

THE WOODBRIDGE PARK ASSOCIATION, INC.
WOODBRIDGE, CONNECTICUT
FOUNDED IN 1928

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2002

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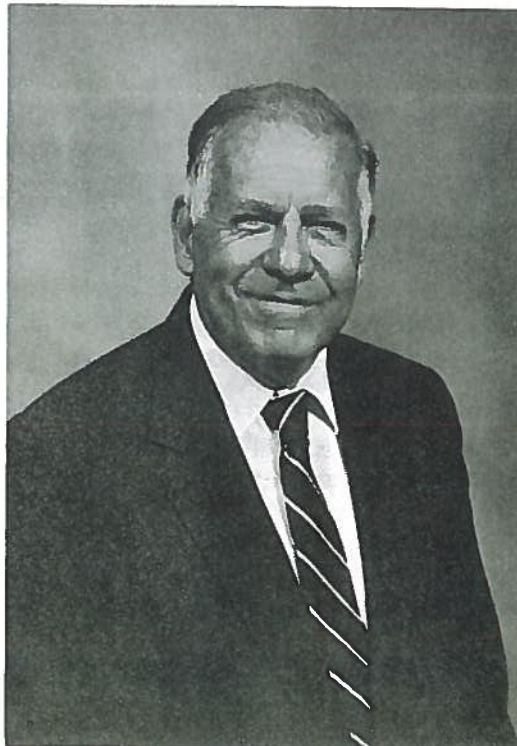
FIRST SELECTMAN, Ex Officio

AMEY MARRELLA

Dear Friends,

It is with profound regret that I report to you the death of our long time president, John H. Chatfield. His passing marks the end of an era for the Woodbridge Park Association. John served the Park Association for nearly thirty years, beginning as director in 1973 and serving as president from 1976-1997. Under his leadership, the Park Association acquired important donations of land from Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury, significantly expanding the original boundaries of the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park, and from Dennis Nicotra and Harry Grossman (for the Woodbridge Estates), establishing a new land preserve and park on Newton Road. John encouraged the participation of Eagle Scouts in caring for the Park, and since 1977 they have contributed greatly to the improvement of the park's physical state and the information available to visitors. John was also active in other efforts to preserve open space and the pastoral quality of Woodbridge, serving on the town Wetlands and Conservation Commissions.

John and his wife, Betty, were celebrated in 1998 on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Woodbridge Park Association. At this event, many friends of the Association joined together to thank John for his dedicated stewardship of the Park over more than twenty-five years. Among these were Roger Street and Mary Ellen Street Flemming, the son



and daughter of Newton Street, the donor of the park, and Russell B. Stoddard, former First Selectman, as well as numerous past and present Park Association Directors. John remained as a Director of the Association after the end of his term as president, and at the time of his death he was leading an active campaign to acquire and preserve additional land in Woodbridge. The Association will carry on this initiative, as he undoubtedly would wish. The Chatfield Family has designated the Woodbridge Park Association as one of the beneficiaries of memorial gifts in his name, and it seems most fitting that such gifts should go toward

the acquisition and preservation of land that John believed was so critical to the town. Contributors to the Park Association in John's memory are listed later in this newsletter.

For three decades, John was the heart and soul of the Woodbridge Park Association, stewarding and shaping it and leaving it strong for the future. The Association is committed to continuing his work. John was an endless source of knowledge about the park and everything in it — its history, plants, birds, and animals — and we will miss learning about them as we walked the trails with him.

The Board also notes with sorrow the death of Paul H. Walgren, who served the Woodbridge Park Association for many years as Director and arborist. A resident of Woodbridge for thirty-two years, Paul also served on the original Inland Wetlands Commission. Co-founder with his father in 1955 of Walgren Tree Experts, Inc., and president of the business until his retirement in 1995, Paul was arborist to Yale University for forty-eight years, president of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, and consultant to the Proprietors of the New Haven Green, among many other professional distinctions. Elm trees have recently been planted on the New Haven Green to honor Paul's work. His devotion to trees and the preservation of open space are remembered and deeply appreciated by all who knew him.

