



OLD NORTH BRIDGE

TOWN OF CONCORD

SELECT BOARD'S OFFICE
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Statement on Estabrook Road Access

Recently, members of the Select Board have received many inquiries regarding the Town's filing in Land Court to resolve whether the public has a right of access to Estabrook Woods via Estabrook Road, also known as the Estabrook Trail. The filing has one purpose: to clarify public access rights to a historically significant road between Concord and Carlisle that has commonly been used by the public for hundreds of years. The Town believes we have the right to control access to Estabrook Trail. Through this filing in Land Court, the Town seeks to ensure the public's continued right to access this historic road.

To be clear, the Land Court filing is not about asserting control over the private land making up most of what we know as Estabrook Woods. It is not about allowing unregulated access to Estabrook Woods. It is not about development in Estabrook Woods. It is not about asserting control over other trails or ways. And, finally, it is not a personal attack on any of the abutters or private landowners of Estabrook, to whom we all are grateful for their continuing stewardship of this wonderful preserve.

Town officials have attempted to negotiate a resolution of the dispute and are disappointed that this matter has not, to date, been resolved amicably with Estabrook landowners. The Town continues to hope that this matter will be resolved quickly and in a way that protects all – both Estabrook Road abutters and the public.

Signed,
Concord Select Board
December 1, 2017