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Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

July 16

Meeting Location: Andover Firehouse

Present: Dan Allen, Duncan Coolidge, Peter Crowell, Steve Darling, Craig Heim, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Bob Ward

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 20, 7 PM, Andover Firehouse

The meeting started with a discussion led by Peter Crowell, who is concerned that the third completed section of the rail trail (from Switch Road to East Andover fire station) has stone dust that is larger than desired, making it hard to ride. He is meeting with stone dust supplier Richard Edmonds this week to discuss possible solutions.

Once Peter gets final go-ahead he'll get to work on extending the rail trail from East Andover to the Franklin line, as well as fixing the third section. Our hope is to have it finished by the end of September.

Charles Martin reported on progress of this year's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant. He has received the special use permit for heavy machinery on the rail trail, now has to obtain a certificate of insurance.

Peter also voiced concern about sand migrating from the playground at Blackwater Park across the rail trail. His proposed solution is to install curb at grade to separate the sand and the rail trail gravel. Myra will check with Tom Frantz of the Andover Recreation Committee.

Concerned about plant growth along the trail, particularly poison ivy. We need to develop a Maintenance Plan, so that will be added to the agenda for future discussion.

Old Business

Grants update: Craig has assembled list of possible foundations to ask for support, and a plan to do so. Everyone was impressed by the amount and level of work Craig has done on this.

Technology Report: Next year he wants to post the results of the July 4 Firecracker 5K race the day after the race.

He will post information on the upcoming extension of the rail trail to Franklin. It should be safe to say it will be done by the end of September.

Potter Place to Danbury: Bob reported that VHB Engineers have been selected by the committee of Bob Ward, Dana Hadley, and Alex Bernhard as engineers for the Transportation Enhancement project from Potter Place to Danbury. Next step: negotiating the contract. This is basically a resurfacing project over an already existing rail bed, so minimal engineering should be required.

Report by Dan Allen, Environmental Coordinator:

Shoreline Protection Act is not an issue for us. We're pursuing status as

trail enhancement, not new construction, with no requirement of involved permitting. That status requires OK from about 20 people. We have a letter from Department of Environmental Services saying we can consider this re-surfacing. If we're going to do ditching and culvert cleaning, then we need permit by notification.

Historic Resources. We need to show that we're not disturbing archaeological sites.

Potter Place Bridge Replacement: Carry to August 20 meeting.

Signage: Carry to Aug. 20 meeting.

Brochure Reprinting: Bob will see to brochure reprinting, to be done in time for August 3 Potter Place Old Time Fair.

Fourth of July Report: Firecracker 5 Foot Race: 120 runners registered this year, over 40 last year, with positive feedback. Tom Frantz was applauded for his efforts, and Peter Southworth. Dan Allen offered his radio club to help next year with radios along the route announcing progress.

The bike raffle is doing well, with \$700 in tickets sold so far, with no costs, as S&W Sports of Concord donated.

Tilton-Northfield Rotary Meeting: Charles heard a report from Winnepesaukee Trail group. They are not currently working to connect with our rail trail, although that is their intention. Once we have reached Franklin we should pursue.

Annual Election of Officers: It was moved and unanimously approved to re-elect the current officers.

September 20 Workday to clean out culvert near end of Carr Road: Carry to August 20 meeting. In the meantime, Alex will be asked to pursue a permit by notification.

New Business

Potter Place Old Time Fair: August 3. Peter Southworth is organizing a table. We need volunteers to help him staff the table.

Charles Martin asked if we could sell his book, *New Hampshire Rail Trails*, at Potter Place Old Time Fair: consensus that it be sold at FNRT table as well as at RR station.

Meeting in Wilmot: Wednesday, September 17, 7 PM at Wilmot Public Library on North Wilmot Road next to Wilmot Town Hall.

Relief In Sight – Potter Place Port-a-Potty Planned: Myra reported that there have been requests for a port-a-potty at Potter Place. The estimated cost is \$85 per month. It was moved and approved to arrange for this facility from August through November, on the condition that the Andover Historical Society share the cost. [At its July 16 meeting the Historical Society approved a similar motion, so presumably the port-a-potty plan for Potter Place will proceed promptly.]

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