

February 5, 2023 Application
Application to Appalachian Trail Conservancy for
Appalachian Trail Community Designation

- 1) **Community Name:**
Lee, Massachusetts
- 2) **Community Representative:**
Christopher Brittain, Lee Town Manager
Lee, Massachusetts
32 Main Street
Lee, MA 01238
413-409-5976
cbrittain@town.lee.ma.us
- 3) **Contact Information of Lead Volunteer:**
Debra Cranwell, Chairperson
160 Paul Drive
Lee, MA 01238
413-297-3863
dcranwell2001@yahoo.com

Criteria

- 1) ***Advisory committee Please list committee members, along with their contact info (email preferred), and who they represent from the community. Briefly describe the committee's structure.***

The Select Board of the town of Lee, Massachusetts voted on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 to begin the process of creating an advisory committee to process the ATC Community application for the town of Lee to be designated as an Appalachian Trail Community by the ATC. The Appalachian Trail Community Application Ad Hoc Committee was formed within the town governance to process and submit the Appalachian Trail Community Application to the ATC. The committee will become a permanent town committee and no longer have "ad Hoc" designation when the town is designated by the ATC as an ATC Community. There are 8 members on the advisory committee who are residents of the town of Lee.

Advisory Committee Members

Debra Cranwell Appalachian Trail Community Committee, Chairperson Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management Committee, Volunteer; AMC Member; ATC Member; Avid Hiker dcranwell2001@yahoo.com	Donald Latino Volunteer- Hiker Rides Lives near AT Trailhead Rt. 20 edpognt@gamil.com
Nicole Webster Clarke Education Liaison for AT Community Committee nicolewebsterclark@gmail.com Visual and Fine Arts Educator Lee Middle and High School	Ashley Alter Shepardson Appalachian Trail Angel; Avid Hiker ashley@martinoglass.com
Trish Johnston AMC Member, Avid Hiker Volunteer: AT Trail Maintainer, Lee Cultural Council, Lee Greener Gateway Committee patcjohnston@gmail.com	Zac Sorrentino DPW, Supervisor Maintenance of Public Water/Power Sources in downtown parks/rest stops. zsorrentino@town.lee.ma.us
Jennifer Heath Resource provider of information of goods and services for thru-hikers; Volunteer - Hiker Rides Lee Library, Circulation-Front Desk jmheath5710@gmail.com	Samantha Sorrentino Appalachian Trail Magic sammyraemiller@gmail.com

The Appalachian Trail Community Committee for the Town of Lee, MA holds quarterly Meetings at a Public Location in compliance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. The committee continues with projects in the interim of quarterly meetings.

- 2) ***Annual project or celebration projects or events may include promoting or sponsoring a volunteer workshop/workday, assuring information about the Appalachian Trail and the ATC is available at ongoing community events, etc. Describe the event and list the lead volunteer liaison with contact information.***

Annual Projects 2023 and Going Forward...

1. **Annual AT Information Booth at the Lee Founder's Day Weekend Celebration:** The Appalachian Trail Community Committee is scheduled to work alongside the Lee Land Trust Agency to provide Appalachian Trail Maps and Local Community Trail maps to residents and visitors at our booth during the Lee Founder's Day Weekend Celebration. This year the annual celebration is scheduled for the weekend of September 15-17, 2023. Day and time for the AT Booth has not yet been scheduled by the Founders Day Committee. The Lee Founders Day Weekend Celebration is held annually on the 2nd or 3rd weekend in September, and our committee is looking forward to this year's information booth and plans to continue to work alongside the Lee Land Trust in providing the trail information booth in coming years.
This past fall the AT Community Committee provided the information booth with the Lee Land Trust at the Annual Founders' Day Celebration on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Our booth and trail maps were met with much interest by the public. Volunteer Liaison: Linda Cysz: Lee Land Trust, President, president@leelandtrust.org
2. **Annual Hike:** The AT Community Committee and the AMC will be co-sponsoring an Annual Hike on the Appalachian Trail to Upper Goose Pond during the weekend of June 24-25, 2023, with an AMC Trail Leader that has volunteered. Specific day and time have not been set. The hike will be open to the public and posted on the AMC web site, Town of Lee's "News and Announcements" website, at the Farmer's Market AT/ Lee Land Trust Table and in The Berkshire Eagle newspaper's "Calendar of Events". Additional Berkshire County web site and venues for advertising will be researched as well. The Appalachian Trail Community Committee is looking forward to the hike and plans to hold it annually with the AMC going forward.
Volunteer Liaison: Deb Cranwell: dcranwell2001@yahoo.com

Events and Projects 2023 and Going Forward...

