of negotiations, the Conservation Commission and various attorneys worked out in 1974 an arrangement with the owner of Stormfield, Doreen Danks, whereby the Town would buy 161 acres in 15-acre installments over 11 years (and at $3,500 an acre). The Town took title to the entire acreage with the first installment, but, under the agreement, could not use the property until all parcels had been purchased.

The town meeting vote by which this arrangement was approved on August 28, 1974, was 107 to 0.

The years rolled by. In 1985, the Town became full owner of Stormfield’s woods, rocks, brooks and “wide splendor”: (but not of the rebuilt villa—the original was destroyed by fire in 1923—and 67 acres which remain in private ownership).

The names of the five trails that have been cut at Stormfield were suggested by characters, objects or events in Captain Stormfield’s Visit to Heaven.

Key Features: Entering off Fox Run Road, the visitor may choose Raccoon Lane to the right, a scenic wood road giving access farther south to the Stormfield trails and to Link Trail, or he may forge straight ahead, across a small stone bridge and uphill on Halley’s Comet Trail. Turning right over a stonewall and into open woods, this trail passes an unusually large white pine and winds on north to its end at the property boundary.

Captain Stormfield Trail takes off from Halley’s Comet and proceeds south through hemlock woods and past scenic rock formations. It climbs to a rocky overlook, descends to skirt a wide swamp, and brushes Raccoon Lane on its way to a junction with the Harp and Halo trails.

Essentially a loop through second-growth woods, the Halo for a few hundred yards parallels the edge of an open field (privately owned), then passes through a grove of hardwoods before returning to the three-way junction.

The Harp Trail may be followed straight through open woods (passing on the other side of the swamp from Captain Stormfield Trail) to Halley’s Comet Trail, then back to the Fox Run entrance.

Altogether different is Sandy’s Trail, which rises off Route 107 into a magnificent hemlock forest embracing a ravine with a seasonal brook. Keeping left of a low stone wall, the trail climbs past mossy rock outcrops, through high laurel bushes into deciduous woodlands. For a stretch, the trail follows an ancient roadbed between stone walls, then veers left to start a loop that leads past a wetland to an overgrown field. The trail traverses the field, then curves to reenter the woods and rejoin the old roadbed. The trail’s southern end is at the intersection of Routes 107 and 53. A quarter mile south on Route 53 (Glen Road) the entrance to Reservoir Trail is found on the right.