

FNRT-MC June Meeting Minutes

Board Attendees: Alex Bernhard, Steve Darling, George Heaton, Lindy Heim, Myra Mayman, Chris Norris

Guests: Allan Beetle (Laconia), Elaine Clough (Boscawen), Bruce Crawford (Boscawen), Ricker Miller (Andover), Prescott Towle (Epsom)

Co-President Myra Mayman called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.; concluded at 8:15.

Business Matters:

1. The Minutes of the May meetings were approved without amendment.

2. The Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously.

A gratifying inflow of contributions from members and others over the last month, combined with preexisting funds, has led to a substantial cash balance. These funds will be used – as planned and committed – for a number of Trail maintenance projects that are now ongoing or soon to be.

The filing for another much-appreciated Brown Foundation grant has gone into its final stage.

Correspondence and recognition of a significant grant in memory of Tom Phelan of White Rock in Bow, a Trail enthusiast and user, was presented to the Board. Such memories are much appreciated.

3. Tech Report. Heather Turner has finished the conversion of the FNRT-MC website to Word Press, which will allow easy updating by the Board. To accomplish this, a volunteer will be solicited; Lindy Heim believes that a good candidate has been found.

4. Call for Volunteers. As indicated above, Lindy Heim has been pursuing a volunteer initiative, with significant success. In addition to website work – including a "Sponsor Page" -- volunteers will represent FNRT-MC in a booth at the Concord Market Days

Volunteer NOTE:

We welcome volunteers! If you are interested, please contact Lindy Heim at lindycraig@heimfamily.org

Trail Maintenance Projects: Various Maintenance Projects, all previously authorized, are now underway. It is estimated that the total expenditure for all projects described below will amount to around \$15,000. The projects include:

1. Bridges. Three Andover bridges are slated for railing replacement and decking repair: the Bridge Street bridge, the bridge south of Potter Place, and the bridge on South Short Street. In each case, new railings will be installed. In addition, our contractor – Rodney Judkins – will replace a few of the worst decking planks as needed to eliminate safety hazards.

Since the original contract for this work was concluded, the cost of lumber has increased, and more repairs may be needed. Thus, the Board authorized an additional \$600 for this work.

As the Andover Snowmobile has in the past taken responsibility for decking maintenance, Alex asked Leon Nelson,

the Club's Trail Administrator, if they could repair the decking. Leon assured him that they would fix it.

2. Culverts and Grading. Chris Norris and Ricker Miller have conducted an assessment of culverts along the Trail. Many are in need of cleaning and/or repair. This work is ongoing under Chris' supervision.

At Blackwater Park, the Trail surface and a nearby culvert at Carr Field are in need of repair. Our contractor will add material, crown and grade the Trail in the culvert tunnel area – anticipated in the month of July.

A section of the Trail in East Andover (Dodge to Channel Streets) is in need of resurfacing. Ricker Miller is supervising this work, which will include raising and leveling the Trail – after culvert work is completed – to make it more resilient to runoff.

3. Mowing. Arrangements have been made by Peter Southworth for our contractor – Jim Shaw – to undertake the same mowing operation as last year. This will begin as soon as possible, although no firm date is set.

The cost for this operation has increased about 10%. The Board, therefore, authorized a new expenditure level of \$3000, an increase of \$200.

A volunteer opening the gates along the Trail during the mowing operation would result in cost savings. We are hopeful that a person can be found; Lindy will put out a request.

In discussion, the desirability of stabilizing the cost and having a date certain for completion was recognized. It was agreed that mowing arrangements addressing these concerns should be secured next year during the early spring.

4. Vegetation Control. The vegetation control plan that had been authorized last year has begun to be implemented, after permits from the State were obtained, and a first window of time determined.

On May 30, Prescott Towle, of Invasive Weed Control (Epsom), applied herbicides to a 7-mile section of the Trail in Franklin, where invasives have presented a continuing, unsolved problem. Signs and notifications to all users of the Trail on that day accompanied this one-day operation, applied to a 12-foot swath.

Poison ivy and Japanese knotweed continue to plague the Trail in this section. Other applications to deal with these problems at a time appropriate to their life cycle are under consideration.

The use of goats to control vegetation along the Trail – including poison ivy – has been under discussion. A local farmer has volunteered goats for an experiment, which would compare the efficacy of goats and herbicides. Photos of the Trail – before and after herbicide use -- are the first data gathered. Similar photos will be taken, and other measures developed, when the goats are deployed.

Future Plans and External Coordination: As the Board is actively

See Trail on page 36

New London Historical Society Hosts Happy Days Dance

Saturday, August 12
from 4 P.M. to 10 P.M.

Press release

Picture this. ... Folks of all ages come together for a bash in their best 1950's attire to dance, twist, limbo, eat, and drink on a summer's night in the New London Historical Society village barn.

On August 12 you can do just that! The night's fun rolls from 4 P.M. to 10 P.M. with music thanks to Damien Petry. Sure to be a blast, start with popular 50 tunes, dancing, the under 21 crowd activities, contest and prizes, the root beer float counter and BBQ dinner. As twilight comes the over 21 contest will be had from 7-10 P.M. with dinner, bar and we'll crown our king and queen.

It will be Fun City in New London with this event. Admission for adults is \$20.00, children under 12 are free. Make a plan that suits your crazy

crowd-bring the family or attend later with 1950 lovin' hipsters.

Tickets in advance at Tatewell Gallery, Scarlett Pharmacy, online at www.newlondonhistoricalsociety.org and at the door- mark your calendar today!!

The New London Historical Society (NLHS), founded in 1954, is a nonprofit, member supported organization committed to preserving and presenting the early history of the New London, New Hampshire area. The society's collection includes a village of 19th century buildings, more than 24 horse drawn vehicles and thousands of other artifacts reflecting everyday life in rural New Hampshire. Located at 179 Little Sunapee Road in New London and open every Sunday from 1-4 P.M. and scheduled programs and events. To learn more about NLHS- visit the Web site www.newlondonhistoricalsociety.org or call (603)526-6564.



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