1. **Farmer's Market and Craft Fairs:** Committee members of both the AT Community Committee and the Lee Land Trust will work together at our booth to provide Appalachian Trail and Local Community Trail Maps and information to residents and tourists during the Farmer's Markets and Craft Fairs that are held Saturdays on the Town Common in downtown Lee from Memorial Day Weekend thru Columbus Day. Dates to be determined..
Volunteer Liaison: Deb Cranwell: dcranwell2001@yahoo.com
2. **Lee Chamber of Commerce Information Booth:** The Appalachian Trail Community Committee has provided Appalachian Trail maps and information at the Lee Chamber of Commerce Booth during 2022 and will continue to do so in 2023 and going forward. The Chamber of Commerce Booth is located on the town common and is open to the public from Memorial Day Weekend thru to Columbus Day.
Volunteer Liaison: Deb Cranwell: dcranwell2001@yahoo.com
3. **Hydration Station:** The Appalachian Trail Community Committee provided and operated a hydration station for hikers at the Main Road crossing in Tyringham during extremely dry, hot weather in the summer of 2022. The hydration station provided soda and fruit, as well as water, and it was of great benefit to hikers. Water supply was also be provided and monitored at other AT road crossings where water supply was needed. The Appalachian Trail Community Committee saw that these offerings were well accepted and appreciated in 2022 by hikers and the committee will continue to provide the hydration station and water drops during the hiking season of 2023 and ongoing.
Volunteer Liaison: Trish Johnston: patcjohnston@gmail.com

4. **Slackpacking Offered at Hydration Station:** Slackpacking was offered to thru-hikers along the Tyringham section of the trail in the hiking season of 2022 when it appeared to be needed by hikers commencing to make the climb up Baldy Mountain from the operated hydration station. The slackpacking was appreciated by hikers that were having physical difficulties in 2022 and the AT Community Committee will continue to offer slack packing at the manned station in the hiking season of 2023 and going forward.
Volunteer Liaison: Trish Johnston: patcjohnston@gmail.com
5. **Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management Committee:** Several members of the Appalachian Trail Community Committee are presently volunteers with the Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management Committee and are also members of the Appalachian Mountain Club. These members presently volunteer as trail maintainers and frequently sign up to participate in additional trail projects with the AT Management Committee. This volunteering by committee members will continue in 2023 and ongoing. Our committee is brainstorming ways to expand with new committee members and increase volunteering with the Massachusetts AT Management committee in the future.
Volunteer Liaison: Trish Johnston: patcjohnston@gmail.com

Massachusetts Walking Tour, June 17-26, 2022, Appalachian Trail –Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Walking Tour is a not for profit organization from Central Massachusetts that annually hikes and performs in concerts within the state of Massachusetts for 10 consecutive days to generate awareness of the trails within the communities and the state. In June of 2022 the Massachusetts Walking Tour chose the ninety mile section of the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts for their hike and made 10 separate town performances. The tour was assisted by towns and communities along the Appalachian Trail as well as volunteers from the Appalachian Mountain Club and the ATC Community Committees of Dalton and Cheshire.

The Town of Lee ATC Community Committee assisted the Massachusetts Walking Tour prior to and during their performances in both the towns of Tyringham and Lee, Massachusetts. In late spring the Lee ATC Committee met with a walking tour co- founder, Raianne Richards, and assisted in the distribution of posters and fliers throughout central Berkshire County.

During the Massachusetts Walking Tour event, the Lee ATC Community Committee assisted the tour's members with transportation for themselves and their backpacks and instruments and as well as slack packing the group while they hiked through difficult elevation sections of the Appalachian Trail.

The ATC Community Committee of Lee attended the concerts in the town of Tyringham on Monday, June 20, as well as, the Lee Library Concert on Tuesday, June 21, at 6:00 pm. The committee subsequently assisted in transporting the tour group to their overnight accommodations in the next town as well as transporting their gear and instruments.

Close ties and bonds have developed throughout Berkshire County towns and communities with The Massachusetts Walking Tour members as a result of their dedication to perform and hike the Appalachian Trail for 10 very difficult days. Their recognition of the Appalachian Trail drew much beneficial attention to the Appalachian Trail as well as the ATC. <https://masswalkingtour.org/home/2022-tour>

3) ***A.T. educational or service learning project. Describe the event and list the lead volunteer liaison with contact information.***

Lee Middle and High School Appalachian Trail Education Program 2023 and ongoing...

The AT Community Committee is working in conjunction with the Massachusetts AT Management Committee/AMC and the school AT Community Committee member and Teacher/Faculty Liaison, Nicole Clarke, to provide educational programs and trail experiences for students that attend Lee Middle and High School.

