

FNRT-MC Draft Minutes of the August 21 Board Meeting

George Heaton, Secretary

Routine Business Matters:

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

2. Treasurer's Report. In the words of FNRT-MC Treasurer Steve Darling, his report "contained no surprises." Smilingly, the Board unanimously accepted it.

A few details deserve particular note. First, the current account is in healthy shape, with sufficient funds to cover currently projected projects and to reserve enough for future contingencies. Second, the expenditures on current projects track almost exactly what the year's budget had projected.

Two insurance policies are now in force for the coming year, covering the association for general liability, as well as a separate policy for officers and directors.

Lastly, Steve presented a report on the nature and number of donations. This shows that the vast majority of donations – about 80% of the total number – are under \$100. This wide appreciation of the Trail by so many people is gratefully acknowledged.

Current Trail Projects:

1. Mowing. Contractor Jim Shaw recently finished the mowing. This year's result looks better than ever, and is much appreciated by Trail users.

2. Culverts, Ditches, Bridges, Railings and Surfaces. Chris Norris reported good prospects from contractor Rodney Judkins on bridge repairs. We expect this work to be completed "before the snow flies." Similarly, contractor Jon Champagne is working on ditching and culverts.

George Heaton reported that the railings on two bridges in Danbury will soon be replaced.

3. Lawrence Street Tunnel Lighting. Tom Frantz will pursue the possibility of lighting this tunnel in Andover, with FNRT-MC's offer to cover cost and installation. He will send cost estimates to the Board.

4. Culvert Redesign. Jack Shields, Ricker Miller, Chris Norris and Alex Bernhard will meet with an official from the NH Department of Transportation to consider the reconstruction of the Eagle Pond culverts, long subject to washout.

5. Extension of the Trail into Concord. Jack Shields and Patrice Rasche continue to represent FNRT-MC in the nascent plans for an extension of the Trail into Concord, which we fully support.

6. "Brushing Back" of Overhang. Jack Shields will approach various local snowmobile clubs about the need to cut back branches overhanging the Trail, which the clubs have typically undertaken in the past.

Guest Kiera Tuttle offered to identify the point person in the club that uses the Trail from Danbury into Grafton County, and send the information to Jack.

Guest Input:

While all FNRT-MC Board Meetings are open, and guests are always welcome, the August meeting saw an unusual number of guests, who shared valuable perspectives and questions. Some of these appear below.

1. How to Report a Problem? As Nature can unpredictably block the Trail, the question arose of who to contact to report a problem. The answer is to send an email to info@FNRT.org. We will get someone to work on the problem. (Note: volunteers are gratefully accepted.)

2. The Trail's "Awesome" History and Beauty. Grandparents in the room remarked on the pleasure of introducing young people to history and Nature, through experiences on the Trail. Artifacts and signs along the way, as well as the rail bed itself and its cuts through granite testify to the effort that built our region. And the quiet greenery never fails to delight.

3. E-Bike Recharging. The State of New Hampshire has joined others in enacting a uniform law on E-bikes, which are welcome on the Trail if they comply with the power-levels in the law. We are investigating whether the Highland Lake Inn, in East Andover, a Trail welcome station, can be our first re-charging station.

4. The East Coast Greenway. Bob Spiegelman offered a brief overview of progress on the East Coast Greenway, an "Urban Appalachian Trail" of bike/recreational pathways that is planned to extend from Maine to Key West. Of particular note for New Hampshire is the recent acquisition of a 9.6-mile portion of unused rail corridor on the Seacoast. See more at: greenway.org.

Upcoming Events:

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 18, 2019; 7 PM; The Hub, Andover. All are invited!

- September 21, 2019, 11 AM, meet at Jamie Welch Field, Depot Street. Boscawen (see website for more details)–*Second and Seeming More Likely To Be Annual Why Does The Northern Rail Trail End In A Cornfield? Bike Ride*

- Annual Meeting and PotLuck Supper: October 16, 2019, Highland Lake Inn, East Andover

- New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition Conference: October 26, 2019. Concord

- Peter Crowell Ride: An October date, TBD.

Input Needed For Forest Action Plan 2020

It's a short online survey.

Press release

The New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands has begun work on the Forest Action Plan 2020, and is seeking input at both public listening sessions and through a brief online survey.

New Hampshire's Forest Action Plan 2020 will include an assessment of our current forest conditions and trends as well as identify threats and concerns. It will also establish priorities and provide strategies for addressing both issues and ways to invest state, federal and other partner resources in ways that successfully address identified management and landscape priorities.

Forest Action Plans influence policy, management and resource allocation decisions for 10 years.

Individuals working in the natural resource industry are invited to share their input at the following listening sessions:

August 20, 2 to 4 PM DNCR North Region Headquarters, 629B Main Street, Lancaster

August 26, 2 to 4 PM DNCR Head-

quarters, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord

Two listening sessions are also scheduled to gather input from the general public:

August 20, 6 to 8 PM, DNCR North Region Headquarters, 629B Main Street, Lancaster

August 26, 6 to 8 PM, DNCR Headquarters, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord

A short online survey gathering information about concerns, challenges and desired outcomes is available from the Division of Forests and Lands website, nh.gov/nhdf.

A draft of the Forest Action Plan will incorporate input from listening sessions, the online survey and other outreach methods. The draft is scheduled to be available for public comment in February 2020 and will be available on the division's website, nh.gov/nhdf.

Part of the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, the Division of Forests and Lands protects and promotes the value provided by trees, forests and natural communities. For more information about the Division of Forests and Lands, visit nh.gov/nhdf or call 271-2214.



Mt. Kearsarge Indian museum & the nature discovery center

Harvest moon & Naturefest

Join us for a day of fun and excitement, exhibitions, demonstrations, talks, stories, and games...

September 22, 2019

10am– 4pm

<p>Admissions:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$10 Adults</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$5 Children under 12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$30 Family</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$5 Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Native Americans– Free</p>	<p>Scheduled Events:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10:30am-11:30am:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wildlife Encounters</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2:00pm-3:00pm:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Raptor Rapture</p> <p style="text-align: center;">by NH Audubon</p>
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For more information and a full schedule of events and activities visit indianmuseum.org
603-456-2600

18 Highlawn Rd. Warner, New Hampshire 03278