

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail Minutes, February and March 2015

February 18, 2015

Condensed from draft minutes

The meeting was held in the Boscawen Town Hall, in the basement of the Congregational Church.

FNRT Board members present: Steve Darling, Joyce Morton, Ellsworth Morton, Steve Rayno, Peter Southworth, Bob Ward, and guest Jack Shields (Penacook).

Old Business

Action items: Bob had plans to meet with the Boscawen Board of Selectmen in regard to signage, but the meeting was cancelled.

Technology report: Bob asked about posting our monthly meeting agenda on the FNRT Web site, but Steve noted that could present problems for Heather, as she isn't managing our site on such a regular basis. We discussed putting it on Facebook as well.

Kiosks at two Welcome Centers: We looked at Ellsworth's proposed one-sided kiosk. He offered to build the kiosk and donate his expertise and labor with FNRT buying the material (approximately \$180 for each).

We discussed how many kiosks we want to put up and the purpose of the kiosk – a welcome beacon, a large map, and information on FNRT.

Finding a volunteer to stock the membership cards and maintain the kiosk is a concern. We identified East Andover (by the EAFD barbecue pit) and Jamie Welch Park as the next two locations for installation. A motion to allocate \$400 for the two kiosks was passed.

New Business

Jack Shields (an interested party, member of Rails to Trails) noted that because the Trail can't go any further south, he has done research on the crossing over the Pan Am Railroad tracks by the Hannah Dustin rest area. The Boscawen Historical Society researched the issue, and Jack showed a letter from the Boscawen Board of Selectmen recognizing that Boscawen still has access to the crossing.

Jack met again with them about signage and reported the Boscawen Board of Selectmen are in support of any signs we feel are appropriate. Jack asked the Boscawen board about creating a parking area off the side of the road, right where the trail ends. The landowner there has been blocked by parked cars and would support this.

Boyd Smith (Newfound Lake Environmental Coordinator) is working on signage to direct people parking at Hannah Dustin to the start of the trail and signs for the crossing and parking, and he'll meet with the Boscawen Road Agent about what signs to post. Funding hasn't been located.

In regard to sign design, materials, etc., FNRT and Boyd need to coordinate. Jack will attend our March meeting (perhaps with Boyd Smith) to

continue our signage discussion and planning.

There was discussion about future signs and asking towns and the state to waive fees for signs and to support the Rail Trail.

Upcoming meetings and events.

April 23: Thursday's Child fundraising dinner at New London Inn.

March 18, 2015

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: FNRT Board members Tom Frantz, Ellsworth Morton, Joyce Morton, Steve Rayno, Peter Southworth, and Bob Ward.

Discussion of maintenance with special guests Chris Gamache, Chief of New Hampshire Bureau of Trails and District 3 Supervisor Shawn Violette; Leon Nelson, Mike Henderson, and Greg Miller of the Andover Snowmobile Club (ASC); Jack Shields, Penacook Village Association; Boyd Smith, Newfound Lake Region Association; Steve Robinson, Danbury FNRT Trail Master; Ricker Miller, Andover FNRT Trail Master; Prescott Towle, ASC Insurance; Steve Proulx and Ken Lind, Lakes Region Snowmobile Club.

Maintenance Discussion. Bob began with the overview that with 35 miles of rail trail now complete, the FNRT shifts into clarifying maintenance agreements with the state and begins planning for annual budgeting.

Chris noted there are three-year cooperative agreements (just like with snowmobile clubs) that depend on volunteer groups. He highlighted the limitations of money and staff and the reality that Bureau of Trails (BoT) can help with major trail crises (blow-downs, wash-outs, etc.) but not much else. He asserted the state's dependence and appreciation for the volunteer groups such as FNRT and snowmobile clubs.

Chris noted the changing demographics of trail users and the shift away from interest in financial or volunteer support. Mike H. inquired about the Adopt-a-Trail model for trail management, and this was discussed. Ricker Miller and Steve Robinson had questions about when to notify BoT for projects and shared some specifics of Danbury work.

In regard to the issue of railroad bridges and safety (i.e. bridges lacking guardrails), Chris stated this is a cooperative issue that volunteer clubs and the BoT should communicate on. There are many bridges that don't have guardrails, and the BoT does not consider this a safety problem. The ASC had plans to rebuild the wooden guardrails on some Andover railroad bridges, but Chris noted that all the bridges should be consistent with no guardrails. The wooden guardrails are a liability concern because someone could be injured while climbing on the rails.

See FNRT on page 28

Route 11 from page 26

Our old deeds show that in June of 1903, Joseph Cullen – the owner at that time – sold a small portion of his western land to the B&M Railroad. At some point, his neighbor Edgar Taylor sold a small part of his Hogback land to the B&M Railroad as well.

These two parcels of land, when joined together, would become the new path for the Brook Road. This road still passed in front of Archie's Store and Gas Station, but instead of turning south, it now continued straight west towards the brook (across our present field by the big pine tree). It then crossed the brook on a new bridge and eventually rejoined the original Brook

Road just beyond the Clay Bank. This new section of road, while much higher in elevation than the original road, was considerably lower than the highway of today. Thankfully, it was now much higher than, and farther away from, the troublesome railroad tracks.

A large amount of excavation was necessary on the western side of the new bridge in order for the road to make its way around Hogback. This would create new problems for the road travelers and would eventually lead to the building of the Brook Road's third path!

SPRING CLEANING?
ANDOVER YANKEE TRADER!

Jake's

MARKET & DELI

WE HAVE NEW COFFEE!

We are now freshly grinding and brewing
Java Tree Gourmet Coffees.
Craft roasted in Manchester, NH. Come give it a try!
Lots of flavors including Maple Walnut, and French Toast!

We still sell Green Mtn K-Cups – 24 for \$11.99
Great Selection and Price!

193 Main Street, AndoverCall ahead: 735-5406

Whisper Wind Stables

OPEN HOUSE!

Sat, April 25, 2015
10 A.M.-2 P.M.

Free BBQ

- Horseback Rides and Cart Rides
- Riding Demonstrations
- Children's Activities
- Drawing for A FREE lesson (\$35.00 value)
- Sign Up for Summer Camp

Whisper Wind Stables
647 Flaghole Road
Andover, NH 03216
603-934-2139
Allison@Whisperwindstable.com

Now

Open for the
2015 Season

SAVE
\$5.00

off your lesson with
this coupon.

American Riding Instructor Certified
Recipient of American Riding
Instructor Top 50

Country Pine Furniture

Check out our
STORAGE SOLUTIONS!

LET'S GET ORGANIZED!

Closet organizers,
ski racks, coat racks,
benches and cubbies.

Check
It Out!

TownLine Outdoor Furniture

Route 11 & Pancake Rd
Andover • Open 7 Days

(603) 735-5778