



# NEWS FROM *South Williamstown*

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## Green River Cleanup Walk Saturday July 23 at 1 pm

If you're able bodied and not afraid of slipping on wet stones, join us for a cleanup walk along the Green River. This is a project we've done in in collaboration with the Hoosic River Watershed Association for the last few years to address the debris washing into the river from a former town landfill located behind the Hart farm on



Photo from Green River Cleanup 2020  
by Barbara Winslow

New Ashford Road (Route 7). Park aa at the Hart Garage and cross the road to walk down the driveway at the Thaisz house, 340 New Ashford Road. You'll need rubber boots or water shoes and gloves and don't forget to spray yourself with insect repellent. The Town will provide us with garbage bags and arrange for disposal.

## Potluck Bar-B-Q is on the Horizon for August 22



We'll be able to meet in person, get to know some new neighbors and share some good food on Monday, August 22, from 5:30 to 7:30pm, outdoors under the tent at Waubeeka Golf Links. There will be an auction of home-made baked goods to benefit the Williamstown Food Pantry.

We'll grill burgers (including veggie burgers), hot dogs and chicken to go with potluck side dishes that we're requesting you bring. We'll provide beverages, tableware and melon for dessert. Waubeeka will be providing a cash bar and local string band Rosin the Beaux will be making music.

Photo from past SWCA Summer BBQ It's all free, but donations will be accepted. Guests are welcome.

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South Williamstown

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Contribute to the next  
SWCA Newsletter, due out  
by September 30, 2022.

Email suggestions or  
articles to  
[swca32@gmail.com](mailto:swca32@gmail.com)

Find SWCA on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/  
South-Williamstown-Community-  
Association-1684158335160201/](https://www.facebook.com/South-Williamstown-Community-Association-1684158335160201/)

## May 21 Fishing Derby at Wending Farm Featured Salamanders and Bass

By Averill Cook

This year's fishing derby participants came from our village and those originating from the Ukraine. A local gal trying out her new fly rod caught the biggest bass (as pictured). Two Ukrainian families with young anglers had more fun with the salamanders, expressing minimal interest in any trout. It was a successful day for all topped off with a gift certificate to Lickety Split.



We left out of last issue's history of The Store at Five Corners the period between 1978 and 1985 when The Store at Five Corners was owned by William and Helen Vanderbilt. Here they are in front of the gas pumps with a Christmas greeting.

# Family Ties

By Pamela Weatherbee

The delicate flowers of the woodlands have come to the end of their time, with broad new leaves of the trees shutting out their sun. Now, a bolder taller crowd is filling the roadsides and edges with splashes of purple and white. Here is a garden of beauty you didn't have to plant. Some people call it "wild phlox" but it is not related to phlox. Its common name is *Dame's Rocket* *Hesperis matronalis* L. and it is in the mustard family.



Photo: Pamela Weatherbee

Plant species are grouped in families where they share a number of important characteristics, usually based on the construction of the flower. The mustard flowers always have four petals, and six stamens, four long and two short. Species in a family can be a tree or a tiny herb but still be in the same family. The mustards are a large family and are spread around the world and contain many species that are valuable food sources, like the cabbage group, canola oil and the tangy yellow stuff. The list is endless, and they were domesticated and developed thousands of years ago, around the Mediterranean Sea.

This beautiful plant, Dame's Rocket, was undoubtedly brought to the new world by European settlers, either because it was a beloved part of their garden or inadvertently among other seeds. Like many other plants, its name can indicate how people thought about it at that time. *Hesperis* means evening or evening star while *matronalis* refers to "mother." Its earlier name was "mother-of-the-evening" because of its beautiful clove-cinnamon scent which becomes quite powerful in the evening. The L. after the Latin name means that it was named by the famous 18th century botanist Carl Linnaeus. Since he devised our modern method of naming all living things, he got to name quite a few. He may have been feeling a little mellow when he did this one. The "rocket" part is common in mustard species' names.