Association Activities

We have been pleased to see that the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park has been providing enjoyment for many residents of Woodbridge over the past year. Eagle Scout Carl Ekman completed a project renewing the East Boundary trail. The new entrance sign, erected in June 2001 by Eagle Scout Phillip Smith, has made the park easier to explore, and we plan additional improvements to the trails and their signage during the coming year. Scout projects next year are expected to include the repair of the main bridge, new blazes to mark the trails, and signs to identify trees and plants.

The acquisition of land for preservation by the Association is a high priority, made more viable through the recent generous bequests of Ruth Stephenson and Elsie Ford. We have been very grateful to our elected representatives, Senator Joseph Crisco, Representative Themis Klarides, and First Selectman Amey Marrella, for attending our meetings and offering their helpful advice and generous support for this endeavor. Their unanimous endorsement is a critical boost to our efforts.

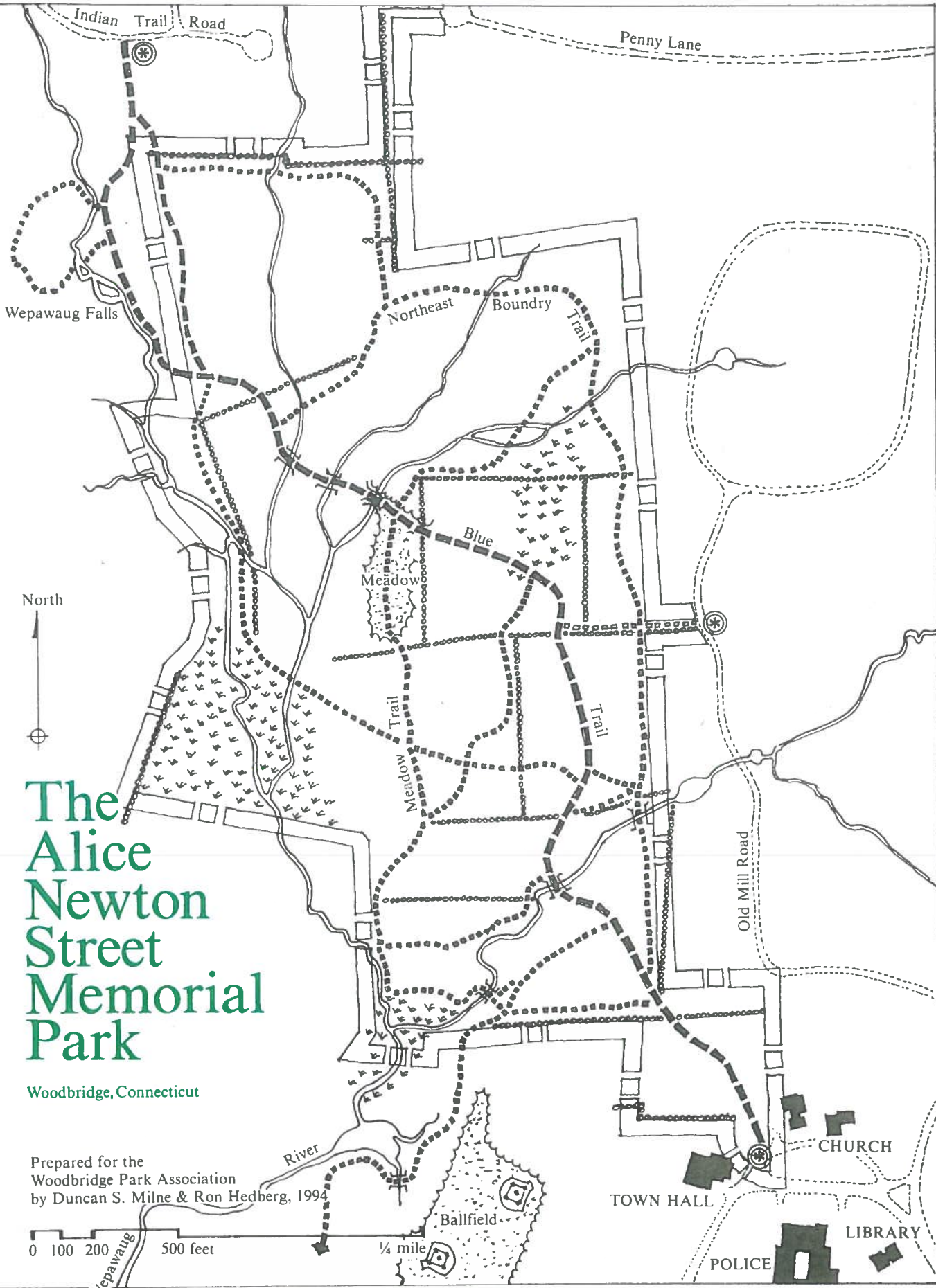
We are also grateful to First Selectman Marrella for once again providing the mailing labels for this newsletter gratis to the Association. We also thank Mrs. James Scott and her friends for their kind help in assembling the letter for mailing. I want especially to thank the Association's Officers — Paul Konwerski, Vice President; Richard Forselius, Secretary; Richard Zambarano, Treasurer; and Winchester Hubbard, Superintendent — for their dedicated work on behalf of the Woodbridge Park Association and the Alice Newton Street Park. It is a pleasure to work with them and with all of the Association's Directors. We all offer our special thanks to David W. Schneider, who, as attorney to the Association, has navigated us skillfully through waters slightly more troubled than usual this year, and to his colleagues at Tyler, Cooper & Alcorn who worked with him on particular issues.

