

President's Corner

by Mary Frink

Weather in New England is anything but boring. As I write this, it's 70 degrees out and we're expecting 8-12 inches of snow starting in 48 hours! I hope you've been able to get out and enjoy the brief hints of Spring amid all the Winter. I actually like walking in the snow. It's so weird. I really don't like walking in the rain, but I like walking in the snow. I think it's because it's so quiet and it makes me think of Christmas.

As you can tell by my weather references above, I am very late with my President's Corner article this month. So many people work so hard to put the newsletter together every month. Thank you so much to everyone who writes articles for *Footnotes*. A huge thank you (and sorry for being late!) to Monica Hait for all the work she does putting all the articles together and writing up things to fill in. *Footnotes* is such a great way for us all to stay connected to what is going on in the club. When we decided to offer an electronic version, Margo Craven agreed to be the one to send it out. Thank you for keeping all the email addresses straight and sending it out! Agnes and Ernie Laviolette have been mailing out the paper version

since 1999 which is amazing! After 22 years, they have decided to retire from this job, so I wanted to make sure they got a huge THANK YOU! The electronic version has only been around for a few years, so for a very long time, it was Agnes and Ernie coordinating the printing and getting the newsletters in the mail along with brochures and YRE booklets and membership renewals. You deserve a very happy retirement after all that work! Another huge thank you to Joel and Susan Weddig for agreeing to take on the mantle of Print Newsletter Circulation team. I promise I will try to do a better job at being on time with my articles so the wheels turn smoothly.

As you are out and about, please keep an eye out for start points and interesting places to walk. We are really starting to ramp up the planning for this year and beyond and can really use some help finding places. With the weather, I haven't made much progress with the Lincoln Park walk, but I hope to have an update next month. Stay safe and keep walking!

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Saturday, March 5
Group Walk:
Providence, RI
10:00 am*
- ❖ *Saturday, March 12
Group Walk:
Newington, CT
9:00 am (CVVC)*
- ❖ *Saturday, March 26
Group Walk:
Wellesley, MA
10:00 am*
- ❖ *Saturday, April 2
Group Walk:
Lexington, MA
10:00 am*
- ❖ *Sunday, April 3
Day Event:
Boston Special
Places*

See club or AVA website for starting location details on these events. For group walks, please aim to arrive 15 minutes earlier to sign-in.



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Sandwich Boardwalk Photos

by Beate Hait

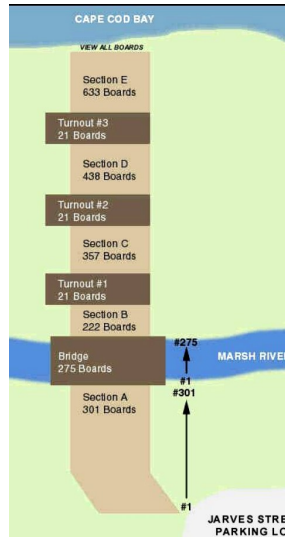


Barbara Kimball at the Jarves St. boardwalk access on 9/21/2012.

Plank location sketch (<https://www.sandwichmass.org/299/The-Boardwalk>)

Barbara Kimball toes our plank on 9/21/2012.

Club members toeing the plank on 3/6/2021.



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Sandwich, MA Boardwalk

by Beate Hait

In June 2002, the Walk 'n Mass leadership team approved the expenditure of \$150 for a commemorative plank reading WALK'N MASS VOLKSSPORT (22 letters) on the Sandwich boardwalk, which forms part of our seasonal walk route.

Funds raised through the sale of planks helped to pay for maintenance of the 1,500-ft timber boardwalk that was first constructed in 1875 over the saltwater marsh and Mill Creek. Repaired frequently over the years, it was fully reconstructed in 1992 after severe damage by Hurricane Bob. Supporters rebuilt it with the sale of over 1700 planks that were personalized with engraved messages.

