

West Tisbury
March 24, 1967

Dear Jane:

You've probably seen in the Gazette about West Tisbury's new Conservation Commission. We've had a meeting and realize that there are great possibilities for service.

We shall have another meeting April 10th and it would be good to have some concrete plans. Among other ideas I wondered how your Aunt Frances would feel about letting us work on Brandy Brow to make it a little more available to nature lovers. We could clear out a lot of dead wood, quite obvious in winter, and we could make a few paths: one to the little memorial well, and another across the hill (the short cut I always took when I went to school.) We have a few landscape and conservation people to advise us, and we would do a good job, without destroying it as a bird sanctuary. We'll like to have her permission in writing, and we on our side could agree to take over the responsibility of upkeep. This would make a wonderful project for a starter.

Could you find out how she feels about it, and let me know? Then if you'll give me her adress I'll write to her.

We've had the strangest weather. Lovely in Jan. and Feb. Very cold and snowy now that it's supposed to be spring. It is gorgeous today, but the ground is deep in snow.

There was a beautiful church service last night. Chris Keniston and Jean Fischer are now members. Sid said, Tell Jane we wish she had been in the choir.

-It will be good to see you early this summer. Perhaps you'll have some suggestions yourself for the Conservation Commission. We are even entitled to accept land grants for the town.

All the best from Sid and me,

Sid

2950 PACIFIC AVENUE

7 April 1967.

Dear Mrs. Riggs:-

Thank you for your letter and your interest in the appearance of Brandy Brow. Harry (George) Athearn wrote me last month about his business venture in the way of gardening and yard work and I am writing him to see if he would do clean up work as well, for I definitely plan to get all the trash pick up at Brandy Brow and some of the dead and fallen wood cleared away.

I am sorry to be so slow in responding to you but I did want to discuss the matter with Aunt Frances as it is her property I also talked with her younger son and received a letter from him expressing just what my Aunt had said over the telephone and that is that she does not want public paths made on or across the property nor that the corner be considered a public park. She also prefers to have the clean up work done when some one of the family is there to supervise. She does not object to the youngsters playing in the woods there but does not want the area to be overrun with people.

I can well imagine how much worse things look when the leaves are gone, and Brandy Brow has been neglected. I shall endeavor to remedy that this summer.

We appreciate your interest and that of the Conservation group. I missed the article about it in the Gazette and will check the back copies to find it.

I am looking forward to seeing you the end of June.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Jane Newell

April 13, 1967

Dear Jane:

Thanks for your letter of 7 April. (This sounds rather formal.) I'm glad you are taking over the clean-up, because this is really a tremendous job I'm involved in, though I find it very stimulating.

When I was talking to Priscilla about the Conservation Commission she said Joe Kraetzer was going to write ~~to you about~~ Brandy Brow. I hoped he wouldn't lest you think I was putting pressure on you. I called him up to say don't do it, but he already had. I didn't even want to say anything about it to other members of the Commission until I heard from you.

I think people everywhere are conscious of the need for preserving beauty in growing towns, and having a place for wild life such as woods and swamps.

So thanks for all the consultations with your aunt and cousins. I knew you could do it better than I.

Sid sends his best greetings, as I do, and we both look forward to seeing you this summer.

Sincerely, *[Signature]*