An AT Trail Event is being created for students to attend this coming May. It will include a hike along the AT and a simple management project. The AT Trail Event is the final leg of the Educational Program which began on December 8, 2022 with 2 Appalachian Trail Informational Assemblies that were presented to both Lee Middle and Lee High School by the Massachusetts AT Management Committee. The assemblies were then followed up with presentations on January 20, 2023, LMHS Intercession Day, that provided two 1 hour demonstrations of hiking gear and discussion on trail safety. Both the December 8, 2022 assemblies and Intercession day demonstrations held on January 20, 2023 were well attended by students.

It is the intention of the Appalachian Trail Community Committee to continue to provide AT Education Programs within the Lee School system, ongoing. The more our committee and the AT Management Committee/AMC becomes involved with the students, the more we will understand the students' interests about the trail and encourage those interests in future educational programs

Volunteer Liaison: Nicole Webster:

December 8, 2022

A Lee Middle and High School Assembly took place in the school auditorium on December 8, 2022 to introduce students to the Appalachian Trail. Cosmo Catalano and Monica Aguilar from the Massachusetts AT Management Committee/AMC were the presenters and were well received by the student assembly. AT Community Committee Chair, Deb Cranwell, assisted in the introduction and was involved in the student discuss following the presentation.

January 20, 2023

Intercession Day January 20, 2023 at Lee Middle and High School: "Love to Learn Day"

The intercession day was well attended in both the Middle School and High School sessions. In total, 24 students attended and were involved in discussion with Cosmo Catalano, Monica Aguilar and Deb Cranwell regarding thru hiking and day hiking gear and hiking safety.

May 2023

Lee Middle and High School – Appalachian Trail Community Trail Day

Students will sign up to experience the trail on their community service day. Nicole Clark will work with Cosmo Catalano and Deb Cranwell to develop this event. Volunteer Liaison: nicolewebsterclark@gmail.com

- 4) *Language for the protection of the A.T. is included in land-use plans, planning tools, ordinances or guidelines; or there is demonstrated support to amend, change, or add such plans. Attach any necessary documents, state the support for these tools, and list who is the lead contact for this initiative.*

The 2000 Lee, Massachusetts Master Plan, Section IX –Natural Resources, Open Space, and Outdoor recreation, and Section X-Sustainable Land Use, includes extensive language regarding the protection and ongoing preservation of open space and the public use of open space within the town of Lee.

Information available at:

- **Town of Lee, Massachusetts Comprehensive Master Plan**
Section IX: p.85 Natural Resources, Open Space, and Outdoor Recreation
Section X: p.95 Sustainable Land Use
<https://www.lee.ma.us/land-use/pages/2022-master-plan>

The Town of Lee, Massachusetts is updating its Comprehensive Master Plan in 2022-2023.

- **The Town of Lee Conservation Commission adopted the Scenic Mountain Act regulations as of October 24, 2008.**

Information available at:

Town of Lee Massachusetts Scenic Mountain Act
<https://www.lee.ma.us/land-use/pages/scenic-mountain-act>

Town of Lee Massachusetts Conservation Commission
<https://www.lee.ma.us/conservation-commission>

- **2016 Open Space & Recreation Plan for Lee, Massachusetts**

Plan prepared by the Lee Open Space and Recreation Task Force, Lee Youth Commission, Lee Conservation Commission, and Lee Planning Board with the assistance of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The task force mission is to protect open space and provide recreational opportunities.

[https://www.lee.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif771/f/uploads/leeosrjanuary 2016 published.pdf](https://www.lee.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif771/f/uploads/leeosrjanuary%202016%20published.pdf)

- The lead contact in the Town of Lee for the protection of land use, the above initiatives, and the protection of the Appalachian Trail is Lee Town Manager, Christopher Britain, cbrittain@town.lee.ma.us
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5) Describe why your town should be selected as an Appalachian Trail Community TM. What can this program do for your community? What can your town do for the Appalachian Trail?

What can this program do for your community?

- Increase Tourism
- Generate Economic Growth and Land Conservation
- Encourage residents to pursue hiking thru education programs and hiking

What can your town do for the Appalachian Trail?

