



Friends of the



Spring 2013 Newsletter

GoffstownRailTrail.org



Plan Pinardville: FGRT Recommendations

Plan Pinardville, aka "Planapalooza", held May 3-7, targets defining "a collective vision for the future and [creating] the Sustainable Master Plan to guide our growth". As this newsletter goes to press, and as the Goffstown Rail Trail plays a significant role in the plan, the Friends of the GRT submitted trail-related recommendations for the Pinardville Planning Committee to consider for their master planning.

Spearheaded by FGRT board member Paula Bedard, these recommendations were submitted to the Planning Committee on April 26th and include:

- Sidewalk Improvement
- Bicycle Parking
- Signage Improvements for Bicycles & Trail Users
- Greenspace Improvements/Additions
- Planting Improvements/Additions
- Road Striping/Bicycle Symbol Painting for Bike Lanes
- Bicycle Symbol Painting for Intersections with Traffic Lights

Details on the recommendations are available on the FGRT website at GoffstownRailTrail.org. Visit the site often for the latest trail information.

FGRT, Parks & Rec to Coordinate Efforts

In early April, FGRT members Lowell Von Ruden and Dennis Houle met with Director Rick Wilhelmi and Mike Guerette of the Goffstown Parks & Recreation Department to discuss maintenance on the Goffstown Rail Trail. Parks & Rec has the responsibility for general maintenance of the rail trail as sections are completed, as they do for other town parks.

The FGRT plans to assist with this maintenance in addition to the trail work that its volunteers have performed since 2003. The four talked about past trail improvements, anticipated future developments, and the required upkeep expected going forward. The two organizations agreed to keep each other informed of their planned and completed tasks, and to coordinate efforts and equipment.

Goffstown Rail Trail News Briefs:

- ♦ **Piscataquog Bridge Update:** Is this the year the bridge finally gets completed? Read 'Piscataquog Trail Connection At Last?' below to find out.
- ♦ **Trail Sessions Resume:** Trail improvement days this season are May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, and September 21. Each Saturday-morning session starts at 9AM, watch the FGRT website for location information.
- ♦ **Mark Your Calendars: Ski & Skate Sale Nov. 9th:** Yes, this may be only the spring newsletter, but you've got the whole summer to clean out the attic and turn your old ski equipment & clothing into cash. Think snow..!

Piscataquog Trail Connection At Last?

The Manchester Parks Department announced through an article in the April 15th Manchester Union Leader that the NH Department of Transportation has approved the final design of a new bridge carrying the trail over the Piscataquog River at Kelley Falls. With design and funding completed, the final phase of construction will proceed with a contract award early this summer. It is extremely likely the finished bridge will be open for traffic this fall.

One question people have asked over

the four years this project has been in its grant application and design stages has been: "What will happen with the timber pile bents that supported the former rail line bridge?"

(cont. on back)

You meet the nicest people on the rail trail, any time of the year!



FGRT Events Calendar

May 18th: Trail Work Session
28th: FGRT Meeting, 7PM,
Parks & Recreation Bldg.

Jun 15th: Trail Work Session
25th: FGRT Meeting, 7PM,
Parks & Recreation Bldg.

Jul 20th: Trail Work Session
23rd: FGRT Meeting, 7PM,
Parks & Recreation Bldg.

Aug 17th: Trail Work Session
27th: FGRT Meeting, 7PM,
Parks & Recreation Bldg.



Now THAT's a
tandem bicycle!!

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Trail Improvements Scheduled for 2013

The prominent trail construction activity residents will notice this year is improvements at trailheads. Steel bollards, blocking unauthorized vehicle access, will be installed at sites along Shirley Park Rd., Lynchville Park Rd., Danis Park Rd., and Moose Club Park Rd.

At Danis Park and Moose Club Park roads, trailhead parking spaces will be built and paved. These improvements are possible due to Recreational Trails Program grants administered by the NH Bureau of Trails, a unit within the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development.

One major construction effort is still in the planning/design stage. This project involves improving the safety for trail users crossing Mast Road at two locations, and for crossing Henry Bridge Road.

Goffstown may be on the leading edge of trail innovations, as the NH Department of Transportation advocates that our trail be the first in the state to install HAWK beacons over the vehicle travel lanes. This beacon is a yellow light/red light traffic signal designed to stop vehicles, but unlike the red-yellow-green signals, vehicles may proceed after yielding to pedestrians.

Trail Kiosks/Maps

The most popular items at the trailside bulletin boards have been the one-page maps of our 5.5 mile-long trail. The racks of maps are refilled each week.

The kiosks are located at the Moose Club Park Road trailhead and near the Goffstown Park and Recreation Department. The same map may be downloaded from our website, which you can find at GoffstownRailTrail.org.



Both kiosks were built as Eagle Scout projects. It has been a successful relationship to have such projects, costing between \$1,000 and \$2,000, to be taken on by Scouts. The young men get involved not only in fundraising, but in the challenging tasks of seeking project approval and organizing construction crews. A FGRT member serves as their community sponsor and formally accepts responsibility for continuing maintenance of the completed project.

Grant Report

2013 RTP Grant Application Left Unfunded

Notice was recently received from the NH Trails Bureau that the Goffstown Rail Trail application to the 2013 Recreational Trails Program will unfortunately not be awarded a grant this year. This is the first year Goffstown has not received an RTP grant since our first application and award in 2007 (six years in a row).

There were 90 applications made requesting a total of \$1.6 million, but only \$900,000 was available. The loss is disappointing to trail supporters, but another application will be submitted again next year.

2010 TE, 2011/2012 RTP Grants Continue Making Trail Impacts

Three other grants remain in effect for the rail trail (see 'Trail Improvements' article at left): 2010's TE grant for crossing Mast Rd. and Henry Bridge Rd.; 2011's RTP grant for trailhead bollards, parking spaces, and other improvements on Danis Park Rd.; and 2012's RTP grant for similar improvements at Moose Club Park Rd.

Bollards at Lynchville Park Rd. trail entry



DATELINE MAY 2013:

I have been researching a quest by the Boston & Maine Railway Company to have a team of their employees push a train from Goffstown to Manchester in 1907 (see photo below).



I understand they reached as far as the sign at Shirley Park Road that used to read *Whistle*, but the team was too short of breath, so they had to stop.

Next Issue: Rail Trail Approved for Left-Hand and Right-Hand-Drive Bicycles

Piscataquog Trail, cont.

The hope from Goffstown residents' point of view, especially those along the lakefront, was to have the old timber piles removed. The reason is that, in times of flooding, debris gets lodged between the timber piles, and tends to make the river elevation higher than it would otherwise be if there were no obstruction to the flow. NHDOT's response is that all existing timber pile bents will indeed be removed from the bridge.

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, trail stories, or other items to share? FGRT welcomes your input, feedback, and questions! Send them to us at:

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