Dame's Rocket is a non-native plant like many of our field and meadow flowers like Daisy or Queen Anne's Lace and appears to grow thickly, but it has many beneficial aspects, too. It beautifies our roadsides

where nothing much else grows, and stays mainly at the edges. It stays out of gardens where it jumped out of long ago, and is not hard to get rid of if you want to. It is not aggressive, like its relative Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata* which swarms into every habitat, woodland, rare habitats, gardens and is almost impossible to get rid of. Its roots also give off substances that suppress other plants. It is a truly an invasive harmful weed.

In addition, Dame's Rocket has an ability to attract bees and butterflies. They obviously are finding nectar and pollen in the flowers and it is a valuable source for them in early summer. The pervasive scent does become much stronger in the evening, as I found out when I went out to the patch in the evening and was hit by a wall of fragrance. This strong evening scent might indicate a night-flying pollinator, like a hawk-moth was important to the plant at one time and maybe still is. I will certainly check.

In contrast, the Garlic Mustard becomes a death-trap for the little West Virginia White butterfly *Pieris virginiensis* which must lay her eggs on a mustard type plant, but the caterpillars will not thrive on Garlic Mustard.

Base your choice of action on the good characteristics of the plant, not its place of origin. Pull up the Garlic Mustard, but enjoy Dame's Rocket.

## Here are Some Things You Can Expect to Find at The Store at Five Corners When It Opens Soon

By Bette Craig

“There’ll be fresh pastries and good coffee, a grab and go case for picking up a quick lunch or dinner, as well as grocery items larger in range than milk and bread and eggs,” said Corey Wentworth, who will be the operator of The Store at Five Corners when it opens soon.

“You’ll be able to pick up a copy of the *Berkshire Eagle*, the *New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*. We’ll have baking supplies and toiletries and household items as well as a varied menu of breakfast specials, sandwiches cold and pressed and all kinds of other good things to eat that I’ve been perfecting during all the years I’ve been working as a chef.”

Corey is a local. He lives in Hancock with his wife and three children. They are inspiring him to put in a kids’ table with toys and activities as well as a special menu for the Lil’ Chillers. He moved here in 2018 to work with Chef Cortney Burns at Tourists in North Adams. He has also worked at Mezze and was The Store at Five Corners chef when it closed in mid July of 2020.

The Store will be open every day except Mondays and he expects to have a wine and beer pour license eventually so that you’ll be able to enjoy those beverages with your food while you’re sitting at a table with friends. Another thing on the agenda is getting the fireplace working again so there will be an extra-cozy place to sit during the winter.

There will be spaces for local artists and craftspeople to display and sell their work.

It is Corey’s hope that everyone from the community will find something they seek at The Store. Fresh herbs and edible flowers are already growing in three large planting boxes on the deck to welcome you.

Check in at <https://storeatfivecorners.com/> for the latest news about the Store opening.



Corey Wentworth and some of the food he prepared for the June 14th Cleanup Day at The Store.

Photo: Barbara Winslow

# Front Porch Forum - 2 Years Later.

Some stats since we started the Front Porch Forum (<https://frontporchforum.com/>) in Williamstown almost 2 years ago on July 29, 2020

- 506 Members
- 1,424 Postings
- There have been 450 'newsletters' sent to our FPF since we started.

## Roundabout at 5 Corners Plan 25% Complete

On Tuesday June 21, the Mass DOT presented its progress on the design for the proposed Intersection Improvements at Route 7 and Route 43 project in Williamstown, MA via a zoom meeting. The proposed project consists of constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Route 7 and Route 43 to improve safety and operations. Pedestrian connections between The Store at Five Corners and Bloedel Park will be improved with a new marked crosswalk and accessible ramps to cross the south leg of Route 7. Landscaping enhancements are proposed to create a welcoming gateway to Williamstown. Construction on this will begin in Spring 2024 and is estimated to take up to a year to complete.

