

**Trails from page 21**

across the country. The eyes of America's rail trail community will be well and truly trained on New Hampshire.

According to RTC's Manager of Communications, Jake Lynch, the organization and cooperation of a number of local groups is what makes the story of the Northern Rail Trail so remarkable.

Shortly after the trail corridor was turned over to the state, snowmobile groups saw the potential of the trail for recreational use and began to work on it. To address the needs of the trail during the warmer months, two non-profit groups were formed, one in each of the two counties that the trail traversed.

"Obviously the locals involved could see what a wonderful amenity the trail would be for the area," Lynch says. "This level of cooperation is pretty rare in rail trail development. The way the various groups were able to share the responsibility and heavy lifting of getting the trail built, and now maintaining and promoting the trail, speaks volumes of their community spirit and vision. They should be proud of the fact that, across America, other communities have been inspired by their example, and the story of how the Northern Rail Trail came to be is now a lesson is trail building for others."

The Northern Rail Trail was also featured in an RTC trail building report last year. Community Built: Stories of Volunteers Creating and Caring for

Their Trails selected remarkable examples of local communities making good on their trail ambitions despite limited funding or government assistance.

"Everywhere you go, you hear that times are tough," Lynch says. "Particularly in the world of trail-building, resources for development and maintenance are limited or nonexistent, and it can be disheartening for volunteers and advocates who face seemingly insurmountable planning challenges and multi-million dollar estimates. By sharing stories like that of the Northern Rail Trail we wanted to give potential trail champions heart, and show them that stories abound of trails getting developed, extended, and cared for with minimal resources."

Lynch says that extending the Northern Rail Trail or connecting it to other trails would greatly expand not only its popularity but also its economic value to the communities along its route.

"Rail trails like this one are sustaining and invigorating towns, cities, and main streets across America with a trails tourism economy that is worth billions of dollars a year," Lynch says. "Last year, Americans spent more on bike gear and trips than they spent on airplane tickets and fees. That's a market that trail towns everywhere are eager to tap into. And one way to do that is by building more miles for longer journeys, connecting to other trails, and by investing in amenities and businesses to serve visiting trail users." 

**Projects from page 1**

vinyl, laminate hardwood flooring, and ceramic tile sales and installation. Call Justin at 393-5431.

- Dale J. Dukette, Jr. does a wide range of new construction and home improvement work, outside and inside, projects large and small. Call Dale at 735-5372.

- Rick Dukette, general contractor, does home improvements including siding, roofing, decks, additions, remodeling, and mobile home repairs. Call Rick at 455-0323.

- Wayne Dukette of D&D Siding is a general contractor who does siding, roofing, and replacement windows. Call Wayne at 735-5867.

- Rick Estes, the Village Sweep, does chimney cleaning, inspections, and repair plus wood, pellet, and gas stove installations. Call Rick at 735-5300.

- Jon Fifield is a semi-retired general contractor. Call Jon at 491-8265 or 267-6462.

- Lucas Fowler specializes in traditional timber frame buildings, green super-insulated houses, and 3-D design services. Contact Lucas through his Web site at [LucasJFowler.com](http://LucasJFowler.com).

- Bob Grover Construction does interior and exterior work and additions. 20+ years of experience. 470-7248.

- J&B Landscaping and Excavation does house sites, septic systems, driveways, walls, lawns, and hydroseeding for new and existing construction. 735-5212.

- Toby Locke is a general contractor for barns and post-and-beam homes as well as all aspects of construction and remodeling. Call Toby at 735-5039.

- Marceau and Sons does commercial and residential asphalt paving, site work, driveways, parking lots. Call Dave at 735-5232.

- Pat Mead and John Braley of Mead and Braley Standing Seam Roofing offer on-site pan forming, 21" pans, American-made steel, and 10 colors. They also welcome inquiries from contractors. Call John at 735-5097.

- Dan Merzi of Merzi Excavation can address all earthwork needs, including site work, septic systems, demolition, retaining walls, land clearing, tree installation, and drainage work. Call Dan at 748-0327 or 735-5334.

- Jeff and Diane Miller of Miller Property Maintenance do general contracting, new home construction, remodeling, landscaping, and landscape design. Call them at 454-5030.

- Dan Murphy of Chase Hill Plumbing and Heating does plumbing, heating, and gas piping. Call Dan at 731-5468.

- Joe Poulin of Poulin Property Maintenance does commercial and residential mowing, landscaping, seasonal clean-ups, brush removal, and driveways. Bark mulch available. Contact Joe or Samantha at 735-5282 or [JSCB@Poulin-Property.com](mailto:JSCB@Poulin-Property.com).

- Simple Living Builders (Stefan Pouliot) does general carpentry, light site work and excavation, and custom furniture. Call 848-0258.

- Stanley J. Smith does custom wood-working and indoor house repairs. Call Stan at 735-5924.

- Lenny Spaulding does drywall. Call Lenny at 735-4181.

- Mark E. Thompson Excavating does septic systems, site work, land use evaluation, test pits, perk tests, large rock machine walls, screened loam, sand, and gravel. Call 735-5581.

- Howard Wilson of Dragons, Inc. does lawn and landscape work and consultation, rototilling, and cleanouts. Call 735-5427 for a free estimate. 

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