

Input from
Rodi and Maureen Adema
5 Old Farm Rd
ADA Proposed Project at Cloverdale

We completely support ADA access to open space, nature, including the beach, playgrounds, ball fields etc. And Littleton should as a whole work toward this goal for all Town properties.

We would like to see Community outreach on such proposals. In this case, maybe a posting at the trail kiosks asking for input on ADA access makes sense, you would be reaching the individuals that use the trails. We recently saw a posting in Acton on a trail kiosk communicating a meeting for a proposed Dog Park. Welcoming all that might be interested.

We are daily users of Cloverdale. We would like the Commission to be aware of our observations on the use of Cloverdale over the past few years, since the boardwalks were completed.

Parking Lot observations.

1. A letter of support for the ADA project stated he thought that people pulled into the parking lot without getting out of their car because they determined the property did not look like it could be managed by individuals with disabilities. The truth is, people use the parking lot as a space to text, take a phone call, rest, take a lunch break or make a "business" transaction. The parking lot is a plus regarding the texting and phone calls, making Great Rd safer to drive on. Nothing wrong with someone pulling over to rest or eat lunch. The "business" transactions are a police matter.
2. Due to the Town wide speed limit of 25mph, the safety concern of exiting the parking lot as greatly decreased.
3. There is no handicap parking.
4. People have commented on the glass cover and a lock on the Kiosk. We heard this from an individual wishing to post a sign about a lost pet.
5. Kiosk lacks a trail map.
6. Kiosk location leads people to believe parcel 6A and 5A are private property.

General Observations

1. Cloverdale has become a property used mostly by dog owners. Currently, there are about 11 dogs and their owners that use the property a number of times a week. (many daily) They are residents of Littleton, Westford, and Acton.
2. Most drive to the property.
3. Some enter on foot from
 - a. Mannion, across the street,
 - b. Surrey Road,
 - c. Old Farm Road, (using my our property as an access),
 - d. We enter on foot via parcel 5A.
 - e. The residents of 63 Great Rd enter via 6A, (they do not have a dog).
4. Other visitors mainly visit once a year during the Littleton Tree Hunt.
5. There has not been a Story Walk in a number of years.
6. Only one individual showed up on April 23, 2022, Town Wide Clean Up Day. (we pick up litter, another regular visitor, also picks up litter)

7. The boardwalk was taken over by Swamp Grass to the height of 4 to 5 feet twice in 2022. Volunteers cut back the grass over two weekends.
8. People have taken, removed plants/bushes from the property.
9. The trail maintenance has been poor, we removed a small tree, many branches, and debris off the trail. And asked the Town to remove a large tree that had been on the trail for months.
10. Unfinished Boy Scout project of 3 years (now finished)
11. Birdhouses fallen and broken on property (one hanging off tree for over 1 year, pieces not picked up)
12. Birds not using bird houses.
13. Markers fallen from trees. Should use paint as used in most other trails.
14. Parcel 5A is an eyesore, with a pile of old wood, wood pallets, an old bench and other items, being stored on this cut parcel. This is not "staging" at best this storage.
15. Materials (water hose) left in path to main property from 5A from late Spring until November
16. Mowing and cutting outside of the "Plan".

We are in support of ADA access at conservation land and trails. We loved what the Acton Arboretum offers for passive recreation and trail access for those with disabilities. This proposal at Cloverdale falls short of the Acton Arboretum offerings.

We support Cloverdale incorporating ADA access. We think a full plan should be discussed; it should be an ALL-Persons Property/Trail. The plan should/could utilize 6A with a picnic area, a wildflower garden and ADA Tot Playground. Access to the trail should be considered. Many individuals want to get into "nature" not just sit and look at "it", as suggested in this project

We would like the Town/Conservation Commission to hold themselves to the same standards as any other entity doing work in Town and establish the following:

1. Timeline for the project – publish it.
2. Outline for the steps/stages of the project – publish it.
3. Works Days and Hours- trying not to impact the current users of the property.
4. Consideration to health and safety of individuals, dogs, and wildlife at the property when equipment is used and materials
5. Cleanup after workday.
6. Construction management plan

If any part of the plan changes, cost, location etc.... the Commission should discuss, ask for public input, and then approve.

Our biggest concerns are not being able to use the property while this project is under construction and when the project is complete dogs being prohibited from use of the property.