



Friends of the



Fall 2012 Newsletter

GoffstownRailTrail.org



Goffstown Rail Trail News Briefs:

- ♦ **Piscataquog Bridge Update:** Manchester's plan to rebuild the bridge over the Piscataquog River is on hold, pending satisfactory funding (see 'Troubled Bridge' at right). The bridge was originally anticipated to open in 2010, but construction has suffered numerous delays.
- ♦ **20th Annual Ski & Skate Sale:** Sponsored again this year by the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail (FGRT), proceeds go to trail improvements and related infrastructure projects (see 'Local Businesses', page 2).
- ♦ **Safety/Trail Map Pocket Cards:** FGRT now offers cards containing a summary of trail safety rules on one side, and a trail map on the reverse—perfect for pockets!

Grants Fund Several Trail Upgrades

Goffstown Rail Trail improvements in several locations are either underway or funded for completion, thanks to three grants currently pending. These incremental improvements, along with those of previous years, continue to bring the trail ever closer to final completion.

The grants and their status are as follows:

• **Henry Bridge Area:** Through a 2010 Transportation Enhancement grant, Goffstown received nearly \$320,000 to cover 80% of the cost to more safely cross Mast Road at two sites: across Henry Bridge Road, and across the gully of the former Henry Bridge Road.

The firm handling the design effort, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. of Bedford, held a meeting Aug. 23rd at the Town Hall to inform the public about the results of the firm's Engineering Study, and to obtain public input on a preferred alternative for each of the project sites before proceeding to the design phase. This would require about 1,000 cubic yards of fill. Another goal involves embankment reduction to achieve a 250-foot sight distance so drivers can see trail users in the crosswalk.

• **Danis Park Rd. to Lynchville Park Rd.:** This project is funded by a 2011 Recreational Trails

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Transportation Review of Trail Held Sept. 10th

On Monday Sept. 10th, the FGRT hosted a bicycle and pedestrian transportation review of the Goffstown Rail Trail for NH Dept. of Transportation representatives, other stakeholders, and interested parties. The 19-mile tour covered the length of the trail, as well as Manchester's Piscataquog trail.



The group paused at numerous locations along the route to examine and discuss features, benefits, and challenges of the trail. These included past and planned trail projects, access to area facilities and businesses, and the coming connection to Manchester. The NHDOT has prepared a review report which can be found along with the route map and agenda at FGRT's website, reached online at GoffstownRailTrail.org.

Troubled Bridge Over The Water



Piscataquog Trestle

Manchester's nearly-completed 2.1 mile continuation of the rail trail is known as the Piscataquog Trail. Its westernmost 0.3 miles is yet to be built, including a new bridge carrying the trail over the Piscataquog River (see existing wooden piers in photo above).

The project was approved for funding under a 2010 Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant. The federal grant, administered by the NH Dept. of Transportation, provides 80% of the funding. The remaining 20%, by a city decision, must be funded by private donations. The design contractor and city have settled upon removing the wooden piers and installing a single-span steel bridge.

The cost of the project significantly exceeds the original grant application

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FGRT Events Calendar

Oct 13th/14th: Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off & Regatta

23rd: FGRT Meeting, 7PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg.

Nov 3rd: Ski & Skate Sale, 10AM-2PM, Parks & Rec

27th: FGRT Meeting, 7PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2012
PARKS & RECREATION BUILDING

CONSIGNMENTS 7:30AM-9:30AM
SKI & SKATE SALE 10:00AM-2:00PM



What the...



Grants Fund Trail Upgrades, *cont.*

Program grant of nearly \$29,000 to cover material costs; construction is by the town's Department of Public Works. 90% of the project is complete (see 2012 Spring Newsletter). The remaining 10% is comprised of installation of vehicle-blocking steel bollards at four sites, and installation of several parking spaces along Danis Park Road. The bollards have been purchased and are ready for installation.

During April and May, the town's public works resources were dedicated to major road projects; smaller projects such as the trail were delayed. From late June through September, the project was on hold due to grant expiration on June 30th. In late September, the town was notified the grant funding had been extended for one year; as a result, the DPW should resume progress on this project in October or November.

• **Moose Club Park Road:** Four trail crossings of public roads will be improved within the next year: Moose Club Park Road, Lynchville Park Road, Danis Park Road, and Shirley Park Road. The improvements

include trail surface construction, installation of steel bollards, and the addition of four paved parking spaces (see diagram). These improvements will be done through a contract to a local firm.

The primary funding source is a 2012 Recreational Trails Program grant, recommended for approval by the NH Trails Bureau. Additional funding came from Anagnost Realty & Development Co. as a lifestyle amenity for a planned two-building apartment complex located near the trail. Some of the funds will allow purchase of materials for rectifying trail segments with surface and drainage problems.

The projects must be completed by June 2013, according to the funding guidelines provided by the state.



Local Businesses Support 20th Ski & Skate Sale

Saturday Nov. 3rd marks the 20th annual Goffstown Ski & Skate Sale, and the fourth year of sponsorship by the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail, who wish to thank the following area businesses for their support of this fund-raising effort:

- Aubin Hardware
- Goffstown Hardware
- Hubert's of Goffstown
- Mast Road Lumber
- Nadeau's Subs
- Pettiglio's Pizza
- Pizza Market
- Shaws Supermarket
- Subway
- Sully's Superette
- Vikster's Pizza & Subs

Troubled Bridge, *cont.*

estimate. While the private funding has surpassed the required 20%, the increased cost exceeds current total funding. According to rules for federally-funded projects, availability of full funding must be confirmed prior to final design stage approval. Manchester has submitted an amended grant request to NHDOT seeking to increase the funds available from the TE grant. Until the funding issue gets resolved, the project remains on hold.

Grant Report

RTP, TE Grant Summary

Details on current grants (2010 Transportation Enhancement, 2011 & 2012 Recreational Trails Program) are summarized this issue in the article 'Grants Fund Several Trail Upgrades', on the front page. All of these are in process because of variations in program timetables, extensions (in the case of the 2011 grant), and seasonal limitations.

Girl Scouts Bring Birdhouses to Trail

Sixth-grade Girl Scouts Caroline Newell and Josie Zelensky (far right, far left below) hosted a 'Paint Your Own Birdhouse' project with fellow scouts at Villa Augustina. Ten birdhouses are now hung at various locations on the trail—see if you can spot them all!



Milepost 0.0 Rebuilt

Trail milepost 0.0, shown here, was recently rebuilt and installed on Goffstown/Manchester's town line.



Join FGRT!

- ◆ Only \$20 (individual), or \$40 for the entire family
- ◆ FGRT is a great resource for the latest on trail updates and events
- ◆ And it's *tax-deductible!*



GoffstownRailTrail.org/join

Have photos or trail stories to share? FGRT welcomes your input, feedback, and questions! Send them to us at:
Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail, PO Box 2, Goffstown NH 03045
info@GoffstownRailTrail.org - A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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