- Increase awareness of the Appalachian Trail thru Community Programs:
- Teacher led trail learning programs
- Community Clean up days on the AT
- Encourage residents to provide rides to AT thru-hikers to and from town
- Provide Massachusetts AT Trail maps at locations throughout Lee: Lee Chamber of Commerce Booth, Library, Businesses
- Encourage Lee businesses to provide discounts to thru-hikers
- Encourage businesses to include AT information on their web-sites.
- Notify Businesses of hiker web sites where they can advertise discounts
- Create community awareness of thru-hikers and support their needs.
- Generate awareness to local towns and community residents that the Appalachian Trail is located within the town of Lee and has accessible trailheads
- Generate awareness that the Upper Goose Pond Cabin which is part of the National Parks Services and the ATC is within borders of the town of Lee
- Encourage the town residents and groups to become members of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Appalachian Mountain Club that maintains AT Trails in Berkshire County
- Encourage town residents to volunteer with the Appalachian Trail Management Committee
- Inform the public of the need for volunteer caretakers at the goose Pond Cabin throughout the season that it is open to hikers.
- Provides food re-supply at Local Big Y grocery store as well as charging of devices
- Provides Lodging for thru-hikers
- Provides electric outlet access for recharging of hiker's' devices at Town Kiosks and restaurants
- Provides camping gear at local Lee hardware store and Arcadian shop in Lenox, MA
- Provides water sources in public spaces within the town of Lee
- Provides direct access to Massachusetts Turn Pike, Peter Pan and Greyhound Bus Services, Local county bus services, and Uber Services
- 1 Hour distance from Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, Connecticut - Hartford

The Massachusetts Turnpike Exit into Lee makes Lee the Central Hub and "Gateway to the Berkshires"

6) What does your community hope to gain from the A.T. Community Program?

Our community hopes to gain all of the bullets listed below:

- Being a part of the national designation network
 - Increased environmental stewardship among community
 - Increased recognition & visibility through signage, media, etc.
 - Enhanced partnerships with public land agencies
 - Increased cultural sustainability
 - Increased sense of place
 - Increased community viability and economic health
 - Increased connections between our community and the A.T.
 - Getting more teachers involved in place-based service learning
 - Recognition of community as a recreation destination
 - Enhanced partnerships with Volunteers
 - Increased visitation
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7) What can your town do for the Appalachian Trail?

- Increase knowledge of A.T. as a community asset
- Build membership for local A.T. club and ATC
- Protect resources within the Trail corridor through planning: zoning regulations, smart growth, etc.
- Increase availability of information regarding the A.T. and its relationship to the community
- Increase proper use of the A.T. and community familiarity with Leave No Trace practices
- Include A.T. in community marketing info – brochures, websites, etc.
- Community awareness of the local A.T. sections and access points
- Increase partnerships and dialogue among land managers, volunteers, and town leadership
- Support teachers who bring the A.T. to their students

8) What is your community's stage of action for each of the following?

We have strong partnerships with public land agencies (local or federal)	Town of Lee governance is already doing this.
We offer clear communication about the A.T. to wider audiences via our website, signage, newsletters, etc.	Appalachian Trail Articles appear in the Berkshire Eagle and at New England Public Media www.nepm.org/ Town Web Site Posts AT Community information under "News and Announcements" - www.lee.ma.us/
We have committed volunteer leadership for the A.T. in our community	Already doing this.
New A.T. volunteers have recently stepped up to lead community efforts	Already doing this.
Info about the A.T. is included in our community brochures	Lee businesses provide AT info on their Web sites. AT Maps are provided at Lee Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center
Info about the A.T. can be easily found on our community website(s)	Already doing this-just refining www.lee.ma.us/ "News and Announcements"
Community events have a clear focus on trails and outdoor recreation	Already doing this-just refining. AT Information Booth at Farmer's Market
We offer community-led hikes on the A.T	Started taking specific actions and will co-sponsor hikes with AMC Western Mass
We have regular programs or events for protection of the AT	AT Community Committee members volunteer with the Massachusetts AT Management Committee
We regularly partner with the ATC on programs or events	AT Community Committee members volunteer with the Massachusetts AT Management Committee
We regularly donate to the ATC	AT Community Committee is under Town Government. Volunteer time is donated to the ATC

9) Please describe your partnerships with public land agencies and with volunteers.

The Town of Lee governance and the town's Department of Public Works, maintain relationships and works alongside the following public agencies and non-profit agencies.

Lee Land Trust

The Lee Land Trust is an independent, non-profit, tax exempt organization that is committed to the preservation of land and the maintenance of land and land resources within the town of Lee. The Town of Lee works with the Lee Land Trust to maintain safety on the public hiking trails and properties within the town. www.leelandtrust.org.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation is the state agency that manages publicly held state land for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. DCR manages and maintains the two state parks that are partially located within Lee Massachusetts, October Mountain State Forest and Bear Town State Forest. The Appalachian Trail passes through both of these state parks, and the Massachusetts AT Management Committee/AMC works alongside the DCR to maintain these sections of trail. The Lee DPW is responsible for and maintains the Lee town roadway that passes through October Mountain State Forest. <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-conservation-and-recreation>

