



The Highland Lake Grange Hall (second from right) and the church (right) lend a bucolic air to this old photo of East Andover..

Old Time Variety Show & Supper To Benefit Grange Hall Restoration

By Don Towle

Grange Hall Restoration Committee

Saturday evening, November 3, the community is invited to a supper and a show to benefit the restoration of a piece of Andover history.

The building known as the Highland Lake Grange Hall has stood for over 150 years. Before it was the Grange Hall, it was known as the Union Hall, and before that Academy Hall, and before that the Highland Lake Institute.

From the time of its construction in 1850, the structure has been a center of community life – used by school, grange, church, civic organizations, and families for meetings, lectures, plays, parties, shows, entertainments, dances, suppers, and socials.

The old structure has looked a bit down at the heels in recent years, leading to the formation of the Highland Lake Grange Hall Restoration Committee and its determination to do something about it. Fifield Building Restoration and Relocation of Canterbury has been hired to do much-needed work on foundation, sills, and drainage. As more

funds are raised, other improvement projects will be undertaken.

The evening will start with a Variety Supper from 5:30 to 6:30 PM prepared by some of the finest cooks in town. Come dine for a donation; or bring a covered dish, a salad, or a dessert and eat for free. At 7 PM, what is called an Old Time Variety Show will be held at the historic 1796 Andover Meeting House (now the Andover Congregational Church) located right next door.

Singers, musicians, story-tellers, and various presenters from the wider community will be donating their talents, including the Long Tailed Monkeys, guitarist Paul Hubert, humorist Sterrett Sleeper, the Living Stones, violinist Paul Currier, piper Paul Hebert, storyteller Paul J. Fenton, Jr., the Good Old Plow, Charlie Darling, Jim and Julia, and the Mayor of East Andover. The public is invited to enjoy and donate to the work of the Restoration Committee.

For information about the Variety Supper, contact Judy Evans at 735-5331 or JudyRon@tds.net, or contact Don Towle at 744-5494 or DTowle@metrocast.net.

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

September 19

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: Alex Bernhard, Peter Crowell, Tom Frantz, Craig Heim, Lindy Heim, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Peter Southworth, Bob Ward. Member Guest: Audrey Pellegrino

Old Business

Brochure: Bob discussed the design of the new brochure. There are 1,200 brochures left and it's important to distribute them. A Brochure Distribution Committee of Tom, Lindy, and Audrey will identify where and how to deliver the brochures and will circulate their findings to the board for input. Karen Lynn Niemyer generously donated \$350 as well as significant design time and work on the brochures.

Grants Update: Myra will check with Lelia about a grant record and archive. We still need a Grants Administrator. The grant application to the Franklin Savings Bank to clean up around Maple Street was denied.

- Butler Foundation (Transportation Enhancement match) follow up
- Bikes Belong application
- List of foundations to pursue

Technology Update: Charles noted that any work on the Web site should go to Steve and not Heather Turner.

Transportation Enhancement

Funding: We have a signed agreement from the Town of Andover to be the Grant Administrator for the Danbury trail section. The Town does not want to be responsible for trail maintenance in the future. We are still working on an agreement for maintenance with DRED. It is proposed that FNRT will do regular maintenance and we will assist DRED with major work projects. Alex made a motion asking for permission to sign the contract after he circulates it via e-mail. Moved, seconded, and the motion carried. Alex will check on controlling vegetation as well as maintaining bridges. In addition, FNRT needs to look at the long term maintenance of all the FNRT trails. Bob will contact the Andover Snowmobile Club to discuss future maintenance responsibilities.

Trail construction toward East Andover: Peter asked for permission

to prepare and proceed with the next section of East Andover trail for as long as the remaining trail construction monies take us. It was moved to authorize spending the remaining balance of \$4,700, subject to an on-site meeting, after it is decided what work is required. The motion was seconded and approved. The newspaper articles on the trail construction were fantastic, and Lindy provided an update on the publications that received the article.

Connection with Rotary: Brainstorm on presentation for November 1 Rotary Expo.

Danbury Grange Fair, September 8: This was a very successful event that we should continue with next year.

Potter Place/Route 4 Bridge: Alex noted that the latest bridge design will be presented to the Andover Selectmen on October 1. The bridge design is posted at NewHampshire.gov/dot. Alex will inform the Selectmen that the FNRT-MC doesn't currently have a consensus about a parking lot north of the bridge, but we are concerned about the design.

Signage: There was discussion about a trail sign on the East Andover Fire Department barbecue shelter.

Trail Security: Clyde Kimball invitation. Postponed

Action Items

State-wide rail trail meeting November 3: This will be held at the Highland Lake Inn. The purpose is to share ideas about developing rail trails and whether a state-wide organization is feasible.

Bob will send a letter to DOT about improving the safety of the Route 11 crossing at Plains Road in East Andover.

New Business

Upcoming Meetings, Events, and Opportunities

- Rotary Expo, November 1
- New London Inn Dinner, April 17, 2008
- Work Day to clean out the culvert

Andover Recreation Committee and Blackwater Park: Tom noted the state owns some of the land in the park, and there is movement that we should consider for Andover to purchase that land and construct a building.

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