As always, we welcome your comments and questions about the park and ways in which we might improve it for visitors. Please feel free to contact me. We all hope you will explore and enjoy the Alice Newton Street Park this year — it's there for you!

With all best wishes,



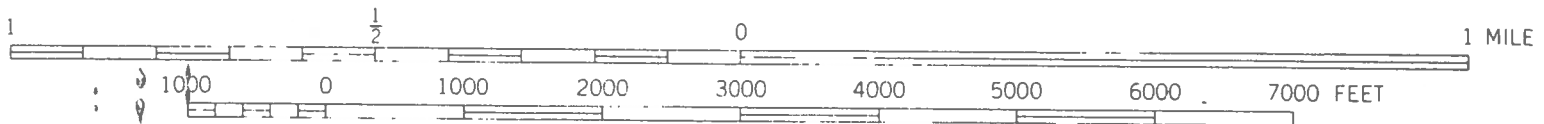
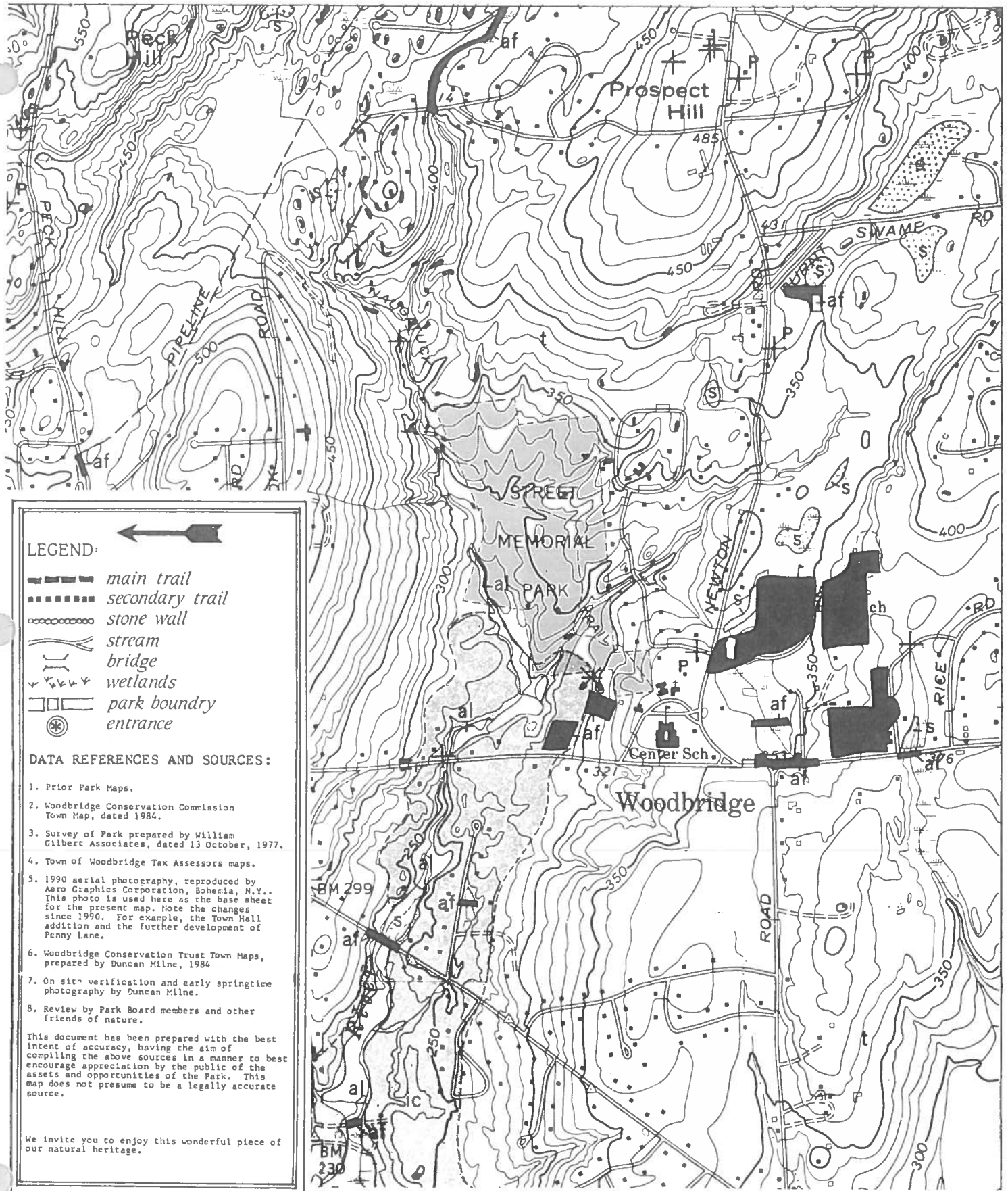
Susan B. Matheson
President



