



Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail News

Autumn 2009 / Page 1

www.GoffstownRailTrail.org



On the Calendar

- Oct. 17, 18: Giant Pumpkin Weekend
- Oct. 26: FGRT Meeting, Parks & Rec Bldg., 7PM
- Nov. 14: Ski & Skate Sale, Parks & Rec Building
- Nov. 30: FGRT Meeting, Parks & Rec Bldg., 7PM

Be a friend of the trail..



Join FGRT!

Individual Membership \$20
Family Membership \$40
(Tax-deductible!)

GoffstownRailTrail.org



The 17th Annual Goffstown Ski & Skate Sale will be sponsored this year by

the FGRT! Consignments will be received at the Parks and Recreation Bldg. at 155 S. Mast Road, Saturday Nov. 14th 7AM-10AM. Sales of new equipment and new/used consignments will be from 10AM to 2PM the same day.

Volunteers are needed to support this fund-raising event. Jobs are in 2-hour blocks.

If you're able to help, please contact Dave Pierce at 497-8278. Thanks for your support!



A Busy Year for Progress on the Rail Trail

Despite this summer's rainy skies, much progress continues to be made on the Goffstown Rail Trail. Building on a foundation of many years of effort culminating in last fall's groundbreaking ceremony, 2009 has seen a remarkable succession of activity on and off the trail:

- 2009 Trails Bureau grant
- 501(c)(3) status granted
- Eagle Scout project
- Ongoing trail improvements via volunteer days
- Trail outreach days
- Nearly-completed FGRT case statement
- Application for 2010 Transportation Enhancement grant

As of October, more community events are on the calendar:

- Booth at Giant Pumpkin weekend Oct. 17th & 18th
- Hosting of annual Ski & Skate sale November 14th (see sidebar at left)
- Trail safety/road marking project (in progress)
- 2010 activity & funding preparations

As busy as 2009 has been, 2010 promises even better things, not the least of which is the planned rehabilitation/reopening of the Piscataquog River bridge that will connect the Goffstown Rail Trail with

Manchester's Piscataquog Trail (see photo and article below).

In addition to many hours of volunteer effort by the Friends, the Rail Trail is also seeing an upsurge in usage and in sponsored support throughout the community. With the granting of 501(c)(3) status, the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail now look forward to bridging trail development needs with tax-deductible support from corporate and individual donors. Anyone with suggestions or referrals to interested donors is encouraged to email info@GoffstownRailTrail.org.

The Manchester Connection: 2010

Starting from the Goffstown downtown village area, if you head east on the Goffstown Rail Trail, in about 5.5 miles you will reach the border with Manchester. Right now, you can't go much further. A quarter mile beyond, the old railroad trestle across the Piscataquog River is fenced off and currently impassable. However, the situation will be different within a year, if current plans proceed as expected.

In April of 2008, Manchester opened the Hands Across the Merrimack bridge, a large rehabilitated railroad trestle. This bridge provides a bike and pedestrian crossing of the Merrimack River and I-293, between the baseball stadium and Bass Island Park. In summer 2009 Manchester's Piscataquog Trail was extended westward from that bridge to



View of the Piscataquog Trail

the West Side Arena. This winter, a design will be finalized to rehabilitate the Piscataquog trestle. This will enable construction on a bridge crossing to begin next spring.

Once bridge construction is finished, which is anticipated in summer 2010, the link connecting the Piscataquog Trail and the Goffstown Rail Trail will be complete. This will open up the ability to pedal, walk, run, roll, or ski 7.5 scenic miles between downtown Manchester and Goffstown village.

Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Update

This past summer, the FGRT was fortunate to have several volunteers turn out on trail improvement days. These are scheduled the third Saturday of each month from 9 A.M. to noon, spring through autumn.

For two sessions, volunteers cleared brush and trees from the trolley line located 1/4 mile east of the Shell station. The trolley line will be used for this short stretch as the former rail bed is quite close to two residential structures.

In another trail work session, volunteers made temporary surface and drainage repairs in the rock-cut area just west of Lynchville Park Road. Six cubic yards of gravel were spread by hand using shovels and wheelbarrels, to help raise the surface. Also, the ditches were cleaned in an effort to get water off the trail in this perennially-wet area.

