

November 9, 1975

Selectmen, Town of New Durham, N.H.

Subject: Perambulation of the Alton-New Durham Town Line

Following a conversation with Mr. Harry Nutter last Tuesday concerning perambulation of the Alton-New Durham Town Line there were some preliminary discussions with the Town Engineer of Alton, Mr. Keller, regarding Alton's involvement in the perambulation especially a visit to the "5 corners" marker which marks the common corners of Farmington, Strafford, Barnstead, Alton and New Durham.

On Thursday, November 6, I visited the "5 corners" marker and a marker some 52 rods northerly of that point. I had no trouble finding the points but it is a fairly long and indirect route from the nearest access road. Now, I can guide others to that point without difficulty.

After some further reflection on the overall perambulations it has seemed desirable that I report on what I have personally observed during this current year and in the recent past for your consideration and for the benefit of the town of Alton. After review of this report specific arrangements can be made to further verify the existing markers and perhaps more importantly to set additional markers where needed.

During the past few years I have surveyed several parcels of land which have boundaries on the Alton-New Durham line and I am aware that other surveys have been made which serve to further identify the several town line markers. For example, I discovered this past Thursday that a survey of land at the extreme southern end of Alton had included the "5 corners" marker. Such surveys add more detailed knowledge to our knowledge of the town line especially courses and distances between the monuments.

As a part of the Tax Map project for New Durham the location of the town line markers will be shown especially at points where road crossings occur. During the past three months I have personally verified all of the existing town line markers between "5 corners" and the northwest corner of New Durham except for one which is supposed to be 172 rods northerly along the town line from Old Bay Road.

I have been over much of the remaining portion of the Alton-New Durham Town line during my surveys of lands for Tree Growers, Inc. This portion of the town line is rather poorly defined and the absence of any monument at the Rines (Caverly) road crossing is an especially bad situation.

The marker at Old Bay road crossing was removed several years ago incident to removal of the stone wall located there and bulldozer work on the Marsh Hill road has obliterated the marker at that location. During the past year a roadside marker has been placed on the Chesley Road crossing but this is a rather temporary measure. Search for the marker (bottom rock in stone wall marked L 1913-20-27-34) was unsuccessful.

As you know the total length of the Alton-New Durham town line is about 15 miles and a hike around the entire length would be a strenuous and time consuming exercise. Ideally the entire length of the boundary line should be clearly marked with monuments at critical points, especially at road crossings, generally not less frequent than half mile intervals. This ideal would be quite expensive since it would involve laborious field surveys to interrelate all points. Fortunately recent aerial photography, property surveys and personal observations can materially aid the verification of the town line. Nevertheless just to view the existing markers would require the better part of two days time though many of these are accessible by car. I believe at least two persons representing each town should participate in the viewing and these persons should be designated by the two respective town's selectmen. A report on the perambulation and some sort of diagram should be prepared for record purposes.

I strongly urge that new markers be set at all road crossings where none exist or where they have been lost. This would include: N.H. Route 11, Old Bay Road, Marsh Hill Road, Chesley Road and Rine's (Caverly) road. Preferably, cut stone posts should be used.

The best time for this viewing is in the next 3 weeks before snow and inclement weather arrive.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas R. Woodward