



Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Subject: Greenway Visions - Goffstown, NH

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GREENWAY VISIONS

The Friends of the Greenway have been meeting this fall to organize renewed support for the purchase of the B&M railroad corridor between Pinardville and Goffstown Village. Several years ago, a \$390,000 (TEA-21) grant from NHDOT was awarded to the town. Funding provisions include an (80%) state allocation and (20%) local match by Goffstown.

Trail advocates recently learned that negotiations had stalled between the State Attorney General's office, NHDOT and Guilford Transportation. Selectmen are now working with these parties to resolve the issues by the end of the year when the town's current appropriation expires. The "Friends" group is determined to have public ownership of the rail corridor so planning work can begin.

A collaborative effort is now underway between the Friends of the Greenway and the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC). In early October a cleanup event was held on the section of rail corridor between Kelly Falls and Lynchville Park. Over forty volunteers worked on a damp and dreary Saturday morning to remove tons of trash and debris.

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The two groups are now working to organize a design charrette for February 2004. This will be an opportunity for local residents to brainstorm on what they envision for the new trail. Local connections will be identified along with areas of concern. This information will be documented on maps and in a report that will later be used by consultants to plan the new trail.

Manchester is currently working on the same rail corridor with the (TEA-21) funds. Eventually, the two communities could be linked with an 8-mile long trail from the Merrimack River to Goffstown Village. The non-motorized trail would connect neighborhoods with local businesses, schools, and large expanses of shoreline along the Piscataquog River.

In 1846 when plans for the Goffstown Branch railroad were first introduced, the incorporators faced similar challenges. It took several years to gain acceptance, but once built, the railroad served the local communities for over 130 years. The conversion of this corridor will again serve Goffstown residents, providing a new transportation alternative and recreational trail.

Local support is now required to ensure that the town follows through with the purchase of this important parcel of land. The Friends of the Greenway encourages residents to contact the Selectmen's Office at 497-8990, and voice their support for this worthy project. For more information please go to the "Friends" web site at: <http://www.thegreenway.org/>.