(Continued on page 2)



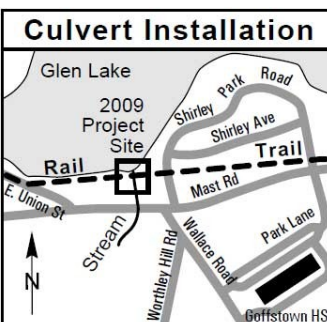
Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail News

Autumn 2009 / Page 2

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2009 Trails Bureau Grant

After three months of planning, Goffstown applied for a Recreational Trails Program grant in January 2009 to provide a safe path for the rail trail across a 15-foot-deep gully near Shirley Park Road. Despite the competitive nature of the state grant, in April the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails announced that Goffstown would receive the maximum grant allowable (\$25,000). In July, after various permits were obtained, the Board of Selectmen formally accepted the grant.



A concrete box culvert with a 2.5-ft high by 5-ft wide opening will be installed. The trail surface at the culvert location will be 7 feet lower than a level grade to lessen the width of the earth embankment and length of the culvert. The path's grade will be compliant with the Americans with Disability Act.

The project is scheduled for late 2009 under a contract released by the Department of Public Works. Expected to cost more than the grant amount, FGRT obtained a supplemental \$9,000 commitment from the town's Recreational Impact Fee Fund.

Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Update, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

Lastly, near Shirley Park Road, crews removed old wooden barriers and retaining wall structures in the culvert construction zone (described in '2009 Trails Bureau Grant' article, left). The town's Request for Proposals

specifically told prospective contractors interested in the culvert project that these structures would be removed by others as the Friends of the Rail



Trail wanted to do something to potentially reduce the cost of the project.

As always, FGRT's thanks go out to all the volunteers whose work benefits the entire community.

2010 Transportation Enhancement Grant

Based on the endorsements of the FGRT and the town's committee for development of the rail trail, the Goffstown Board of Selectmen submitted a request in August to the NH Department of Transportation for a grant of \$290,400. This would cover 80 percent of the construction cost to install pedestrian-activated stoplights at several crossing sites, and a bridge over the deep gully located between Mast Road and Henry Bridge Road (see diagram below).

By September, the NH Department of Transportation had received over 90 applications, with a potential cost of \$46 million. Because only

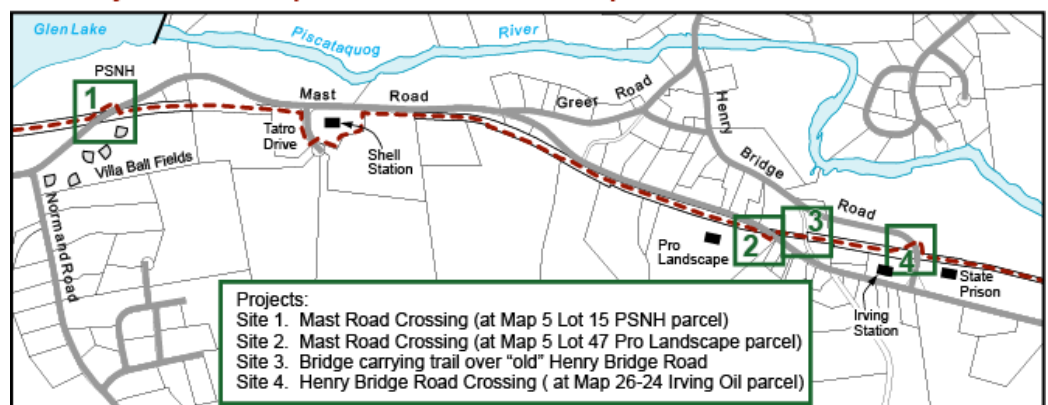
\$6 million is available to New Hampshire from the Federal Transportation Enhancement fund, the competition for the grants will be significant. Grant selections are expected to be announced in March 2010. Construction would most likely begin in 2011.

Pedestrian-activated stoplights are proposed for three crossing sites: Henry Bridge Road, just behind the Irving gas station; Mast Road, near the Villa ballfield parking lot; and Mast Road just east of the Pro Landscape entrance. Even now these sites are challenging for pedestrians to safely cross, due to the speed limit and traffic volume.

Most trail surface and drainage upgrades can be funded using the annual Recreation Trails Program grants managed by the NH Bureau of Trails. These annual grants are usually limited to a maximum of \$25,000 to \$30,000. Each of the four projects costs more than the maximum, thus the receipt of this grant is important in accomplishing necessary infrastructure improvements for the rail trail.

The remaining 20 percent of the construction cost of these four projects (approximately \$72,600) will need to be raised through a special article in the March 2010 town warrant, and/or donations.

Project Sites Proposed in the 2010 Transportation Enhancement Grant



Thank You for Supporting Your Goffstown Rail Trail!

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