

# Adopt-A-Stream

## *Stream Team Process*

*Stream Teams provide on-going stewardship for a stream (a tributary or part of a mainstem) for at least a year. Stream Teams provide stewardship by working on projects to protect and restore the stream. They are locally based and do their work through consensus and working with town officials.*

### **Forming a Stream Team:**

Watershed association, EOEa Watershed Team, Conservation Commission, citizens call the Adopt-A-Stream Program (AAS) and ask for assistance in creating a Stream Team. AAS supports the formation including the creation of a local steering committee (interested people, town officials (i.e. Concom & Board of Health), abutters, businesses, anglers, etc.).



### **Planning:**

Steering committee plans survey, involves the press & cable TV, invites volunteers, sets up training workshop.



### **Shoreline Survey:**

Training: AAS conducts the training workshop. Combining data sheets and interactive slide show results in a generic shoreline survey in the room. Training is a night meeting 2-4 days before the Shoreline Survey.

Shoreline Survey: is done either as a one-day event or within a window of a couple of weeks. Data sheets, cameras, maps are primary tools. Sections are divided so that Survey takes approximately 2 hours.



### **Priority Setting:**

After filling out data sheets, Stream Team members determine which are the significant problems, assets, and priorities for work.



### **Action Planning:**

At an action planning meeting, AAS staff facilitates meeting that considers each of the priorities for work and determines (1) which problems should be reported; (2) short term projects; (3) long term projects. Action Plan is a "wish list", Stream Team then determines which projects it will tackle. Some projects are easily "doable"; others need technical assistance.



### **Shoreline Survey Report:**

Stream Teams with watershed association support prepares a report that can be formally presented to the town, EOEa Watershed Team, AAS Program, others. This is the official record.



### **Implementation of the Plan:**

Stream Teams work on projects (often using task forces) that protect and restore the stream. Projects vary. See Success List and upcoming AAS Web Page for examples. OAR has a great web page by the Acton Stream Team.



### **AAS Award:**

DFWELE presents award at a public meeting (could be at the selectman's meeting, special event, cleanup) with the press. Group presents report to the town. Brings awareness of the importance of the stream and the work of the group.

The **Adopt-A-Stream Program** works to support and encourage local stream teams and communities in efforts to protect and restore the ecological integrity of the Commonwealth's watersheds: rivers, streams and adjacent lands.

*Riverways Program, Division of Ecological Restoration*

*Department of Fish and Game*

*Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*