

FNRT-MC Meeting Minutes for May 16

Condensed from draft minutes

Board Attendees: Steve Darling, Tom Frantz, George Heaton, Craig Heim, Lindy Heim, Chris Norris, Jack Shields, Nita Tomaszewski

Loyal Supporters: Ricker Miller, Patrice Rasche, Steve Rasche, Prescott Towle

Most-Welcome Guests: Sherry and Bruce Cook, of Grafton

Business Matters:

During the last month, two annual fund-raising events yielded new income for the Trail: 1) the Thursday's Child dinner at the Coach House in New London; 2) the Annual Appeal.

The Annual Appeal begins with a "stuffing party" for the envelopes that carry information about the Trail and donation possibilities to many hundreds of supporters. It ends with the happy receipt of contributions. At more than \$2300 currently, these are running at about the usual rate.

NOTE: It is never too late to make a contribution to the Annual Appeal! Every dollar received is used exclusively for the maintenance and improvement of the Northern Rail Trail!!!

Trail Maintenance Work:

Board member Chris Norris reported on the various maintenance projects, so vital to the Trail, and now in full swing. Ricker Miller's efforts on the ground

have developed solutions at problem spots, and are much appreciated.

The State of New Hampshire Bureau of Trails gave its formal permission for trail maintenance activities in a letter to Vice-President Alex Bernhard dated May 9, 2018. This permission extends until December 15, 2018.

The maintenance program for this period targets 5 bridges and at least 10 culverts. Chris Norris has made formal arrangements with contractors, as previously authorized, and work is proceeding.

As of the Meeting date, the long-problematic culverts at Eagle Pond have been put in good shape by Ricker Miller and Chris Norris.

Reports on Other Projects:

1. Trail Counts. Tom Frantz reported on the acquisition of cameras and counting devices, which will be installed on a small section of the Trail in Andover. This experiment will test the feasibility of counting Trail users, which has long been of interest.

2. Route 4 Bridge Reconstruction and Painting. George Heaton and Lindy Heim reported on DOT's plans for two bridge projects in Danbury, which were presented at the Board of Selectmen meeting on May 2. As these projects affect the Trail, FNRT-MC is a design- See FNRTC on page 29

Author from page 24

this event will inspire all ages of readers and writers in our Andover community to write their stories and read those of others. According to author Philip Pullman, "after nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the things we need most in the world."

History from page 19

syrup we cared for.

In reply to you asking me about working for Papa, he has hired a hand, and will not hire any other. Of course, he had to hire when he had a chance. It won't be long before we have to begin on the ground.

I must close as I want to eat my breakfast.

Yours,
Mary Edyth Keniston

March 5, 1917

Background Information on this Letter: Fourteen years have passed since the last letter (or the last letter which was saved). Mary has married and is living in the Tioga section of Hill which is on the other side of East Andover's Tucker Mountain Road. Robert married in 1906 and has 3 children. In 1912 Robert takes over the family farm, and in 1917 his father dies. Mary's letter is one of condolence to Robert on the loss of his father, and an apology for not being able to attend the service. This letter really brought home to me, the difficulty of traveling at this time, and especially the difficulty of winter travel.

Excerpts From Letter

Your card received late Saturday, and sorry to hear the sad news. It is hard to bear the great loss, but we ought not to wish them to stay and have to suffer when they can find comfort in heaven. Robert, my husband and I would have come down to the funeral had it been a pleasant day. We did not dare to come in the storm for it snowed and blew here something terrible. We had such a long drive to get there, as we had to come to Hill Village and then go down and out by Webster Lake, and then up to your place. There is no road out through Tioga this winter (and over Tucker Mountain to East Andover). We have nothing but a five year old horse to drive, and he is not used to a long drive. But we should have come had it not stormed. I would not have dared to ride so far in the storm for I have been sick for nearly four weeks with this terrible Grip cold. I've done my housework that I was obliged to do and that is all.

Guy (her husband) and I are all alone

Amy's books will be available for sale at the event. Proctor Academy request that participants park on the street, near Maxwell Savage Hall, behind the Stone Chapel or in the lower Proctor parking lot; please do not park on the driveway around the green. Contact Andover Public Library 735-5333 or Bachelor Library 735-5076 with questions.

now as his Brother has been away working all winter. We do intend to come over sometime when Summer comes and with it better weather.

We have 12 little Lambs. We have one sheep who gave birth to triplets, and they are all alive and doing fine. She feeds two of them and the other we have to feed. They need a lot of care since it is so cold.

How are all your family? Well I hope. My family is quite nicely, but had quite a time here with the Measles this fall. Glad no one got them that was here at our reception. Guy was just coming down with them. He was sick that night but did not know what the matter was. Three of them here got them. Guy was terrible sick with them. Then it left his lungs so bad that he is just now gaining. He does have to be rather careful.

Wish you all would come to see us when you can. Would like to hear from you once in a while, and I will try and answer.

Love to all,
Mary Keniston Noyes

A Little About Edith Robie Richards

Edith Robie Richards had the foresight to save the early letters of her father, Samuel Robie, and the 1916 diary of her mother, Blanche Hersey Robie. Edith later passed these keepsakes on to my mother, Dorothy Hersey LaPlante, who in turn passed them along to me

Edith and my mother were double first cousins (a brother and a sister married a sister and a brother). They were only a month apart in age, and attended Dyers Crossing School together. Edith graduated from Proctor Academy and Plymouth Normal School. She taught school for a short time before becoming a librarian in Springfield MA.

Edith, her mother, and my mother were always interested in family history and family genealogy. Blanche was a correspondent for the Journal Transcript, and for a number of years she reported on East Andover's social happenings. She was the secretary of the Hersey Reunion for 43 years, and Edith followed in her footsteps serving for 41 years.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to Edith Robie Richards for preserving this little bit of East Andover family history!

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