

---

# Google Earth Pro Monitoring Training

September 29, 2018

---



CONNECTICUT  
Land Conservation Council

# Agenda



1. Introduction
2. LTA Requirements
3. Weantinoge Protocol
4. Exploring Google Earth Pro
5. Concerns
6. Record Keeping



Photo: Bill Martin

# Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust

**SAVE THE LAND**  
SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY



**WEANTINOGE**  
HERITAGE LAND TRUST



- 52th Anniversary
- Accredited in 2015
- Largest land trust in Connecticut
- 18th largest in USA
- 10,000+ acres conserved
- 17 Towns
  - 181 easements
  - 202 preserves
- 6 full time staff
- Other partnerships

# LTA Requirements



- Monitoring best practices from LTA:

## Conservation Easement Monitoring and Conservation Property Inspections <sup>11C2, 12C2</sup>

- Each conservation easement monitored once per calendar year. (Monitoring shown over accredited term at renewal; shown over last three years at first-time.)
- Each conservation property inspected once per calendar year. (Inspections shown over accredited term at renewal, shown over last three years at first time. Starting in 2021 for first-time)
- If aerially monitoring conservation easements, on-the-ground monitoring occurs at least once every five years.

- Aerial monitoring includes:
  - Airplane, drone, aerial photographs from Google Earth Pro
- No LIMIT on how many properties can be monitored.

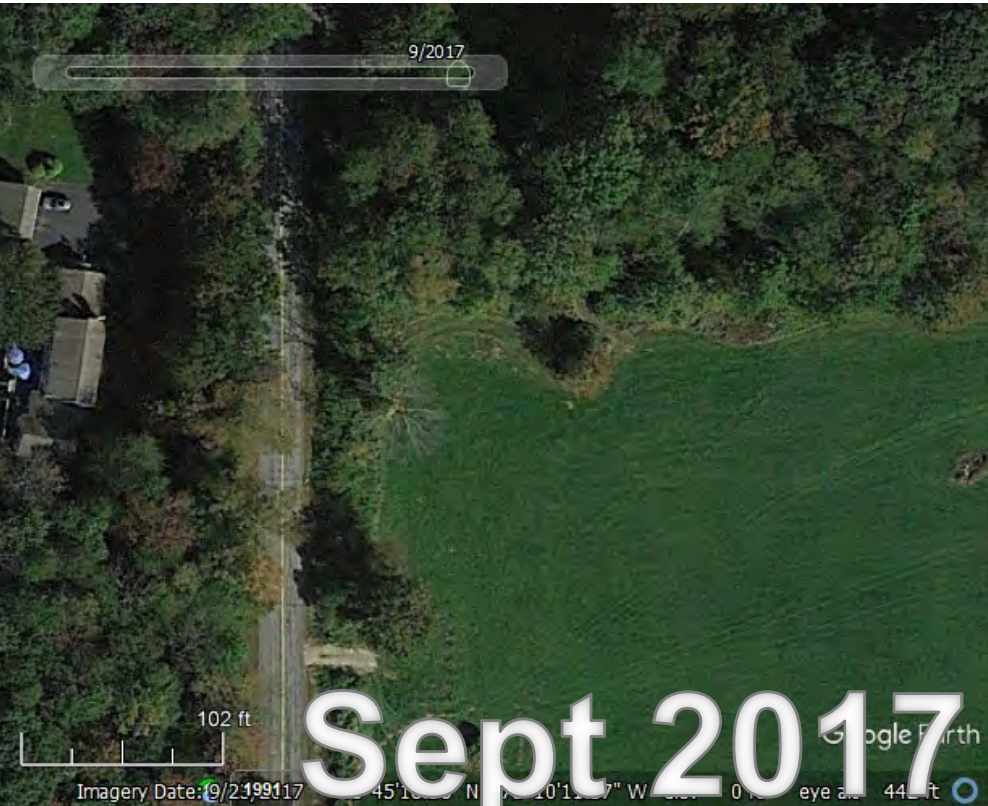
# Weantinoge Requirements



- Aerial photo must have:
  - High resolution
  - Leaf off
  - No snow
- Better than monitoring via airplane



# Importance of Leaf off



# Weantinoge Requirements



- Choosing the appropriate property!
  - Properties chosen must not have a violation or encroachment for the previous 2 years.
    - “Problem-free” properties.
  - On-the-ground monitoring must happen every 3 years (more stringent than LTA).