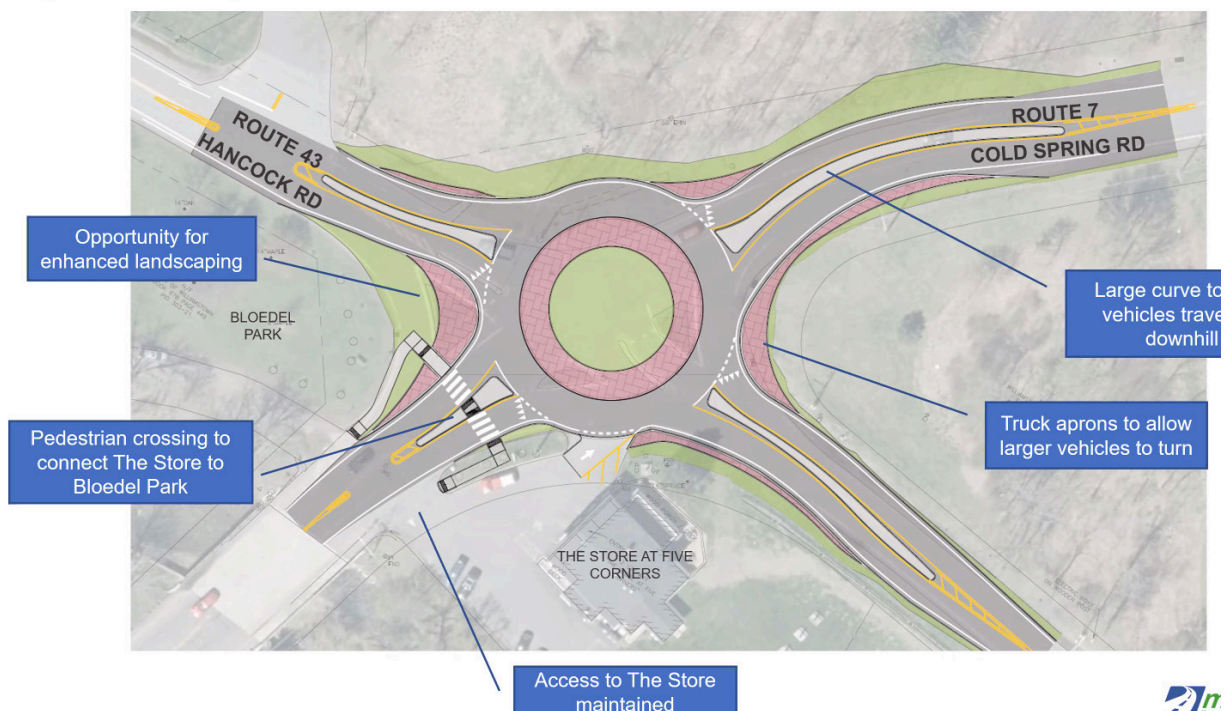
*The Berkshire Eagle* summarized this meeting in an article published on June 22. You can read this at;

[https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/northern\\_berkshires/williamstown-roundabout-dot-design-hearing/article\\_20f265ec-f165-11ec-92f6-373f1601d7bf.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/northern_berkshires/williamstown-roundabout-dot-design-hearing/article_20f265ec-f165-11ec-92f6-373f1601d7bf.html)



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Proposed Design Roundabout



## Forty People Attended SWCA's Annual Meeting on June 13

Tamanika Steward was elected as a new SWCA Board member at the in-person annual meeting on June 13. The remainder of the slate of Board members proposed by the nominating committee included incumbents Matthew Baya, Pam Burger, Alison Case, Karen Charbonneau, Bette Craig, Mindy Hackner, Anne Hogeland, Mary-Ellen Meehan, Mark Thaisz, Mickey Thaisz, and Carolyn Umlauf. The slate was unanimously elected by the 40 plus members attending the meeting. Retired Board members Katie Case and Tom Cragg were commended for their service.

The weather was beautiful and people had a chance to meet new neighbors and renew acquaintances while enjoying delicious appetizers and soft drinks catered by Waubeeka as well as cheese from Cricket Creek.



SWCA president Bette Craig gave a brief sum up of the past year's activities, which included two Repair Cafes in collaboration with Rural Lands Foundation and an August potluck Bar-B-Q. SWCA also served as fiscal sponsor for the Store at Five Corners Stewardship Association (formed by six SWCA Board members) which purchased The Store at Five Corners on January 27, 2022 from Dr. Frank Lewis.

Board Member Melanie Mowinski presented some designs to be considered by membership present for a new SWCA logo and the winner appears on this newsletter. (This new logo appears in the top left of page 1 of this newsletter and is still a work in progress.)

