

Friends of the



Fall 2013 Newsletter

GoffstownRailTrail.org



New Light Design for Crosswalk Safety

Pedestrian and bicyclist safety when crossing State Route 114 has been a focus of trail improvements using funds awarded to the town by a 2010 Transportation Enhancement grant. After reviewing the preliminary designs, the NH Department of Transportation recommended the first-in-the-state use of Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHB), formerly known as HAWK beacons. On July 29th the Board of Selectmen endorsed the design.

The PHB lights improve upon unprotected crosswalks, and those with a traditional stoplight. We've all experienced stopping our car at a red light activated by a pedestrian: The person has safely crossed, yet we continue waiting for the light to finish its 30- or 45-second

cycle. The PHB provides a much shorter cycle time; the steady red cycle is usually just 7 seconds, followed by an alternating (flashing) red cycle, meaning the driver can proceed after initially stopping (see 'How a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Works', below).

Also to benefit drivers, this traffic control device has a different appearance, as shown in the photo below. The beacon has no green light; the signal is dark when no pedestrian/bicyclist is present.

For the safety of the pedestrians, there are two beacons over each traffic lane to better denote the crossing site. The pedestrian will see a standard Walk/Don't Walk hand-image on the destination-side pole, along with a countdown clock.

Lights in this picture have been colored to dramatize their location.

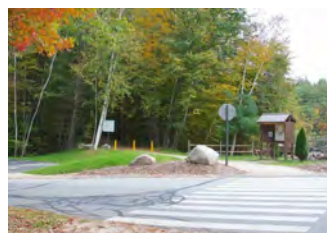


New Trail Parking

Parking additions have been completed at the trail intersections with Danis Park Road and Moose Club Park Road. Crosswalk markings were also added. One space for wheelchair access is provided at each location.



Danis Park Rd. parking



Moose Club Park Rd. parking

Ski & Skate Sale Nov. 9

Need a good deal on winter sports equipment? Want to turn unneeded winter goods into cash? You're in luck, the FGRT is once again hosting the annual Ski and Skate Sale! It's 10AM to 2PM on Saturday Nov. 9th at the Parks & Recreation building, with consignments accepted from 7:30AM-9:30AM. New and used equipment, raffles, free door prize drawing, and more! Skis, snowboards, skates, boots, apparel...this event gets bigger and better every year. See you at the Sale, and thanks from FGRT!



How a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) Works

A pedestrian or bicyclist pushing the cross button begins a five-phase sequence of operation:

Drivers:	Pedestrians:
Flashing yellow:	Wait
Steady yellow:	Wait
Steady red:	Cross
Alternating red:	Finish crossing
Dark:	Push btn to cross

A brochure on this crosswalk light is available by visiting www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/phb/docs/fs-phb.pdf.

FGRT Events Calendar

Oct 19th/20th: Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off and Regatta

22nd: FGRT Meeting, 7PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg.

Nov 9th: Ski & Skate Sale, 10AM-2PM, Parks & Rec

26th: FGRT Meeting, 7PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg.

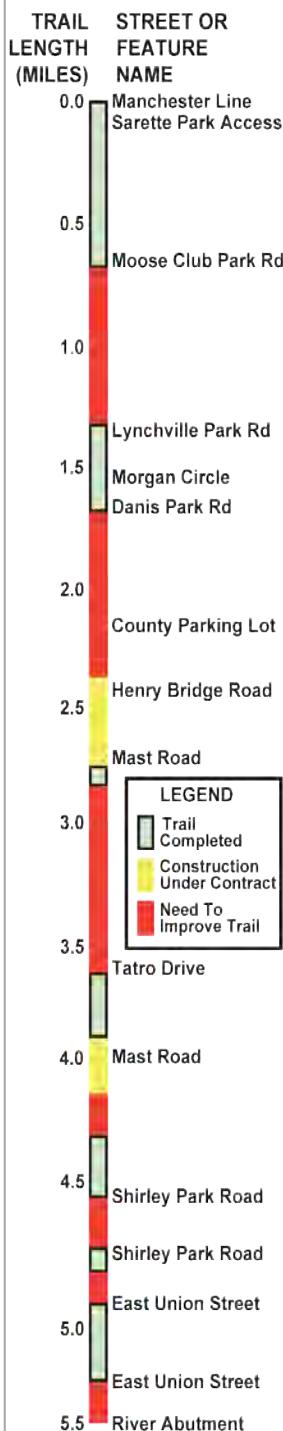
SKI & SKATE SALE

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2013
PARKS & RECREATION BUILDING**

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



Trail Status Update: 38% Complete



After town purchase of the rail corridor in 2004, trail construction began in 2008, and portions have been completed each year using funds from grants. The chart to the left indicates current status of trail segments, from the Manchester line (top) to the river abutment in Goffstown village. Approx. 38% of the trail is completed; the rest is either under contract for improvement, or in need of it.

One impassable segment remains, a 0.3-mile section from Henry Bridge Rd. to Mast Rd. that covers a 26 foot-deep gully. Trail signs route visitors around this segment using these roads. Two short sections of sandy surface exist near the 3.4-mile point (under a power line), and at 4.2 miles (west of the Mast Rd. crossing near the Villa Augustina ballfields).

As grant money becomes available, segments needing improvement are addressed. It is estimated that if \$270,000 were available, the remaining sections could be completed in one season. Most grants, however, are in the \$10,000-\$25,000 range.

The town's Rail Trail Committee reviews grant applications and endorses them over to the Board of Selectmen. The most challenging part of a grant application is determining the source of the usual 20% match. To date, the match requirements have been achieved without reliance on property taxes by using private funds, contribution of in-kind services, and development impact fee funds.

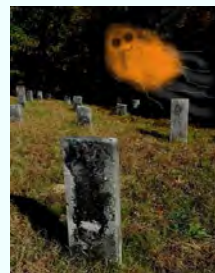
Thanks Volunteers!

As you walk the rail trail, it's easy to take it largely for granted—but a lot of work goes into improving and maintaining the trail, and much of that is done by our many volunteers! From the great new parking at Moose Club Park road to brush and trash clearing along the length of the trail, please join FGRT in thanking everyone (individuals, civic organizations, and businesses) for helping turn this linear leftover from railroad days into a town asset we all can use and be proud of!



DATELINE OCTOBER 2013:

Halloween is coming soon, so look out for ghosts, goblins and beasts on the rail trail. This one



was seen recently at the Hillsborough County Farm Cemetery (behind the county complex). Note: It is *not* a paid-up member of the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail!

Next Issue: Precarious 20/80 bicycling without your glasses

Grant Report

2012 RTP Grant Funds Moose Club Parking

The Goffstown DPW, using funds from a 2012 Recreational Trail Program grant and a 20% match from a developer's off-site improvement contribution, contracted for installation of four paved parking spaces at the Moose Club Park Road trail crossing.

Old Henry Bridge Project Slated for 2014 Finish

The 2010 Transportation Enhancement Grant is headed towards final design and construction in 2014. This project will remove the current trail detour on Mast and Henry Bridge Roads by filling the gully on the former Henry Bridge Road with gravel.

NH Bike/Pedestrian Grant

A new grant source, called the "New Hampshire Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program," was announced in September, with grants from \$5,000 to \$25,000. The Friends of the GRT has submitted an application; grants will be awarded in December 2013.

And About That Bridge...

The City of Manchester is now anticipating their installation of a new trail bridge over the Piscataquog River at Kelley Falls will occur in spring or summer 2014. Final design and funding has been confirmed; a request for bids will occur before December.

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

Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail, PO Box 2, Goffstown NH 03045
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