# Weantinoge Requirements

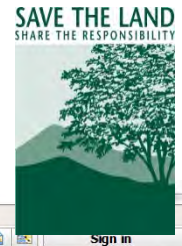


- Limited to 50% of portfolio. (more stringent than LTA)
- Other considerations
  - ❑ Distance
  - ❑ Difficult terrain
  - ❑ Invasive species
  - ❑ Other reasons?

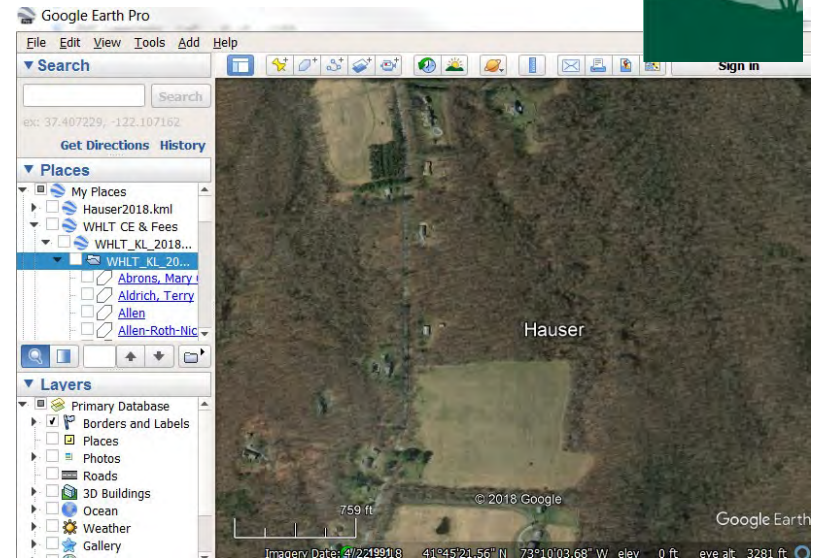




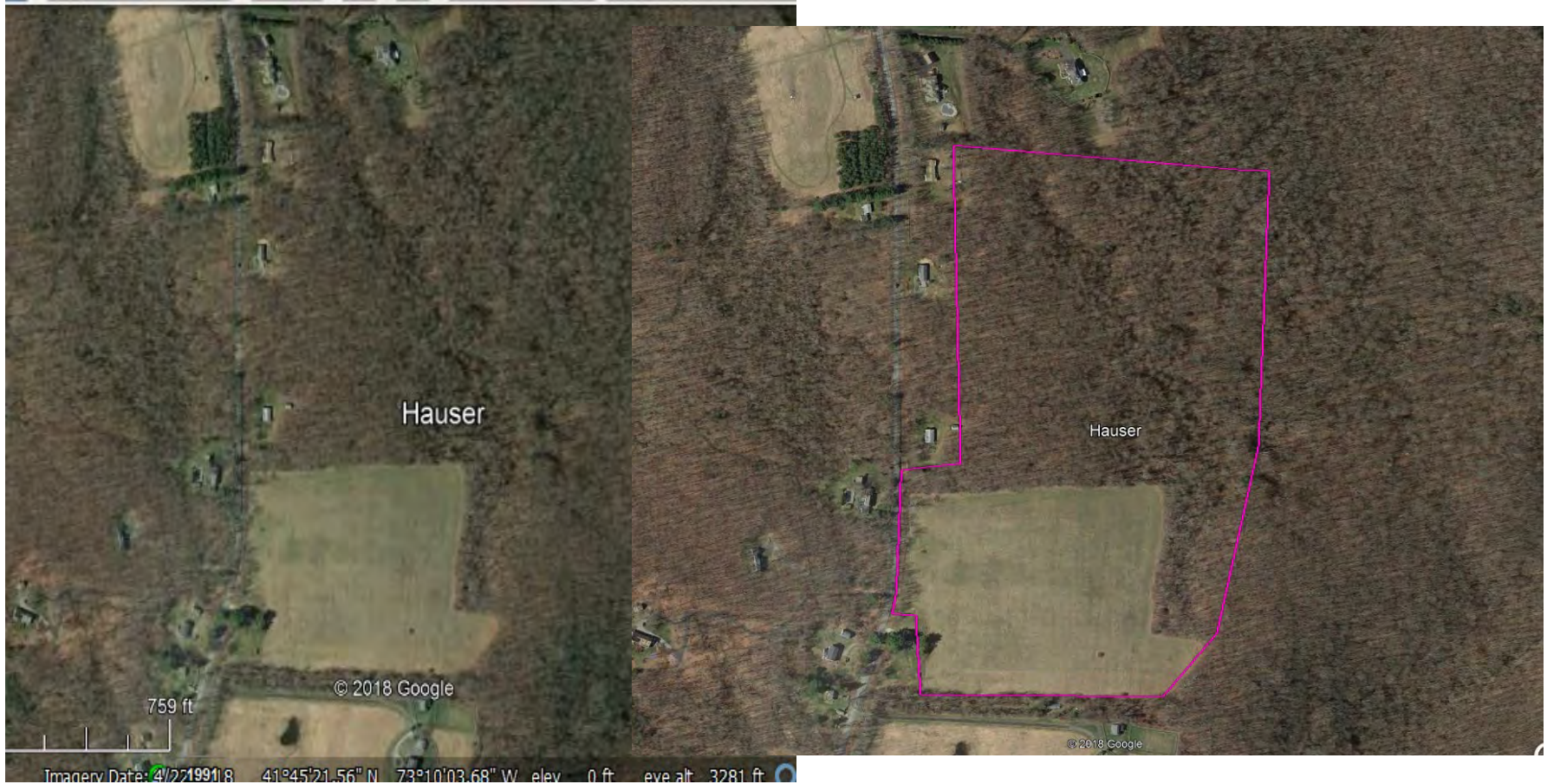
# Exploring Google Earth Pro



- Can be used with or without property boundaries:
  - By using an address, one should be comfortable with property boundaries.
  - By using a KML file converted from GPS or GPX file.



# Exploring Google Earth Pro



# Exploring Google Earth Pro



- Case study #1
  - Trees
  - Stones
  - Stone walls
  - Other natural features



# Exploring Google Earth



**ALL GOOD!!**



# Exploring Google Earth Pro



- Case study #2
  - Knowledge of abandoned truck from 2017 on-the-ground visit.
  - FIND THE TRUCK!



