

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

January 19

Present: Pecco Beaufays, Alex Bernhard, Steve Darling, Tom Frantz, Mike Loomis, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Peter Southworth, Bob Ward, Nita Tomaszewski, and guest Ryan Murphy.

Guest Ryan Murphy. Andover School Integrated Curriculum produced from the CCNTR Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) grant involving the rail trail. Ryan Murphy, AE/MS science teacher, spoke about the HEAL Grant he shared with others at AE/MS. Ryan explained the process of building the nature trail with his seventh grade science students right off the rail trail across from the Howard George Ball Field. His work was commended and is a model for future school/rail trail projects.

Treasurer's Report. Noted that the TE Expenditures for '09 and '10 were approximately \$60,000, and our remaining TE set aside to cover our share of TE expenses is approximately \$15,000. Membership renewals have been coming in steadily. In looking at our income and expenditures, we decided a future agenda item will be to set goals and priorities for future FNRT programs.

Old Business

Technology Report (Steve): The new Web site linking Grafton and Merrimack Counties is not up yet, but the Andover, Danbury, and Franklin town Web sites all have links to the FNRT.

RTP 2011 Application (Nita): Nita has produced the RTP application binder with the goal of building trail another two miles and 1/10 of a mile past Punch Brook in West Franklin. She secured many letters of support and the application review will start next week. With the application, fundraising an extra \$7,500 would extend the new trail to Webster Place, a far better trail head and destination. Charles noted that the trash problem along some sections of this trail are very bad. We have already received a \$500 gift from the UMR-LAC (Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee) in support of this section.

TE (Danbury Extension) Report

(Alex): The bridge railings are up, wet spots on the trail have been fixed, some extra ditching was completed, and there is only some paperwork for others to complete. It was noted that Alex has been working on this project for five years! The town of Andover was hugely beneficial in serving as Municipal Manager and filling that role was a great contribution to building eight miles of trail into Danbury. No Town funds were used in this project.

Maintenance (Peter): We looked at the proposals from Preston Towle, a certified herbicidist, to treat vegetation as well as poison ivy. We will discuss how to proceed at a future meeting.

Official opening in 2011 of eight mile extension to Danbury (Lindy, Craig, Alex): John Taylor has proposed a Trails Day summer event for a bike ride or walk to celebrate the opening of the trail in conjunction with the Upper Valley Trails Alliance. We will discuss at the February meeting.

New Business

Inviting Tilton Manager Joyce Fulweiler to a meeting (Myra): Carried.

Facebook (Lindy): We discussed the pros and cons of sustaining a FaceBook account. Lindy has started a FNRT FaceBook page and Mike will contact Lindy about tracking and monitoring the account as well as looking at other rail trails using FaceBook. There was consensus that we should try using FaceBook on a trial basis until August.

Signage needs (Alex): This will be included in our program discussion in February.

Thursday's Child dinner, April 14 (Myra): Everyone should put this dinner at the New London Inn on their calendars since a part of the proceeds come to FNRT.

Spring/Summer bike rally proposed by Larry Keniston (Charles): We heard some proposals and after further clarification, will discuss them in February.

SRKG Offers Winter Hikes

SRKG press release

February 17, 18, or 19: Moonlight Madness, 8 PM to 10 PM, on the Greenway Coalition (SRKG) is once again leading a series of exciting winter hikes in the Lake Sunapee region. The hikes are free and open to all.



The hikes, as always, offer a variety of terrain and conditions and will include snowshoe and cross-country ski events. A special feature again this year will be a moonlight snowshoe hike over a forgiving three-mile course.

Hikes range from easy to difficult. Hike leaders will offer full details for each event, including starting place and time and equipment needs. There is absolutely no cost to participants, except for personal food, equipment, and transportation to the hike site.

Since winter hikes require special attention to physical conditioning, weather, and snow conditions, hikers are encouraged to evaluate their capabilities carefully before joining any group.

The hikes:

January 29: Snowshoe or X-C hike over trails in Wilmot's Patterson Road area. Refreshments afterward. Brian Faughnan, 526-7838. 3 miles, moderate.

February 5: Visit Andover's scenic small ponds, including Hopkins, Elbow, and Mud. Lee Carvalho, 735-5719. 6 miles, easy to moderate.

February 12: A mostly downhill traverse of the Greenway's Trail 6 from Wilmot to Pleasant Lake. Art Robbins, 927-4377. 3.5 miles, moderate.

February 17, 18, or 19: Moonlight Madness, 8 PM to 10 PM, on the Greenway Coalition (SRKG) is once clearest night. Install fresh batteries in your headlamp, and call leader Dave Cook, 526-4570, 5:30 to 6:30 PM nightly, to confirm date and details. 2 miles, moderate.

February 26: A reprise of Susan and Michael Chiarellas' Hot Chocolate Ramble. Snowshoe Greenway trails in Springfield. Call 763-4661. 3 miles, moderate.

March 5: Journey along Sunapee Ridge to Lucia's Lookout to appreciate the unique view seen only by dedicated trekkers. Call Gerry Gold, 526-2857. 10 miles, difficult.

March 6: Track wildlife along Sutton's Lincoln Trail to Black Mountain. Led by Forest Society naturalist Dave Anderson. RSVP to SPNHF at 224-9945, ext. 313, or e-mail signup@forest-society.org. 3.5 miles, moderate, with some steep places.

The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition is a non-profit volunteer organization that promotes hiking and land conservation amid the rugged beauty of three major mountains. Its 75-mile trail system, incorporating 14 separate hikes through Andover, Danbury, Goshen, Newbury, New London, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner, and Wilmot, is free and open to all. For information, visit SRKG.com, or write Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition, PO Box 1684, New London 03257-1684.



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PLEASANT LAKE VETERINARY HOSPITAL
24-HOUR EMERGENCY COVERAGE



Discover the Heart of Warner!!

February 12, 2011 – 10am to 2pm

Stop at any participating shop to pick up your Bingo Card. You could be the winner of the grand prize which consists of dinner for two at Foot Hills, chocolates, roses and goodies from the local shops!!

Visit www.kearsargechamber.org for details and event schedule

Participating shops: Clovis Moon Café ♥ Country Cobwebs ♥ Kearsarge Conservatory of the Performing Arts ♥ New Hampshire Telephone Museum ♥ Pillsbury Free Library

Rowe Mountain Fair Trade ♥ Warner Pharmacy ♥ Wingdoodle