Lee Greener Gateway Committee

The Recycling/Greener Gateway Committee is a town committee whose mission is to be instrumental in Lee's becoming a Greener Gateway to the Berkshires – more environmentally-friendly, sustainable, and attractive for residents, visitors, and future generations. Two examples of projects are the following:

- Reducing the use of plastics: We were the driving force behind the bylaws passed at the 2016 Town Meeting regulating the use of thin-film plastic shopping bags and polystyrene drink and food containers.
- During the Committee's 6th annual roadside clean up, April 30, 2022, the committee and group of volunteers removed 70 bags of trash, 47 bags of recyclables, an unbelievable 965 nip bottles, tires and even golf clubs. The event ended with volunteers receiving a thank-you bag.
- Achieving zero-waste: Since 2013, we have worked closely with the Lee Chamber of Commerce and others to achieve zero-waste during Founders Weekend, getting closer to our goal each year. www.lee.ma.us

Massachusetts Department of Transportation

The Lee DPW works directly with the MASS DOT in maintaining road infrastructure projects within the town of Lee and maintains the plowing of public sidewalks along state roads within the town.

Trustees of Reservations

The Town of Lee acknowledges and supports the non-profit group, Trustees of Reservations, in their maintaining of Donato's Trail/Goose Pond Reservation that is located in South Lee, Massachusetts. <https://thetrustees.org/>

Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management Committee

The Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management Committee protects, manages, and maintains the 90 mile stretch of Appalachian Trail that passes through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The management committee also provides the maintenance and caretaking of the Upper Goose Pond Cabin that provides overnight accommodation and camp sites for hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Lee Appalachian Trail Community Committee members volunteer with the management committee as trail maintainers and also volunteer with the management committee on Appalachian Trail projects. The Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management committee comes under the umbrella of the Appalachian Mountain Club. <https://www.amc-wma.org/at>

Western Massachusetts Appalachian Mountain Club Chapter

The Western Massachusetts Appalachian Mountain Club Chapter offers many recreational opportunities to the public in Western Massachusetts as well as Trail Leadership training programs. Lee Appalachian Trail Community Committee members are considering training as hike leaders with the AMC. <https://www.amc-wma.org/about-us>

10) *What cultural and/or historical information is available about your community?*

Lee's Incorporation

The first settlement in the area, now known as Lee, was originally called Dodgetown as early as 1760. Dodgetown was named after its founding settler, Asahel Dodge, who immigrated to the area from Cape Cod. Lee was incorporated in 1777 from lands of Great Barrington and Washington. It is estimated that the population at the time of incorporation was around 200. The Town was named after Revolutionary War General Charles Lee.

As a result of the of the Revolutionary War, the pursuit of an ordinary life on Cape Cod became difficult due to the loss of men, money, and the breaking up of the fishing industry. Due to loss of livelihood, people began migrating west. Rumors of the rich fertile lands on the Housatonic River spread that resulted with in gradual influx of settlers from the east coast of Massachusetts. As the old story goes, when east coast settler James Goodspeed arrived in Lee in 1780 and came in sight of the house where his Uncle Hamblin lived, he asked, "Whose hog-pen is that with a chimney to it? ", "be quiet," was the reply; "That is where your uncle lives." Most homes at that time were small log houses located on the side of mountains. Marked trees glazed roadways and a tree felled across a river served as a bridge. Sounds a lot like the AT?

At the time of Lee's incorporation in 1777 there remained a small number of Mohican Native Americans that resided in the Stockbridge, Massachusetts Township that borders with Lee. Prior to that time, the Mohican had lived sparsely in the territory and were mostly known as the Stockbridge or Housatonic Tribe. The Mohican claims to land were recognized by the settlers and they were compensated at the time of land sales with money, cider and/or rum. There was no village of Native Americans in Lee, but Mohican Native Americans were known to camp in Lee along the Housatonic River, for 4-6 weeks in the early spring to make maple sugar from the syrup running trees. Over time, the dwindling Mohican population took on the ways of settlers' dress and lifestyle and many migrated further west to the Oneida Reservation in New York or further onto Wisconsin or Missouri.

Lee's Heritage

Lee has a strong heritage of being a paper mill town. In 1867, with 25 paper mills, Lee was the leading manufacturer of paper in the United States. Lee is also well known for its marble quarry that produced and provided marble for the building of many historical buildings and monuments throughout the United States including St. Patrick's Cathedral and Grant's tomb in New York City, and The Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument in DC.

The beginning of the 21st century saw a decline in the paper industry in Lee as the paper industry relocated to other regions of the United States, as well as overseas. As of 2000, there remained 5 paper mills in Lee. Today, one mill, the Willow Mill that produces specialty papers, remains in operation in South Lee. Both Marble and Lime continue to be mined in Lee today.

