

## Report of FNRT-MC February Board Meeting

**George Heaton, FNRT-MC Secretary**

Condensed from approved minutes of the February 6, 2019 meeting.

Board Attendees (in person): Alex Bernhard, Tom Frantz, George Heaton, Myra Mayman, Chris Norris, Jack Shields, (via media connection): Lindy Heim, Charles Martin,

Loyal Trail Supporters and Welcome Guests: Ricker Miller, Patrice Rasche, Steve Rasche; Gretchen Durack and Walter Durack

### Business Matters:

1. Minutes of January 2019 Board Meeting, accepted unanimously without amendment.

2. Treasurer's Report. Continuing the discussion of January, a revised budget was presented, corrected in some particulars, and discussed in general. With projected income for 2019 looking to be around \$20,000, and projected expenses about \$14,000, the budget forecast showed a likely surplus. Looking at this surplus, combined with a healthy cash-on-hand balance in the bank, the Board quickly came to the conclusion that additional funds should be committed to various Trail improvement projects. (See below.)

With this resolve, and various minor corrections, the budget for 2019 was unanimously approved.

### Trail Projects:

1. Mowing. Chris Norris reported on an agreement in principle with mowing contractor Jim Shaw to undertake this work. The Board authorized Chris to proceed to a signed contract and scheduling.

2. "Brushing Back." Ricker Miller reported on his outreach efforts to other groups, such as the "Town Line Trail Dusters" in Boscawen/Penacook, to undertake "brushing back" along the Trail – i.e., cutting of overhead and other encroaching large vegetation, using equipment such as a "Brontosaurus."

The Board was very receptive to these plans, and agreed with Ricker's welcome plans to cooperate with other groups and move this work forward in the summer.

3. Bridge Repair. Coincident with the budget discussion, the Board considered anew the subject of bridge repair. Chris Norris reported on the repair needs of four bridges, two each in Franklin and Danbury. He was then authorized to solicit bids for the two bridges in Franklin as a first step.

### Other Matters:

1. Rejection of the Town of Boscawen's TAP Proposal. In late

January, the State DOT announced its awards under the TAP Program. Boscawen's proposal was not among them, having scored lower than others in part because of a lack of assured funding in the 20% match and "connectivity" of the Trail into Concord. With the hoped-for fruition of the plans below (see #2), future proposals of this nature may be mounted successfully.

2. Cooperation with the Merrimack River Greenway in Plans for Trail Extension. George Heaton, Myra Mayman and Jack Shields reported on a highly successful meeting with representatives of the Merrimack River Greenway in Concord on February 4.

The "news item" of most importance is an ongoing negotiation process between the City of Concord and PanAm to purchase its right of way, from Boscawen into the center of Concord. A central aspect of these negotiations is the plan for a new railroad facility south of the City, and the consequent complete abandonment of all right-of-way to the north – all to be concluded in a hoped-for package.

The "action items" of most importance are four: 1) an agreement to continue cooperation between FNRT-MC and the Merrimack River Greenway; 2) the election of Jack Shields to the Greenway Board, and therefore, the liaison between the two groups; 3) continued monitoring of the Concord-PanAm negotiations; 4) hoped-for enlistment of the Town of Boscawen in this process.

3. RTP Program Investigation. As the Trail has benefitted from NH Recreational Trails Program grants in the past, Lindy Heim agreed to investigate the schedule and criteria for such grants, and consider whether they offer another funding source for the Northern Rail Trail maintenance projects.

4. Bridge Replacement in Danbury. As reported in prior meetings, the NH DOT has plans to replace the Route 4 bridge that crosses the Trail south of Danbury. Another public hearing was being held on this matter in Danbury on February 13. As no FNRT-MC representatives were able to attend, George Heaton agreed to submit a letter for the record (which was received). The FNRT-MC is well satisfied with DOT's design proposals, which have not changed.

NOTE: There will be no meeting in March

Wednesday, April 17, 2019; 7 PM; The Andover Community Hub, Andover. All are cordially invited!

## Fells from page 34

ing out as they emerge from our wetlands and vernal pools. Come to The Fells to discover the magic of a New Hampshire vernal pool. We'll be looking for the eggs of our native salamanders and frogs

and maybe catch sight of these remarkable creatures. This program is offered jointly by The Fells and Lake Sunapee Protective Association. Fells and LSPA members free, nonmembers \$5 per family. No registration required. Meets at The Fells Gatehouse.

## New Hampshire Stone Wall Mapping Project

You can help  
with this project

**Mary Anne Broshek**

You can't help noticing the innumerable stone walls arrayed across the NH landscape, but then again perhaps they seem so commonplace that they just blend into the background of your day-to-day experience. This project is an invitation to take a "fresh" look at these simple relics from New Hampshire's past and see them in a new light, or more literally, Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). With the availability of LiDAR across NH, we can see imagery of land elevations through the trees, revealing - among other things - stone walls that are deep within forests today. You can explore New Hampshire's LiDAR landscape, and contribute to the mapping of the state's stone walls, with the New Hampshire Stone Wall Mapper, and learn something new about our state's geologic and cultural history as you page through the companion story map "Wall-to-Wall: Connecting Landscape and Culture". Every stone wall that you identify and map using this easy-to-use application will help to build a statewide, "Wall-to-Wall" database to document these amazing testimonials of our ancestors' strength and perseverance, and help to

preserve them for future generations.

Please use the first link below to access the NH Stone Wall Mapper, and take advantage of the other resources we have assembled to help acquaint you with the project.

- Stone Wall Mapper - Public
- "Getting Started with the NH Stone Wall Mapper" – provides guidance to users mapping stone wall resources in New Hampshire
- "Looking at LiDAR" - description of how to interpret stone walls based on LiDAR datasets
- "Wall to Wall: Connecting Landscape and Culture" - a story map providing rich background information on the history and importance of stone walls in NH
- NH Stone Wall Mapping Group - join the public Facebook group to share your experiences and learn from others interested in this project.

The NH Stone Wall Mapper was developed by the NH Geological Survey and NH GRANIT, with significant input from a committed group of volunteers. We are grateful to the NH Charitable Foundation for supporting the development of this resource.

We welcome any questions or comments, please contact us via email.

## Thank You, Page Sponsors!

The Andover Beacon's Board of Directors would like to thank all the businesses and organizations that have generously stepped forward to underwrite a significant portion of the Beacon's printing and mailing costs for the year.

**The Andover Community Hub  
Andover and Area Democrats  
Andover Elementary / Middle School  
Andover Fish and Game Club  
Andover Fourth of July Committee  
Andover Historical Society  
Andover Service Club  
Town of Andover  
Bar Harbor Bank and Trust  
Beacon Board of Directors and Staff  
Bellettes Building Products  
Coldwell Banker Realty - Ty Morris  
Continental Machine Corp.  
Echo Communications / Kearsarge Shopper  
Four Seasons Southeby's Int'l. Realty  
Friends of Northern Rail Trail-Merrimack County  
Highland Lake Inn & Andover Barn  
Highland Lake Protective Assoc.  
N.H. Electric Co-op  
Proctor Academy  
Ragged Mountain Fish and Game Club  
Tall Venture Properties, LLC  
"A Beacon Reader"**

These page sponsors are making a big difference in helping the Beacon deal with rising costs and declining ad sales. If you have the opportunity, please let them know that you appreciate their very tangible support for our community.

*If you or anyone you know would like to sponsor a page in the Beacon, please e-mail* Accounting@AndoverBeacon.com.