

Friends of the



Fall 2015 Newsletter

GoffstownRailTrail.org



At Long Last: Piscataquog Bridge Links Goffstown Rail Trail with Manchester



Cranes position the Piscataquog bridge on its abutments Aug. 5th.

Promised for over three years, the new bridge over the Piscataquog River has finally become reality. On Wednesday August 5th, three large flatbed trucks arrived on Electric Street in Manchester, each bearing a prefabricated segment of the bridge.

Two large cranes and a crew of workers bolted the segments together, and then lifted the bridge to its final resting position on new bridge seats previously built on top of the original railroad trestle abutments. Wooden decking was later attached to the bridge frame, and approaches to the ends of the bridge were built. Finally, a new trail surface was installed, consisting of pavement on either side of the bridge, and nitpack gravel to connect to the Goffstown Rail Trail.

Goffstown trail users can now easily travel into Manchester on the combined 7-1/4 mile trail. Linking the two trails is expected to increase usage on both sides of the new bridge.

A time-lapse construction video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLHesKVuJic>.

T-Shirts At Local Stores

Back by popular demand: It's the Goffstown Rail Trail T-shirt! This latest edition is a bright safety green heavy cotton blend shirt, boldly displaying the familiar GRT logo. The new shirts can be found at **Aubin Hardware**, **Hubert's**, and **Ace Hardware**. You can also purchase them from the FGRT at one of our meetings or events, or you may email info@GoffstownRailTrail.org.

Many Rail Trail Improvements Underway

Travelers along Route 114 near the Villa Augustina ballfields and Henry Bridge Road are noticing the daily construction progress on the long-awaited project to provide safe road crossings for users of the Goffstown Rail Trail. The town signed a contract with Kingsbury Companies LLC (Waitsfield, VT) in May. The contract calls for:

- Building a paved 12-space trailhead parking area and installation of a Pedestrian Hybrid Traffic Signal on Route 114 near the Villa Augustina ballfields
- Installation of a similar traffic signal on Route 114 near Pro Landscape Supply
- Filling in the gap left by removal of a railroad trestle at the former Henry Bridge Road

• Installation of a crosswalk and rectangular rapid flash beacons at Henry Bridge Road, and cutting back the road embankment to improve sight distance for drivers approaching the crossing site

The concept for this project began in 2009 with a grant application seeking 80% Federal funding. Goffstown was awarded a Transportation Enhancement Grant in 2010. The firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc. was awarded a contract for the design phase. With many complications due to federal

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Ski, Skate & Board Sale Arrives November 14th

The 23rd annual Ski, Skate, and Board Sale will be on Saturday, November 14th at the Park and Rec Department's building at 155 South Mast Road. Items can be placed for consignment between 7:00 and 9:30 AM. The sale will be from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

As usual, there will be a raffle for ski area lift tickets and other related winter events from venues such as Loon Mountain, Great Glen Trails, and Gunstock Mountain. Our vendor selling new equipment and clothing is S&W Sports from Concord. This sale is a major fundraiser activity for the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail, which uses the proceeds to support trail improvements.



Trail work near the Villa Augustina ballfields (top) and over the gully by the old Henry Bridge road.



2015 Volunteer Work

This season our trail volunteers accomplished several much-needed tasks. Many years of fallen trees and brush piles were removed from a trail section near Shirley Park Road, a fresh layer of bark mulch was placed on the plant berm in front of the Park & Rec Department, and an addition of loam and seeding was done to improve the plant berm near Morgan Circle.

Grass mowing was done periodically throughout the summer—a big thanks to Dennis Houle for his dedication to this task. All of these work sessions were preceded by a Nixle message sent by the Goffstown Police Department to alert trail abutters about the intended use of equipment on the trail.



DATELINE OCTOBER 2015:

It has been reported that a few of the zombies from New Boston's recent Rails To Entrails event breached the security perimeters, made their way to Goffstown and began terrorizing rail trail users. Quick-thinking trail workers were able to capture them, however, and buried them in the gully fill over the old Henry Bridge Road. Caution is henceforth recommended when traversing this particular trail segment at night.



Next Issue: Piscataquog Bridge: Fact or fantasy?

Improvements *cont.*

and state design requirements, historical impact studies, and land easement negotiations, the project was finally approved by the NH DOT to enter the construction phase in early 2015.

The initial grant anticipated construction in 2013. Due to rising costs since then, the winning construction bid meant the town had to contribute an additional \$66,850 to meet federal funding requirements. The Board of Selectmen were able to use \$55,000 from the Road Impact Fee Fund, with the remainder of \$11,850 covered by a donation from the Friends of the Rail Trail. Contributions toward these funds can be made at GoffstownRailTrail.org/join.

All of the trail surface work, associated landscaping, and trailhead parking will be done by mid-November. In early January, weather and NH DOT permitting, the mast arms for the two overhead traffic signals on Route 114 will be installed, marking completion of the project.

New Boston Rail Trail Phase 1 Complete

There was a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first phase of the New Boston Rail Trail on Sunday August 31. This 1.5 mile segment runs between a parking area at Lang Station and the county fairgrounds. The new trail surface is a nitpack gravel, similar to the Goffstown rail trail. Find out more at their website www.nbtrailrail.com.

From Greenway to Goffstown Rail Trail: Trail Stewardship of Lowell Von Ruden

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."

—Warren Bennis

While the Goffstown Rail Trail is the result of contributions from many civic-minded individuals and organizations, the trail we enjoy today is due in large part to the vision and the efforts of Lowell Von Ruden. Lowell has been the most consistent and focused advocate of trail development since encouraging the town to submit a grant application for the purchase of the former railroad corridor at the turn of the millennium.

Here is a partial list of Lowell's achievements:

- ♦ Helped form the original trail advocacy group Friends of the Greenway
- ♦ Collaborated with Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee on trail cleanup events and rail corridor negotiations
- ♦ Instrumental in leading 2004 Design Charrette to gather trail ideas/support
- ♦ Helped in design and implementation of trail signs
- ♦ Worked to secure National Park Service trail development assistance for a 12-month period, 2006-2007



Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail president Lowell Von Ruden.

- ♦ Principal in obtaining "first mile" grant from the NH Recreational Trails Program, one of many such grants over several years
- ♦ Organized groundbreaking ceremony in 2008
- ♦ Received 501(c)(3) tax status for Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail (renamed from Greenway)
- ♦ Developed and maintains GoffstownRailTrail.org trail website
- ♦ Represented the rail trail in several regional and statewide trail advocacy groups
- ♦ Helped organize FGRT participation in Giant Pumpkin Regattas, Old Home Days, Ski Skate & Board sales, special trail events and more

Trail users of all stripes owe a big thanks to Lowell for his many achievements and his leadership of the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail!

Thanks Lowell!



On to the Future!

FGRT welcomes your input, photos, feedback, and questions! Send them to:

Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail, PO Box 2, Goffstown NH 03045
info@GoffstownRailTrail.org - A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Been out on the trail and saw a tree down, trail damage, or other issue? Report it to Trail.Report@GoffstownRailTrail.org and we will investigate. Thanks!

Join FGRT!

- ♦ Only \$20 (individual), or \$40 for the entire family
 - ♦ Help support trail construction/improvement projects
 - ♦ Your FGRT membership is *tax-deductible*!
- GoffstownRailTrail.org/join



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