The town of Lee continues to have manufacturing companies along the Housatonic River and has become a popular location for upstart corporations such as the growing medical supply industry. Lee has also become a popular location in the development of the cannabis agriculture industry.

Because of its close location to New York City and Boston, Berkshire County has always been a vacation destination and cultural mecca. Over the past 20 years, Lee has capitalized on this and has emerged into a popular destination for vacations, shopping, entertainment and fine dining.

Lee, The Centennial Celebration, And Centennial History of The Town of Lee, Mass, Rev. C.M. Hyde, D.D., And Alexander Hyde, Published by Vote of the Town, Springfield, Mass: Clark W. Bryan and Company Printers. 1878

11) *What recreation opportunities, major ongoing festivals, and events does your community offer?*

Whether one is looking for outdoor adventure, music, art, fine dining or just putting your feet up, you'll find it in Lee, Massachusetts, the Gateway to the Berkshires. Lee offers many cultural events and activities. Directly off of the Massachusetts Turnpike at Exit 10, Lee offers a diverse array of cultural activities throughout the Berkshires from Tanglewood Music Center and Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Massachusetts to Mass MOCA in North Adams.

Lee, Massachusetts welcomes tourists and residents alike to enjoy its many ongoing festivals, fine restaurants, hiking trails, Golf Course, Inns, Bed and Breakfasts, shops and many events throughout the year. We welcome residents and tourists alike to gather on a park bench on the town green in the center of town. The property of the First Congregational Church of Lee, the green is the focal point of the weekly Saturday Farmers Market, Sunday Concerts in the Park, Art festivals, Jazz weekends and Friday Night family movies under the summer skies. Not to mention, the Lee Chamber of Commerce information booth on the green where its volunteers provide diverse information and brochures for activities throughout the Berkshires.

Outdoor activities in Lee include hiking and camping in October Mountain State Forest and Beartown State Forest, hiking the Appalachian Trail or just walking around town to scope out the fine eateries, library and shops. There are also many shorter footpaths in town maintained by the town's non-profit, Lee Land Trust. Whether visitors just want to put their feet up or go for a swim there is always Lee's town beach, Sandy Beach, for a change of pace.

The Town of Lee's main event is the Annual Lee Founders Day Weekend which takes place in September. The weekend begins with outdoor food vending and Fireworks on Friday night and continues throughout the weekend with the Saturday parade, food and dining, craft exhibits and many open markets. There is never a dull moment in downtown Lee!

- Annual Lee Founders Day Weekend Festival-September
 - Weekly Saturday Farmer's Market held from Memorial Day thru Columbus Day Weekend
 - Greenock Country Club-Public golf Course
 - Summer Jazz Weekend-Sponsored by First Church of Christ
 - Craft Fair-August
 - Friday Night Movies in the Park
 - Lee Sandy Beach-public beach
 - Art in the Park Festival 3 separate weekends –May, August, September
 - Creative Lee-Lee Library display of local artists
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12) Hiker Services availability + 13) Please describe any of the hiker services. Include the types of signage, kiosks, and information locally available regarding the A.T. and any other relevant information.

Lodging: Widely Available Lodging is widely available in the town of Lee, beginning with 3 motels located on Housatonic St as hikers come into the town of Lee from the trail. There is also a motel in Becket directly south of the trail on Rt. 20 as hikers approach the road.

Camping: Limited Availability Camping is available to thru-hikers at the Upper Goose Pond Cabin that is located on the side trail in Upper Goose Pond in Lee, MA.

Outfitter: Available Carr Hardware in downtown Lee provides camping gear for hikers. Arcadian Shop Outfitter in the neighboring town of Lenox, MA provides gear and clothing for hikers.

8 ATM Locations: Widely Available Greylock Federal Credit Union, Lee Bank, Berkshire Bank, Mobil Gas Station, Big Y Grocery Store, Chase, Shell Gas Station, and Citgo Gas Station.

Restaurants: Widely Available There are 15 plus restaurants in the town of Lee, as well as quick dine-in or take-out services at Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, McDonalds, Subway and the Red Apple Chinese Restaurant.

Laundry: Available Laundry services are available at most motels as well as Lee Wash & Dry Laundromat in downtown Lee.

Grocery Store: Available Big Y World Class Market is available to thru-hikers on Rt. 102 in Lee as hikers approach the town and the Big Y is located conveniently near motels. There are also 5 convenience stores in Lee, 3 of which are located near the motels.

Farmer's Market: Available Farmer's Market is located in the town park every Saturday from 10am-2pm, Memorial Day Weekend thru Columbus Day Weekend.

