

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

October 19

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: Alex Bernhard, Steve Darling, Craig Heim, Lindy Heim, Mike Loomis, Myra Mayman, Steve Rayno, Peter Southworth, Nita Tomaszewski,

an easy way to post photos and text to highlight volunteers, and she also spoke about her work to streamline and expand our mailing/contact list.

Next Year's Project to Boscawen: Seven or Nine Miles? Alex summarized

the two length options and moved we raise funds for building seven miles of trail continuing to the center of Boscawen, by Jamie Welch Park. Discussion considered the pros and cons of parking, access, connecting to Concord, etc. The motion was passed.

New Business

Upcoming Meetings and Events: Mike told us of his involvement with the Governor's Council on Physical Activity and Health. Steve told us of his plan to ask Piche's for a bicycle to raffle at the Andover Snowmobile Club dinner. He also talked to CWS Fence about a donation of guard rail and posts (if needed) to block illegal motorized access.

Signage: Charles e-mailed his request for a vote for approval of up to \$350 for signage in West Franklin. It was seconded, and in discussion it was noted we need a sign behind the church parking lot to clarify and identify the trail access point. It was also noted that the proposed



Northern Rail Trail friend Larry Chase and Proctor Academy ecology teacher Alan McIntyre led a birding event on the Northern Rail Trail in Andover on September 25. The enthusiastic group enjoyed the two-hour hike on and around the Rail Trail looking at and calling birds, studying tracks, and appreciating the fall scenery. Pictured are Susan Chase, Alan McIntyre, and Larry Chase. Photo: Lindy Heim

Bob Ward, and guest Chuck Hoheisel

Old Business

Nita reports that the new 2.5-mile trail in West Franklin at the Webster Farm is busy and getting lots of use. Steve smoothed an extra load of stone dust at the end of the new trail to fill in truck ruts. Steve reported Webster Valve has donated a picnic table for the trail.

The FNRT met with the Franklin police chief who made a commitment to try to monitor the trail as well as work toward seeking a grant to reduce ATV traffic.

We discussed trash problems on the trail, and Chris Norris has the dates of Tuesday, November 15 and Thursday, November 17 for volunteers to clean the side of the trail along with state prison work program. Steve will follow up on the logistics of repairing the truck ruts.

Maintenance: Chuck spoke to an erosion issue at the bridges in South Danbury. Nita identified an Enfield DOT office that may help with culvert repair. Alex and Bob will follow through with asking DOT to help with the Eagle Pond culvert cleaning.

Management Committee: Peter read the letter from Cathe and Bob Lisk about organizing the Trails Management Committee. The Board can respond to their list of volunteer names via e-mail.

Technology Report: Steve D. noted that there is now a link on the FNRT Web site to acknowledge the contributions of foundations, grants, and individuals. Lindy noted that Facebook is

signs may not be the same design and materials as our eventual full trail signage. With further questions about the Franklin sign proposal, the group felt it would be prudent to defer the vote until Charles returns to address the issues.

Also, Charles asked for a volunteer to attend a Franklin City Council meeting. Nita will ask the Council to take us off the agenda until we are ready to reschedule.

Peter Crowell Ride: The Peter Crowell Ride is scheduled for 10 AM on Friday, November 11. Rain date is Sunday the 13th. The ride will start at Potter Place.

Next Meeting: The next meeting date is Wednesday, November 16. We will skip the December meeting.

FNRT Holds Ride In Memory Of Peter Crowell

By Myra Mayman

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

At 10 AM on Friday, November 11, Friends of the Northern Rail Trail (FNRT) will ride for the second time to honor the memory of Peter Oren Crowell. The ride will start at Potter Place, and each rider will be free to ride as far as he or she elects.

Peter Crowell was from New London and was key in getting early portions of the rail trail built. Peter's two sons, Peter and Ben, have continued the tradition by making their compactor and grader available each year for trail resurfacing.

"Peter was generous, competent, and a doer, not a talker," said Alex Bernhard, Vice President of FNRT. "He was one of the finest people we've met in the process of building the Northern Rail Trail. He just

showed up at one of our meetings with a contribution in hand – which he wouldn't relinquish until he was sure we were building trail, not just talking about it. 'We can do this,' he said at the end of that meeting, and he was an inspiration.

"By riding the Rail Trail on November 11, we're keeping his spirit alive in us, and all who join us."

Crowell family members and FNRT fans of all ages are invited to join in a bike ride on the rail trail headed north toward Danbury for as long as they like, then return to the trailhead for light refreshments.

Foul weather date is Sunday, November 13, scheduled for the same time and place.

The event starting point is at the historic Potter Place railway station off Route 11 in Andover.

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