During the past year, SWCA had a membership of 130 households. Expenses included costs for printing, postage, food for the annual meeting in June 2021 as well as the potluck Bar-B-Q in August 2021 and insurance. Expenses also included donations to sister organizations such as Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, Hoosic River Watershed Association, Willinet and the Williamstown Historical Museum. Finally, as in last year, SWCA supported a summer reading tutor for several local grade schoolers.

When official business was concluded, Craig introduced newly-elected Select Board member, Randal Fippinger, and Planning Board member Stephanie Boyd. Stephanie Boyd presented an explanation of proposed warrant articles that would change lot size and frontage requirements in South Williamstown if they were adopted at Town Meeting the following evening. There were many questions followed by a lively discussion.

# Get Involved in SWCA

Here are some ways you can do it. Would you like to:

- Work on helping organize a community event.
- Write about South Williamstown history or local events for the newsletter
- Fix things at our Repair Cafés.
- Track local land use issues or other topics of interest.
- Represent SWCA at community events like the Farmer's Market.
- Post posters about our events around town
- Tell your local friends and family about SWCA and point them to our website at <https://southwilliamstown.org/>
- Share news about our events with your friends or via e-mail, Facebook, etc.

Or, maybe you have a good idea to suggest for something the South Williamstown Community Association should be doing as a 501(c)3 organization devoted to historical preservation, building community and being a neighborhood voice.

Email us at [swca32@gmail.com](mailto:swca32@gmail.com). Visit our website at <https://southwilliamstown.org/>

## South Williamstown Community Association Membership Form

*Historical Preservation + Community + Neighborhood Voice*

Print and mail this form or join online at <https://southwilliamstown.org/membership>

I/We wish to join/renew our membership in SWCA for the year July 2022- June 2023.

### Suggested dues are

\$25/household      \$25  
Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SWCA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your dues and donations are tax-deductible and your cancelled check or email confirmation will be your receipt.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (used only for SWCA announcements): \_\_\_\_\_

check here if you want to receive emails about other South Williamstown news/events

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

if your business is located in South Williamstown and you would like a link on our website

I would like to volunteer for an event or committee \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to SWCA, PO Box 432, Williamstown, MA 01267

Email us at [swca32@gmail.com](mailto:swca32@gmail.com). Visit our website at <https://southwilliamstown.org/>

# Snippets of News About South Williamstown

At Town Meeting on June 14, the zoning changes proposed by the Planning Board that would have reduced lot size and frontage requirements for RR2, the rural residential zone that covers most of South Williamstown as well as some other parts of town, were referred back to the Planning Board.

The same Town Meeting approved a grant of \$50,000 to the Five Corners Store Stewardship Association from the community preservation funds to help preserve The Store.

**Dr. Frank Lewis**, previous owner of the Store at Five Corners, passed away peacefully, with his family around him, on June 22nd, in Naples, Florida. Frank was excited and supportive of the Store reopening as a community hub. He followed the progress on the Store's website. The Store at Five Corners Stewardship Association is grateful for his generosity and is saddened that he didn't live to see it return to its former glory.

**Dorothy Edgerton** died on April 1 at the age of 92.

**Lee (Corky) Rhodes** passed away on April 19 at the age of 82.

## Events

**July 23 Green River Cleanup Walk** starts at 1pm. Park at Hart Garage and cross the road to walk down the driveway at the Thaisz house at 340 New Ashford Road.

**August 22 SWCA Potluck Bar-B-Q** outdoors under the tent at Waubeeka Golf Links from 5:30-7:30pm. Bring a side dish.

**August 28 Hay Day at Williamstown Historical Museum** from 11am-3pm.

**South Williamstown Community Association**

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Hello neighbor - If you're not already a member of SWCA you might be surprised this newsletter arrived in your mailbox today. Usually we distribute this via e-mail and only print a few copies, but for this edition we're sending a copy to all households in South Williamstown in case you weren't aware of us. We hope you enjoy this and if you'd like to receive future newsletters and other announcements via e-mail please consider joining us.

SOUTH WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
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