

## Friends of the Northern Rail Trail Minutes, May and June 2015

**May 20**

*Condensed from draft minutes*

**Board members present:** Steve Darling, Tom Frantz, Craig Heim, Charles Martin, Joyce Morton, Ellsworth Morton, Steve Rayno, Peter Southworth, Nita Tomaszewski, Bob Ward, and guests Chuck North (Franklin), Cheryl Tedford, and Iris Ianno (Tilton)

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve reported income from the April and May membership drive was over \$5,000.

**Correspondence:** Steve shared some correspondence on the Dyers Crossing engineering work. Charles shared the news that other trails are moving toward securing a "user count" in their hopes for some economic data and analysis. Hearing support for exploring this, Charles will look into the costs and technology.

### Old Business

**Maintenance:** Steve submitted receipts for painting and sandblasting graffiti (\$75) as well as some trail clearing (\$80 gas and oil expenses). Reimbursement for these expenses were approved.

Alex and Steve recommend trail work clearing brush and railroad ties around a proposed kiosk location by the East Andover Fire Station (\$1,800). Discussion around this recommendation questioned if that is a good location for a kiosk: Is there parking nearby? It was voted to carry this discussion and vote until next month's meeting.

Steve proposed retrenching the drainage (\$600) south of Carr Street across from Chance Pond. There was a request for maps or photographs, and discussion and voting on this action was also carried.

Craig wondered about a system to report bigger maintenance projects to a member of the maintenance committee, who will then bring it to the board with necessary information in preparation for discussion and voting.

**Technology Report:** Steve Darling reported that each set of meeting minutes will be accessible on the home page of our Web site.

**Map with hotels and restaurants:** Steve Rayno worked with Leigh Webb to identify about five sites for interpretive/historical photographs in Franklin, to be installed by Trails Day. Approval for this project was received from Trails Bureau.

**Kiosks at two Welcome Centers:** Bob observed that we need a larger, coordinated plan for kiosks before deciding where we install kiosks.

National Trails Day (June 6) exhibition opening with Andover Historical Society. We will support the event by advertising this event to the FNRT database.

### New Business

**Upcoming meetings and events:** July 4 plans: Proposal to share our

space with Special Olympics Rail Trail event on the Green. Peter will talk with Pecco to see how we can work together to promote the Special Olympics in the town of Andover.

**FNRT trail map:** Bob is looking for the location of the new, smaller-sized FNRT trail map.

**Maintenance cost:** Bob raised his concerns over the very high annual maintenance cost estimates from Trails Bureau and if we can create a sustainable, long-term solution with no help from Trails Bureau. Bob wants to prepare to ask Merrimack County Commissioners for their support.

There was discussion about snowmobile clubs, collecting trail use data, and determining our annual maintenance costs before proceeding with any action. We heard from our guests about the Winnie Trail issues and budget.

**June 17**

*Condensed from draft minutes*

**Meeting location:** Boscowen

**Present:** Alex Bernhard, Steve Darling, Lindy Heim, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Joyce Morton, Ellsworth Morton, Steve Rayno, Nita Tomaszewski, Bob Ward. Guests: Mike Cunningham of Boscowen, Craig Tufts of Central New Hampshire Planning, and Heather Deardorff of Concord

**Special guest Craig Tufts:** of Central New Hampshire Planning, led a discussion of trail usage counts. Craig suggested automated equipment for counting trail users and generating reports: numbers and types of users (bicyclists, walkers, adults, children), which direction they're travelling in, impact of weather, weekly usage patterns.

The key is to figure out first what you want to find out. There isn't currently a standard for counting bicyclists and pedestrians in the planning world – unlike cars and traffic.

Craig offered support and help with grants, graphics, and analysis. Having data could/should be advantageous to us in fundraising, programming, and developing economic impact studies.

**Steve Darling** gave the Treasurer's Report. Our financial picture is similar to last month's. Additional Annual Appeal contributions have come in. Last year we raised \$8,400 in memberships; so far this year, about \$6,000. This money is very significant in meeting the challenges of annual trail maintenance.

**Regarding maintenance,** there was a vote to approve up to \$1,000 for ditching at Carr Street and water bars on the ramps at Chance Pond Road, both in Franklin. Nita suggested that in the future we have written proposals with pictures.

Mike Cunningham reported two washouts, near Depot Street and Sanborn Farm Road, both in Boscowen.

**Regarding kiosks,** Alex suggested See FNRT on page 21

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