Shuttle from AT to Town: Available Town residents frequently offer rides to thru-hikers when they see them walking to and from the trail. Several trail angels have registered their availability to provide rides to thru-hikers on hiker web sites, and at the local hardware store and Lee motels. Gidget and Gadget's AT Shuttle Service is also available to thru-hikers throughout Berkshire County. Uber services are also available to thru-hikers. Start-up shuttle services are developing in the towns surrounding the AT.

Shuttle Services available to points north and south along the AT: Available Berkshire Regional Transit Authority, "BRTA", provides local bus service throughout South, Central and North Berkshire County and bus stops on the main roads of downtown Lee. Amtrak Train services are available from the train station in Pittsfield, MA. Peter Pan Bus and Greyhound Bus Services provide long distance bus services from downtown Lee, MA.

Showers: Available Lodging required for showers. The town barber shop and hair dressers provide walk in services.

Pharmacy/Medical Services: Available There are 2 pharmacies in Lee, MA: Big Y Pharmacy and Walgreens Pharmacy. Berkshire Medical Center is located 12 miles north in Pittsfield, as well as Urgent Care services in Pittsfield. Fairview Hospital is located 12 miles south in Great Barrington, MA.

Library/Computer/Internet: Available Lee Library provides computers for use. Starbucks and BIG Y provide WIFI and electrical outlets for recharging electronic devices as do chain restaurants in town.

Visitor or Welcome Center: Available The Lee Chamber of Commerce has an information booth located in the Town Park that is a resource of information for visitors to Lee and the Berkshires. It is attended by volunteers from Memorial Day Weekend through Columbus Day Weekend.

Post Office: Available Lee Post office is located in the center of town and is easily accessible to thru-hikers with hours of operation Monday through Saturday.

Public Restrooms: Available Public restrooms are available in the Lee Town Hall, and the Lee Library. Portable public rest rooms are located across from the Lee Post Office and at the Lee Athletic Field.

Discounts for Hikers: Lee Businesses are being approached to suggest that they offer discounts to thru-hikers. **Big Y Supermarket** provides a “**Big Y Loyalty Program Discount Card**” to thru-hikers that inquire at the Customer Service Desk.

Storage for Hikers: Storage is **not available** at this time.

Shuttle Service to the Airport: Available Thru-hikers can arrange for transportation services posted on hiker internet apps to transport them to Bradley International Airport in Hartford, Connecticut. Uber services and small taxi companies in the area are also available for transportation to the airport.

Car Rental/Taxi Services: Available Uber services are available in Berkshire County. Private and professional car shuttle services are available to hikers on hiker Apps. Car Rental is available from RW's of Lee, MA. Car rental is in available through Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Hertz Rental Services in Pittsfield, MA.

AT Souvenirs: Lee gift shops have expressed interest in providing AT souvenirs for their customers to purchase.

Signage about the AT: To be developed by the town of Lee with the assistance of the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Kiosks about the AT: Kiosks for the Appalachian Trail are located at the both the AT Trailhead at the Jacobs Ladder Scenic Byway Parking Lot located on Rt. 20, Becket, MA, and at the AT Trailhead on Main Road in Tyringham, MA.

Info about the role of the AT in your Community: To be developed with the assistance of the Lee School System, Appalachian Trail Mountain Club, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Town of Lee Appalachian Trail Community Committee. The Lee Appalachian Trail Community Application process has been discussed in articles in the Berkshire Eagle Newspaper, 1/28/22 and New England Public Media, www.nepm.org/ 12/2/22.

14) Please describe the locations AND state of the access points of the A.T. Where are the closest trailheads and what improvements might be needed?

Lee town center is within close proximity to AT Kiosks and many town roads that the Appalachian Trail crosses in Lee and the bordering towns of Tyringham, Becket and Washington, MA. The access points are well maintained.