The Alice Newton Street Memorial Park

Woodbridge, Connecticut

Prepared for the Woodbridge Park Association by Duncan S. Milne & Ron Hedberg, 1994



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Land Donations

In addition to the founding gift of land in 1928, the Association has received important donations of land, as listed below together with the dates of acquisition:

Chester Hitchcock Family, 1920: 2.5 acres adjacent to the Alice Newton Street Park

First Ecclesiastical Society of the Town of Woodbridge, 1935: 0.7 acre by Meetinghouse Lane

Mrs. Dorothy Heise, 1956: 1 acre adjacent to the Alice Newton Street Park

Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury, 1987-88: 3.9 acres adjacent to the Alice Newton Street Park

Dennis Nicotra, 1986: 6 acres on Newton Road

Harry Grossman, on behalf of the Woodbridge Estates, 1988: 1 acre on Newton Road;

1989: 7.8 acres on the northwestern corner of the Park

Use of the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park

The Park is free and open to all, every day of the year.

Main Entrance: Meetinghouse Lane, north of the Green and Town Hall.
Parking adjacent to the entrance.

Second Entrance: Old Mill Road. Limited parking.

Major hiking trails are marked. A large map showing the trails can be found at the main entrance. Picnic tables and benches are provided near the main entrance.

Two maps are included in this letter. The one of the park was prepared by Duncan Milne and Ron Hedberg (1994). The other is an enlarged portion of the Surficial Geographic map of the Ansonia quadrangle which shows the park land and its surroundings.

To ensure the safety of visitors and the preservation of the park, smoking and fires are prohibited.

The park is designed to remain in its natural state. Therefore, no motorized vehicles are allowed in the park, except those used for park maintenance. Hunting and fishing are not allowed. Please do not pick the wildflowers or disturb other plants or wildlife.