Over time, the sand wears out engravings (compare photos of our plank from 2012 and 2021), planks break, and the receding dune continues to shorten the boardwalk. The last repair to a section of the structure was made in 2020, and it was determined that the lumber and fasteners were severely decayed

and corroded. Plans were then begun to completely rebuild the boardwalk in 2023. Permitting and flood zone rules now require a higher elevation, slope adjustment and railings to meet accessibility standards.

During the blizzard on January 29, 2022, a 200-ft section of the boardwalk between the end of the bridge over Mill Creek and Turnout #2 lifted up and broke away. From TV coverage of the damaged section, I am certain that our plank was not a part of that section. Our plank is located in Section E (between Turnout #3 and the beach). Because the new boardwalk will be wider, repurposing current planks is not in the plans.

While the boardwalk is out of commission, POC Pat Damiani has rerouted the walk route to avoid that area. Pat will alert us if/when a new call goes out for commemorative planks, so we can continue to show our support for this structure.

[Editor: see boardwalk photos on page 2]

In Memoriam: Jack Fernandes

Sadly, our club has lost an intrepid trail marker with the death of Jack Fernandes on January 18. With a kind smile and joy for the outdoors, Jack was a great help at many events.

Our sincere condolences to wife Ellen, and the extended family.

Notable volunteer efforts (compiled by Marianne Marshall):

- Member since approximately 2012.
- Marked trails (19) – Chatham, Fairhaven, Natick, Attleboro (4), Shelburne Falls, Norwood, Ashland, Barre Falls, Lowell, Deerfield (pictured at right, with Bob Varnon), Franklin, Holliston, Springfield, Blackstone, Holliston, Woodville
- Trail take down – Bristol
- Checkpoint – Milford

by Monica Hait



Picture courtesy of Beate Hait



Bulletin Board



Atlantic Region Conference

Friday, April 22 – Sunday, April 24 in Plymouth Meeting, PA

3 walks, 1 bike, 1 swim – plus bonus group walk or bike on Thursday, April 21

Preregistration, socials, hotel info, and more information:

https://my.ava.org/files/fest_brochures/ARC-2022-BrochureV8RegisterV4.pdf

Do you have a memorable volksmarching story to share? Send it to

footnotes.editor@gmail.com
for possible publication in a future edition of **Footnotes**.



Next Club Meetings Monday, March 7 & Monday, April 4

7:00 pm

Virtual Meetings via Zoom

Contact Mary at

mfwalks2010@verizon.net

to RSVP and receive
meeting details

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: March 21st

Canadian Volkssport Federation Festival in Penticton, British Columbia, Canada from May 27-29, 2022

5 spectacular walks are scheduled, showcasing the beautiful area in and around Penticton. With a Meet & Greet on Friday evening and Banquet Saturday night.

<https://walks.ca/cvf-fcv-2022-festival/>

WnM Group Walk Schedule to date:

**Unless otherwise noted: Sign-in 9:30,
Group Walk departs 10:00**

Providence – Saturday, March 5

Wellesley – Saturday, March 26

Lexington – Saturday, April 2

Bedford Bike/Walk – Saturday, April 9

Concord/Patriot's Day – Monday,
April 18 – Sign-in 8:00 Group Walk
departs 8:30

Plymouth – Saturday, April 30

Bristol – Saturday, May 14

Shelburne Falls – Saturday, June 4

Fall River – Saturday, June 18
(note this was changed from April)

Participation Review by Beate Hait

You might be interested to learn that our club pays annual sanction fees to AVA of \$30 for a traditional day event, \$40 for a Year Round and \$35 for a Seasonal walking event that runs for three quarters. Of the \$3.00 fee for credit, \$1.75 remains with the club and a \$1.25 participation fee goes to AVA. This means that we need 30 to 35 participants paying \$3.00 to simply cover the sanction fees. Additional event costs include producing the YRE/SE brochure, directions, and start cards.

Following are participation totals for the last three years. Granted, 2020 numbers were greatly impacted by COVID-19-related mandates starting in March of that year, whereas 2021 numbers showed improvement.

