

Trail Access Working Group

Member Bios

Doug Albertson

Doug Albertson has been Belchertown's planner since 1997 and a member of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's executive committee since 1996. During this time, he has also been on several state and regional advisory committees working on housing, energy policy, accessibility and aging, economic development, and conservation and recreation. He is past chair of the Kestrel Land Trust, and for 15 years led an educational non-profit that brought U.S. students of all ages to experience and learn from Haitian society. He continues on the board of the American University of the Caribbean in Haiti.

Jerry Berrier

After 18 years in Human Resources with Verizon, Jerry Berrier worked in the field of assistive technology for over 20 years. He spent six years as assistant manager at the Verizon center for customers with disabilities, followed by seven years as an assistive technology consultant

specializing in work with Deafblind consumers. Most recently, he ended a nine-year stint at the Perkins School for the Blind in the field of assistive technology. He retired from full-time employment in June of 2021. Jerry is past president of the Bay State Council of the Blind and is currently co-chair of that organization's advocacy committee. His interests include audio production, accessible web design, and birding by ear. He has consulted on numerous accessibility projects with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, including fifteen all-persons trails projects. He has conducted birding by ear workshops and nature walks for both blind and sighted audiences of all ages.

Bill Boles

Bill has spent his life outdoors on trails. He did research for the Boston Globe for 37 years and after retiring has been working part-time for the New England Mountain Bike Association specializing in Community Engagement. NEMBA's mission has been to get more people outside on trails. Mountain bikers, of course, but lately they have been focusing on providing trail access for adaptive cyclists. Ensuring trail access for all people with disabilities is a natural evolution of that.

Samuel Burrington

Samuel is a 30-year-old wheelchair user from Brookline, MA. A lifetime outdoor enthusiast, he grew up backpacking, climbing, skiing, playing team sports, and more before sustaining a spinal cord injury in 2019. Since then, he has resumed skiing and has picked up new sports such as mountain biking, wheelchair racing, and road cycling. Professionally, Sam is a member of the development team for a Cambridge-based renewable energy investment firm, and in his

free time, he serves on Brookline's Conservation Commission and Community Preservation Act Committee. He loves to get outside, test the limits of "accessibility" in New England's natural areas, and is passionate about both environmental preservation and expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities for folks with all manner of accessibility needs.

Amber Christoffersen

Amber Christoffersen is a greenways planner at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. She is a designer who has worked on active transportation, open space, and affordable housing projects in the Boston area and around the country. In her current role, Amber is leading planning, design, construction, and maintenance of greenways and trails across the state. She holds a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the College of William and Mary. As an avid long-distance runner, she is constantly exploring the region's many waterfronts, trails, paths, and parklands.

Ronald Chick

Ronald Chick is a passionate leader in trail development and conservation, dedicated to connecting communities with nature through improved trail accessibility and environmental education. He is the Framingham Representative on the SuAsCo Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council, co-founder of the Friends of Framingham Trails, and co-founder of the Metrowest Greenway Coalition. He has been advocating for improved access to outdoor spaces, trail enhancement, ecological restoration, and the integration of environmental education throughout his community.

Jeff Dougan

Jeff Dougan has been the Assistant Director for Community Services at the Massachusetts Office on Disability since March 2000. Jeff manages the Community Services Unit in this role, which provides training and technical assistance on state and federal accessibility requirements. He organizes training for a wide range of stakeholders, including businesses, municipal employees, building inspectors, architects, and disability advocates. Before his current position, Jeff worked as a Community Advocate at the MetroWest Center for Independent Living from 1998 to 2000. He conducted accessibility training and provided technical assistance to facilitate voluntary architectural barrier removal. Jeff has been recognized for his work, receiving five Performance Recognition Awards during his tenure at the Massachusetts Office on Disability. He serves as the agency's designee on the state Architectural Access Board and chairs its Regulation Review Subcommittee. Jeff also liaises with MEMA regarding issues related to access and functional needs. Jeff holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management from Bridgewater State College. With over two decades of experience in accessibility and disability rights, he is a knowledgeable leader who provides guidance and technical expertise to make environments and services more accessible for people with disabilities.