- Trailhead- Jacob's Ladder Scenic Byway and Appalachian Trail Trailhead Kiosk, Route 20 Becket, MA, is 4.7 miles from downtown Lee, MA
There is ample parking, and the Appalachian Trail, both north and south bound is less than 5 minutes walking distance from the parking lot. Upper Goose Pond Cabin is approximately 1.6 miles southbound on the Appalachian Trail from the parking lot.
- Goose Pond Road, Lee, MA. Appalachian Trail parking in available off road. Access to trail both north and south bound is directly next to parking area, Upper Goose Pond Cabin is approximately 2.8 miles north bound from Goose Pond Road and the Main Rd in Tyringham is 4.3 miles south bound on the trail from Goose Pond Road.
- Webster Rd, Tyringham, MA Appalachian Trail access is 6.4 miles from the town of Lee. There is a limit of 1-2 cars off road parking. Appalachian Trail both north and south bound crosses road next to parking. Upper goose Pond Cabin is 3.4 miles northbound from Webster Road.
- Jerusalem Rd, Tyringham, MA is 5.5 miles from the town of Lee. Limited roadside parking is available for pick up and drops off. Appalachian Trail both north and south bound is directly next to parking. Shaker campsite is approximately 1.9 miles southbound on the Appalachian Trail from Jerusalem Road.
- Trailhead – Appalachian Trail Kiosk, 176 Main Rd, Tyringham, MA is 6 miles from downtown Lee. There is limited parking. Appalachian Trail both north and south bound is directly next to parking lot. Upper Goose Pond Cabin is approximately 7 miles north bound and the Shaker campsite is 2.9 miles south bound on the Appalachian Trail from Main Road parking.
- Becket Road, Becket, MA Appalachian Trail access is 5 miles from the town of Lee. There is very limited roadside parking suitable for pick up and drop off. Appalachian Trail both north and south bound is directly next to the roadside parking area. October Mountain shelter is 6.5 miles on the Appalachian Trail north bound from Becket Road.
- County Road, Becket, MA Appalachian Trail access is 10 miles from Lee, MA. There is a limit of 1-3 cars off road parking. The Appalachian Trail both north and south bound is within short walking distance from parking. October Mountain shelter is approximately 1.6 miles north bound on the trail from County Road.
- West Branch Road, Washington, MA, Appalachian Trail Access is 15 miles from Lee, MA. There is a limit of 1-3 cars off road parking. Appalachian Trail both north and south bound is directly next to parking. October Mountain Shelter is approximately 1/2 mile southbound on the Appalachian Trail from West Branch Road.

15) ATC frequently hosts workshops and conferences. Please list facilities in your community that can host a group of 40 people or more. Also include information about any community centers.

The following venues could be available in the town of Lee, MA for the ATC to host workshops and conferences:

- Lee Middle and High School Cafeteria and Henry Zukowski Auditorium, 300 Greylock Street, Lee
- Lee Elementary School, Cafeteria, 310 Greylock Street, Lee
- Greenock Country Club, 220 Park Street, Lee
- Lee Athletic Field, Housatonic Street, Lee
- First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ – Town Common and Community room, 25 Park Plaza, Lee
- St. Mary's School Gymnasium, 115 Orchard Street, Lee
- Lee Central Senior Housing, Activity Center and Gymnasium, 21 Crossway Street, Lee

Addendum: Generating Awareness of the Appalachian Trail and of the Town of Lee's application to be designated an Appalachian Trail Community with the Appalachian Trail conservancy:

- **The Berkshire Eagle, August 3, 2022**

In Search of Ninety Miles of News, an Eagle Beat Reporter Hits the Appalachian Trail

Follow Along as Greta Jochem Hikes the Full Massachusetts Section of the Trail

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/local/greta-jochem-appalachian-trail-berkshire-eagle/article_a90c9814-1283-11ed-8087-8f6889bd79fe.html

- **The Berkshire Eagle, August 7, 2022**

A Member of the 'Gray Walkers' offers this sisterly advice on the Appalachian Trail, Embrace the Stink

Article Section 3: "Wheels is Yet another Angel of the Trail", features Debbie Cranwell, aka. "Wheels" on the AT.

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/local/greta-jochem-appalachian-trail-berkshire-eagle/article_bb2bd6ba-14f7-11ed-9221-cbb626349580.html

- **The Berkshire Eagle, November 8, 2022**

Lee Applies to Be An Official Appalachian Trail community Soon, thanks to Cranwell's work off the trail, Lee may be officially recognized as an Appalachian Trail community.,

- **New England Public Media Article December 2, 2022**

Appalachian Trail 'Community Designation' Could Boost Community Interest in Lee, article based on an interview with Debra Cranwell while she was out hiking.

<https://www.nepm.org/regional-news/2022-12-02/appalachian-trail-community-designation-could-boost-hiker-interest-in-lee>

- **Lee Greener Gateway** will be including Appalachian Trail Community Application and Trail and Hiker support information in its Spring Flyer 2023, <https://grassrootsfund.org/groups/lee-greener-gateway-committee>
- **Lee Historical Society** is writing an article on the History of the Appalachian Trail and the Upper Goose Pond Cabin for its March Newsletter 2023 and is also featuring Lee's Application to be designated as an AT Community in the article.,
<https://www.countyoffice.org/lee-historical-society-lee-ma-070/>
- **Town of Lee Website, "News and Announcements"** has posted the submitted Appalachian Trail Community Application for the general public to read on its main page under "News and Announcements". www.lee.ma.us
- **Lee Chamber of Commerce** posts trail information on its website, Click on 'Outdoor' and "Fifteen Hikes"
<https://leechamber.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Hiking-Handout.pdf>