1. Old truck along woods trail.

# Exploring Google Earth



# Concerns

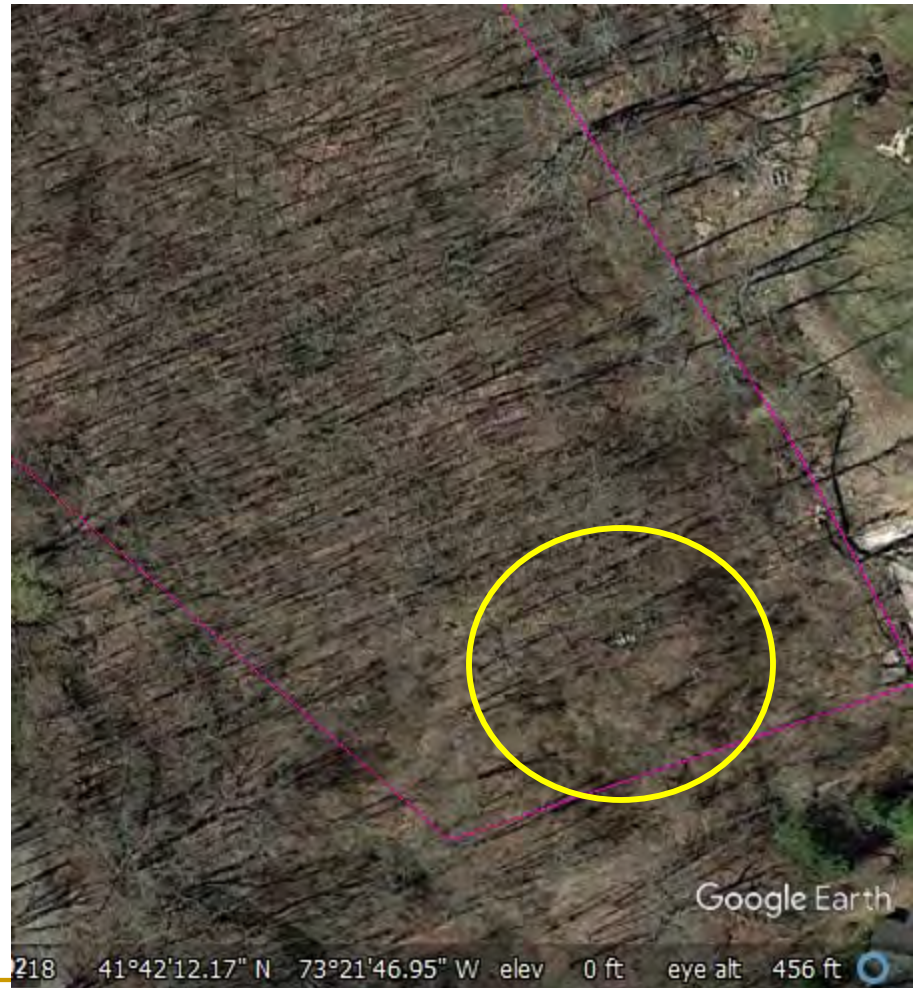
- When you see something unexpected
  - Follow-up with an on the ground visit.



# Concerns



- Case study #3
  - Something strange is within property boundaries.





# Concerns

SAVE THE LAND  
SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY



**NEEDS A  
GROUND VISIT!**

119 ft

Google Earth

# Concerns - Resolution



- Case study #3
  - Never documented but
  - Pre-existing to the acquisition of the Preserve
  - Grantors are still living so may approach about helping with the cost of removal.