David Foss

David Foss, CPG, LSP, is the Statewide Brownfields Coordinator for the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. David is a hydrogeologist with over 30 years of experience conducting and managing environmental assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment at Brownfields sites. He is a Certified Professional Geologist and Massachusetts Licensed Site Professional. Prior to joining MassDEP, David

was an environmental consultant who worked with a broad range of public and private stakeholders, including more than 50 Massachusetts municipalities. David has collaborated with regional planning commissions, the U.S. EPA, and MassDevelopment to promote redevelopment with a focus on areas with Environmental Justice concerns. David has a Bachelor's degree in Geology from Colgate University and a Master's in Geology & Geophysics from the University of Hawaii. David enjoys a wide range of outdoor recreational activities, including snow sports, kayaking, hiking, and trail running.

Karen Foster Cannon

Karen Foster Cannon (she/her) joined the team at All Out Adventures as a Program Leader in 2004 and was been the Executive Director since 2007. In this time, she has overseen all aspects of thousands of inclusive and accessible outdoor recreation programs for people of all ages and abilities throughout Massachusetts. She has seen firsthand the positive impact for people living with disabilities when they are able to access the outdoors and nature and is looking forward to contributing to the Trail Access Working Group.

Lucy Gertz

Lucy Gertz, Mass Audubon's Director of Adult Education and Accessible Programs, has a lead role in advancing Mass Audubon's organizational priority to increase access to nature. Since 2007, Lucy has planned the multi-sensory trail experiences and universally designed materials for Mass Audubon's All Persons Trails through an inclusive planning process. She leads a team of regional accessibility specialists who design and deliver adaptive programs and make reasonable accommodations for visitors and program

participants at Mass Audubon's nature centers. Lucy has led multiple trainings and workshops for other organizations wanting to create their own All Persons Trails. She holds a B.S. in Forestry/Wildlife Management/Outdoor Recreation, an M.A. in Education, and completed her Ph.D. studies in Conservation Psychology in 2023.

Chelsey Goddard

Chelsey Goddard, an EDC vice president and nationally recognized expert in prevention science, leads Education Development Center's U.S.-based health, mental health, and behavioral health work. A prevention specialist with a deep commitment to behavioral health equity, she has decades of experience successfully promoting the use of evidence-based, culturally appropriate substance misuse prevention practices. Nationwide, she advances knowledge of the opioid crisis, systems change, prevention workforce training, and co-morbid conditions.

Darren Josey

As a Black and Puerto Rican cisgendered man from the greater Boston area, part of my privilege was being brought into this world by two parents who encouraged me to put myself out there even if I didn't see anyone else who looked like I did. This was the courage I needed for sports like rock climbing, snowboarding, surfing, or working in offices and presenting to executive teams where I was the only person of color. The challenge was the same: prove that I deserved to be there, that my talents made me worthy of the space I was taking up, and that my lived experience could lead to positive change.

My goal with starting First Seed Sown Sales and Marketing was to take my 15+ years of consumer goods experience and dedicate myself to sharing this knowledge with other BIPOC business

people and municipalities with Environmental Justice populations to increase access to the outdoors, health, and happiness for all.

Environmental Justice is Social Justice.

Stephen Larrick

Stephen Larrick is an urbanist and open gov advocate who has worked at the intersection of community planning, municipal governance, and data & technology for over a decade. He joined the MAPC Data Services team in 2022 as Manager of the Digital Group. In this role he oversees both the development of civic technology products and web applications to support transparency and data-driven decision making, as well as MAPC's portfolio of planning and implementation projects to support broadband access and digital equity in greater Boston.

Stephen's previous work includes experience in academia, at an urban technology startup, as a leading government transparency advocate, and as a municipal official. Larrick received his Bachelor's of Arts in Urban Studies and Political Philosophy from Brown University, and lives in Salem, MA with his wife Sarah and their dog Panda.

Bridget Levondowski

Bridget is an Assistive Technology Specialist at Easterseals with a strong background in teaching special education. She is deeply committed to disability advocacy and serves as a Council Member for the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, an Advocacy Ambassador for the National Down Syndrome Society, and a Community Advisory Council Member for the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center at UMASS Chan Medical School. Bridget is also an active

volunteer with the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress

Caitlin McCarthy

Caitlin McCarthy is Appalachian Mountain Club's Trail Programs Manager for Southern New England. Her work includes the management of Professional Trail Crews who have constructed several All Persons Trails in collaboration with partners across Massachusetts. She also manages staff efforts on the Bay Circuit Trail and New England National Scenic Trail. She brings nearly a decade of trail maintenance, construction, and collaborative natural resource management experience. Her passion for increasing sustainable access to the outdoors and facilitating community-based partnerships makes her a qualified candidate for the MA Trails Access Working Group.