It takes many volunteer hours to make these events happen, and by participating you can show that the time spent was worthwhile. Let's get walking so the numbers trend up again for 2022!

YRE/SE	2021	2020	2019
Bedford Bike	81	21	35
Boston Back Bay	28	15	57
Boston Freedom Trail	29	7	158
Bristol	46	14	36
Cheshire	38	3	48
Concord	54	114	141
Fall River	22	15	44
Greenfield	36	26	22
Hyannis	26	10	32
Lexington	82	100	76
Lowell	24	15	50
Newport	16	3	77
Newton	145	72	49
Plymouth	52	25	68
Providence	22	21	161
Provincetown	24	26	0
Quincy	11	3	39
Sandwich Bike	8	8	12
Sandwich Walk	31	24	59
Shelburne Falls	35	16	51
Wellesley	88	63	37
TOTALS	898	601	1252

DATE	TRADITIONAL EVENT	PART.
3/30/2019	Holliston, MA—Soup Walk	68
6/11/2019	Springfield, MA—AVA Convention	426
6/29/2019	Blackstone, MA	48
7/27/2019	Woodville, MA—Club Picnic	36
9/14/2019	Lowell, MA	52
10/26/2019	Malden, MA—October VM Patch	54
12/14/2019	Franklin, MA—Cookie Walk	19
8/22/2020	Holliston, MA—COVID-19	43
10/17/2020	Tiverton, RI—COVID-19	23
11/21/2020	Devens, MA—COVID-19	44
5/2/2021	Boston Special Places	22
5/15/2021	Devens, MA—Armed Forces Day	66
6/12/2021	Pawtucket, RI	33
10/9/2021	Turners Falls, MA—October VM Patch	65

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Sunday, April 3 – Boston Special Places – Last year we had 22 participants at this event. Here's your opportunity to walk it again or do it for the first time. Co-POC Carol Giesecke notes, "This route takes walkers through parts of the city that they may not otherwise encounter on their own. For example, how many people know that just a few blocks from the start at the Prudential Building and all the bustle of downtown is a lovely, peaceful walking and biking trail along the Charles River? All 5K and 11K participants enjoy this first ¼ miles (1.2K) of the walk on the Esplanade where one can experience much natural beauty, especially in early spring! The walk continues past the Hatch Memorial Shell where many outdoor concerts are held year round. For this event, you have the option of following a leader and walking with others, or you can follow the written directions and walk on your own." See brochure for details and additional route description. Please note: the only specialty items available for sale will be IVV/AVA books, unless you place an order for an apparel item for pickup at this event.

Saturday, April 23 – Fall River, MA – Co-POCs (and cousins) Karen Plichta and Ann Plichta offer a delightful 5K and 10K walk along the Alfred J. Lima Quequechan River Rail Trail that opened in June 2016. Participants will enjoy seeing an area of Fall River totally different from what is seen on the seasonal 5K and 10K routes that start at Battleship Cove. If you are able to help staff a 2-hour shift at the start, finish or checkpoints, please contact Bea. For you early risers, how about helping to mark the trail (start walking at 8:00) or for you late risers, take down the trail (head out at 12:30).

Lincoln Woods, RI – Save the date: **Saturday, August 20** is when we are planning to have our picnic walk. Details to follow.

Traditional Events in 2022 – We are expecting to add more day events to our 2022 calendar. Please contact Mary Frink or me with location suggestions. Keep in mind that we must submit a sanction request to AVA at least 90 days prior to the date of the event, so the time is now to get this year's schedule finalized.

Capron Park Zoo Pictures:

A small group of club members met in Attleboro on January 22, to enjoy a jaunt through the zoo that has traditionally been a checkpoint for our La Salette events.

L-R: Bill Howe, Margo Craven, Ann Plichta, Keith Harlow, Rayna Ahluwalia, Monica Hait, Priya Ahluwalia



Beate Hait

