/open space, Schools and other Town properties and facilities, and community points of interest such as commercial areas and for civic uses. To that end, prepare a town-wide trail network plan that fosters connectivity and accessibility. Conduct a planning process that includes robust community input and fosters openness and inclusion through dialogue and communication with stakeholders. Set annual goals and priorities, and establish decision-making criteria as needed.
- 2) Act as the Town's primary point of contact with regard to trail-related issues; provide a sounding board for residents and others with respect to trails. Conduct public outreach on trail-related issues. Work with residents to address concerns, problems or conflicts related to trails, and seek solutions. Communicate with abutters prior to undertaking projects that involve development of new trails or significant upgrades to existing trails.
- 3) Develop the Upper Charles Trail (which will connect to Ashland and Milford) and connections to other regional trails and transportation resources. Undertake the necessary permitting required to develop trails. Promote and encourage partnerships with neighboring towns and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to develop trail networks.

- 4) Manage trail development to respect the natural environment and wildlife habitats, and to work to enhance, rather than fragment, natural open spaces.
- 5) Conduct public outreach on trail-related issues. Forms of outreach may include a trail “hub” on or accessible from the Town website, developing and establishing standardized trailhead signs and trail markers, preparing trail maps, and establishing rules and regulations for trail use as needed. The Committee is encouraged to coordinate with other public and private trail groups in outreach efforts.
- 6) Develop and implement plans for management, operations, and maintenance of trails. Working with the Town Manager/Select Board office and the Grantees of Conservation Restrictions where applicable, submit an annual budget request for funding. The budget may include such items as the design, permitting and construction of trails and parking areas, grant matching funds, signage, trash removal, tree work, mowing, resurfacing, drainage work, and repairs.
- 7) Identify public and private grant funding opportunities and work with Town staff to apply for trail-related grants, including Community Preservation funds.
- 8) Advise Town officials, the Select Board, and other boards/committees on trail planning and trail-related issues, and coordinate trail development with other public and private entities that develop and maintain trails in Hopkinton, including the Open Space Preservation Commission, Trails Club, and the Hopkinton Area Land Trust. As part of this effort, recommend acquisition of specific parcels of land and/or easements by the Town for trail development and connectivity. Provide regular updates to the Select Board and the community on trail planning and development.