Thomas McCarthy

Thomas J. McCarthy, MLA, ASLA, is the creator of the Universal Access Program (UAP), dedicated to opening the state parks of Massachusetts to people of all abilities. UAP provides an inclusive statewide recreation environment, ranging from access to ocean beaches and hiking trails to mountain-top vistas. With more than thirty years of experience, he has presented his innovative approach to audiences nationally and internationally.

Dorothy McGlincy

Dorothy McGlincy is the Executive Director of Massachusetts Associations of Conservation Commissions (MACC). Dot has a strong background serving in non-profit associations over the past 20 years and has a lifelong love of

the environment. She has been a professional environmental scientist since graduating with a degree in geology. She was a New Hampshire Professional Geologist (PG) and a Massachusetts Licensed Site Professional (LSP) for 30 years. Dot is a former President of the LSP Association (LSPA) and has served in leadership roles with the LSPA since 1993. Dot has also served on the Board of Directors and chaired several committees for A Better Chance of Andover, a non-profit group that provides educational opportunities to students of color.

Before joining MACC in August 2017, Dot worked as an environmental compliance manager in industry, as an environmental consultant assessing and cleaning up contaminated sites for clients throughout the United States, and as a project geologist with the Maryland Department of Environmental Resources, Water Resources Section.

When not working for MACC, Dot can often be found walking in the woods or on a beach, helping tend a friend's vineyard, or visiting new art museums.

Liz Myska

Liz Myska is a lawyer in solo practice in Worcester. She also founded a consulting enterprise known as VISIONS centering on accessibility, communication, and sensitivity. Liz is the vice chair of the City of Worcester Accessibility Advisory Commission (AAC) and a member of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB). Liz identifies as a VIP: visually impaired person. She writes, "My blind gig began in 2008 when I was deemed legally blind and had to surrender my driver's license. I had operated as a sighted person for the majority of my personal and professional lives. Age-wise, I was over fifty in 2008. Not being able to drive myself and do things on my own by myself was a real Trails for All: Trail Access Working Group

adjustment- mentally, physically and emotionally. As a lawyer, I am trained to analyze and advocate. I am eager to collaborate and contribute. I welcome the opportunity to be involved in the Massachusetts Trail Access Work group."

Elizabeth Newlands

Elizabeth Newlands currently works in MassWildlife's Land & Habitat Section. Much of her time involves Restriction stewardship, and she often evaluates plans for passive recreational use of conservation lands that were also protected for wildlife and wildlife habitat. Previously, Elizabeth worked with MassAudubon's Ecological Extension Service providing land trusts, municipalities, state agencies and private landowners a variety of natural resource inventory, monitoring and planning services - including recommendations for recreational trail plans.

Doug Pizzi

Doug Pizzi serves as the Executive Director of Mass Parks for All. He previously served on the Massachusetts Conservation Voters Board of Directors. His extensive experience in communications includes a dozen years as a daily newspaper reporter and six years in state government press and legislative relations, including three years at the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. As a communications consultant, he has represented environmental NGO's such as the Community Preservation Coalition, Friends of the Earth, and the National Wildlife Federation.

Peter Quinn

Peter serves on the board of two organizations,

Waypoint Adventure and Compassionate Care ALS. While his disease has prematurely forced his retirement from a career as a management consultant (background in mathematics and business), Peter tries to remain active outdoors, holding onto the joy and inspiration that a physically active life has always offered him. Peter has three children, and lives in Boxborough, MA, where he is sometimes seen on his trike or sitting outside as the snow falls.

Washington State and Alaska. Since 2014 he have worked for The Trustees conducting and overseeing stewardship operations on their properties and trails in Central and Western MA. Through this work he has gained experience with trail and facility accessibility, and directly seen how accessibility improvement projects elevate the experience for all users.

Cody Rooney

Amy Sugihara

Amy Sugihara moved to Northampton with her family in 2021 and, after stints around the country, is happy to make this area home. She has worked in outdoor therapeutic settings, as a school counselor, and now you may see her handcrafted organic body care products at local farmers' markets and gift stores. She is Chair of the Northampton Disability Commission and serves on the board of Friends of Northampton Trails. As an outdoor enthusiast and a recent wheelchair user, she is finding ways to access the outdoors using various mobility devices. Amy brings her enthusiasm for access to trails for all people to her work with the Trail Access Working Group.

Brian Westrick

Brian Westrick is an avid recreationalist, with a particular love for trails. His career started working on trails maintenance projects through AmeriCorps programs in