

October 5, 2021

To: The Warren Board of Selectmen

From: The Warren Land Trust, represented by Rebecca Neary, President, and BK Stafford, Co-Chair of the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Committee

Re: Access to the Keith Family Preserve

In October of 2020, The Warren Land Trust was the recipient of 73.57 wooded acres – a generous bequest from the estate of Mrs. Joyce Keith. We took possession of the new Keith Family Preserve in March of 2021. It is our largest publicly accessible preserve to date and has the potential to be a valuable community resource for hikers and nature lovers.

The Preserve has boundaries along Route 45, Keith Road and the Town-owned Lindstrom Park -- as well as several privately owned properties. It is scenically beautiful with sizable rock outcroppings and an environmentally important vernal pool. It also has several existing trails which the Land Trust will improve and expand on over the next year.

What the property lacks, however, is a convenient public access point with available parking.

Accordingly, we are here today to ask the Board of Selectmen to approve the use of Lindstrom Park as the official entrance to the Keith Family Preserve. This would include placement of an information kiosk at the already existing trailhead at the end of the Lindstrom Park access road. The kiosk would be identical to those that already mark Warren Land Trust trailheads.

In addition, we ask the Board of Selectmen to permit access to the Lindstrom Park parking area, which is currently blocked by a gate. The parking area is located .2 miles down the access road from the gate. The gate is unlocked with space on one side for hikers, dirt bikes, ATV's and the like to pass around it, but not cars. Roadsides leading up to the gate are seasonally wet; cars therefore park in front of the gate, blocking entry to first responders in the event of an emergency,

Town records from 1995 to the present do not show any formal decision to close car access to the Lindstrom Park parking area.

In summary, then, we come before you today to request approval to allow Lindstrom Park to serve as the official access to the Warren Land Trust's Keith Family Preserve, to permit installation of an information kiosk at the trailhead that already exists in Lindstrom Park and to open the gate to the parking area at the end of the Lindstrom Park access road.

This proposal will benefit the community in several ways: as part of Keith Family Preserve trail improvements, the Warren Land Trust would relocate the Lindstrom Park trailhead from private property back onto Town (park) property; an open parking area at Lindstrom Park would allow easy, orderly access to trails, including access for emergency vehicles if needed; and an information kiosk at the trailhead would provide maps and other useful information for hikers. Most of all, however, an

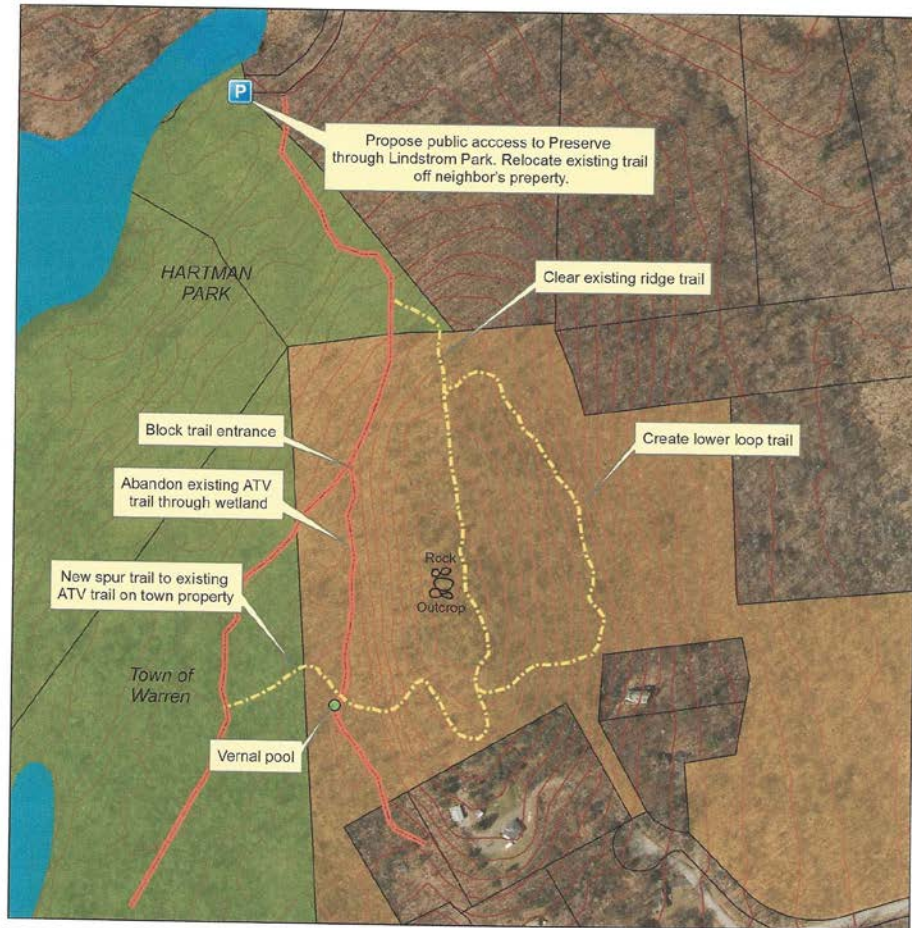
expanded and improved trail network and easier access to these adjacent Town and Warren Land Trust properties will enhance family-friendly recreational opportunities in town – a key goal of the 2019-2029 Town Plan of Conservation and Development,

Thank you very much for your consideration and for your service to the Warren community.

Rebecca Neary and BK Stafford for the Warren Land Trust

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Keith Trails2.jpg



<p><b>EXISTING CONDITIONS/ PROPOSED NEW TRAILS</b> Keith Property Keith Road Warren, CT</p>	<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: yellow;">---</span> Keith proposed trails</li> <li><span style="color: red;">---</span> ATV trails near Keith</li> <li><span style="background-color: lightgreen;"> </span> Town of Warren</li> <li><span style="background-color: yellow;"> </span> Keith Property</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCALE</b></p>
<p><small>NOTES</small> (1) This map contains no authoritative data and is intended for planning purposes only; (2) The location and extent of features illustrated are based on GPS-collected field data as well as direct observations and are approximate only; (3) Base map data sources include USGS topographic (USA TOPO) maps, 2019 orthophotography and road maps from ESRI and CT ECC map services.</p>	<p>Map Prepared By: Brawley Consulting Group, LLC 95 Pilgrim Drive Windsor, CT 06095 www.brawleycg.com Date: May, 2021</p>	