# Concerns



- Case study #4
  - Appears the parking lot is on the easement



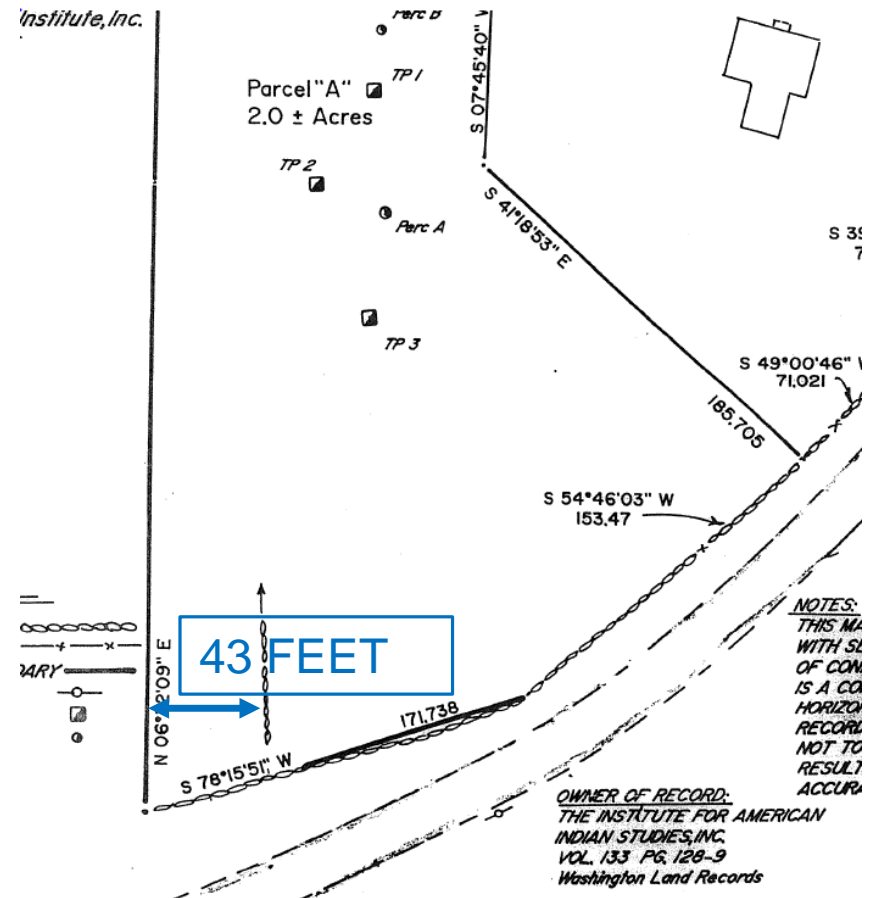
# Exploring Google Earth



# Concerns - Resolution



- Case study #4
  - Found Survey & used scale to measure distance from stone wall.
  - In the field used a forestry tape measure to find parking area is about 8-10 feet off the property.





“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”  
- *Pablo Picasso*

# Write Monitoring Report

- Fill out the date of the visit as the date you reviewed the photo
  - Indicate the date of the aerial photo in the map section &/or in the method section.
- Fill out method of visit as:
  - AERIAL MONITORING
- Include picture of Google Earth image in map section



## Conservation Easement Monitoring Form

Monitoring Year: 2018  
Name of Easement (Year Donated): Bear Hill Neighbors, LLC (1999)  
Date of Monitoring Visit: May 19, 2018  
Easement confirmation for mail merge: Bear Hill Neighbors, LLC  
Date of Previous Visit: 6/1/2017  
Monitor Name: Kate Losey  
Weather and Ground Conditions: Partly cloudy, Warm  
Method of monitoring:

### Issues that need immediate attention (in detail)

There are no issues that need immediate attention.

Boundary Tagged? No GIS Boundaries Correct? To the best of our knowledge

### Land Owner/Representative Contact Information

Current Owner  
Address:  
Phone:  
Email:

- Other Contact (Owner Representative)  
N/A
- Was the owner or owner representative contacted prior to field visit? By?  
Yes, via email.
- Did the owner/owner representative accompany the monitor?  
No
- Has the property been bought or sold since the last visit?  
No
- If 'Yes' please provide contact information for the new owner:  
N/A  
Email:

**\*\*Please verify that all contact information in this report is current.**

Weantoinoge Heritage Land Trust  
2 Maple Street  
P.O. Box  
Kato, CT 06231

Page 1

# Record Keeping

- Record the date of review
- Record the method as aerial
  - To ensure you can keep track of how many times a property has been monitored with this method.
- Store originals off-site.



**Conservation Easement Monitoring Form**

Monitoring Year:	2018
Name of Easement (Year Donated):	Bear Hill Neighbors, LLC (1999)
Date of Monitoring Visit:	May 19, 2018
Easement confirmation for mail merge:	Bear Hill Neighbors, LLC
Date of Previous Visit:	6/1/2017
Monitor's Name:	Kate Losey
Weather and Ground Conditions:	Partly cloudy, Warm
Method of monitoring:	

Issues that need immediate attention (in detail)

There are no issues that need immediate attention.

Boundary Tagged? No      GIS Boundaries Correct? To the best of our knowledge

**Land Owner/Representative Contact Information**

Current Owner:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Email:

- Other Contact (Owner Representative)  
N/A
- Was the owner or owner representative contacted prior to field visit? By?  
Yes, via email.
- Did the owner/owner representative accompany the monitor?  
No
- Has the property been bought or sold since the last visit?  
No
- If 'Yes' please provide contact information for the new owner:  
N/A  
Email:

*\*\*Please verify that all contact information in this report is current.*

Weantnoge Heritage Land Trust  
2 Maple Street  
P.O. Box  
East, CT 06031

Page 1



# Questions?

