

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

The Rights of Way Committee expanded its activities and welcomed three new members in 2017. These are some of our new initiatives:

- We requested and received a Community Preservation grant to restore the Atlantic Path all the way to Halibut Point State Park. This \$50,000 will build on our earlier work funded by a 2015 grant from the state's Division of Marine Fisheries.
- Two of us have joined Gloucester's Dogtown Advisory Committee as the representatives from Rockport. Their mission is to develop and undertake a comprehensive restoration, management, and stewardship plan for Dogtown.
- Three of us (along with the Rockport Historical Commission) are working with a contractor hired by the Gloucester Historical Commission to do an archaeological survey of Dogtown. One of the goals is to list Dogtown in the National Register of Historic Places.
- We have researched the ownership status of all the access points to the Atlantic Path. We are working with the Traffic and Parking Committee to make those access points more available and inviting to residents and visitors.
- We monitor the agendas of town departments, boards, and committees for impacts on access to rights of way and other trails. We have represented those interests at meetings of the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Traffic and Parking Committee, the Department of Public Works, and the Board of Selectmen.
- We have appointed a liaison to the Open Space and Recreation Committee. This helps us coordinate our common interests.

We continue our past activities, including trail cleaning and clearing, publicizing the Sunday morning hikes, and now even leading some of these hikes. In November we learned that one member would be departing, with our thanks for her years of service, and our chair for the past five years stepped down while remaining on the committee. With a new chair hoping to fill his shoes and three new members on board, we look forward to a productive 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Mikus, new Chair
Monica Lawton, Vice Chair
Mary Devaney, Secretary
Tom Kerans, past Chair
Phil Morrow
Lori Morrow
Ann Cahill
Mary Jane Sawyer
Jill Solomon (until December)



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[131 Years Ago:](#) This aerial view from 1886 shows most of the Atlantic Path.