

Mon. Jan. 10. 2022

Evidence of the Ancient Way on Fearing Hill

December 1989. While having our house built on Helen St. West Wareham, we had an unexpected visit from a lawyer for Plymouth Bank. The sole reason for his visit was the placement of the structure on the lot. The bank would not fund my mortgage if the structure was on the Ancient way that ran through the property - or if an addition to the structure such as a breezeway or garage would impede use of the Ancient way/ Pre Civil War carriage path. The reason given was that, being on the Ancient Way ,the mortgage / structure could not be foreclosed on, repossessed or have a lien placed against it. The lawyer moved the placement of the structure into the corner of the lot with only a 1 foot envelope of movement on all sides. This would allow the bank the ability to have legal ways to collect, repossess, or otherwise regain its investment in the property.

In addition- approximately June of 1990, while on our property, Mr. John Ashley, a Freetown selectman, agreed with the bank's assessment of the property. John cited the fact that a pre-Civil War carriage path from a "way station" at the end of Ann Record Lane in East Freetown ran through the property and was a rite of way for anyone born before the civil war to pass through the area. The structure would indeed need a front and back door large enough to let a horse and carriage through. Mr Ashley was adamant that it was also a rite of way for indigenous peoples in the area.

Lastly, he pointed to several different types of Lady Slipper flowers that were growing all over the property which is also the highest point in Wareham, as per a Geodesic Marker on the property. Mr. Ashley said that I would not have been the only person he knew who didn't have to pay his mortgage to a bank without the ability to recourse their funds.

Respectfully, David Moretti
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