

## Memorial Kids' Ice Fishing Derby

February 29; registration starts at 9 AM

Press release

The Andover Fish and Game Club is sponsoring its 36th Annual Willis Nowell Memorial Kids' Ice Fishing Derby at Eagle Pond in Wilmot (off of Rte. 4) on Saturday, February 29, with a bad weather date of Sunday, March 1.

The Derby is for kids 15 and under. Registration starts at 9 AM, and the Derby runs from shortly after 9 AM to 12 PM. Tackle and bait will be provided.

There will be plenty of free food and drink, along with lucky prizes, ribbons, and trophies that will be awarded. Please join us for a great time for kids and family. If you have any questions, call 603-496-4494.

What the Andover Fish and Game Club is all about:

The Andover Fish & Game club was started in 1933 and is one of the oldest clubs in New Hampshire. Anyone can join, and membership is currently \$10 a year. Each year we have various fundraisers, events for kids and members alike, and community minded projects.

Each year we have a Beef Barbecue

& Chinese Auction, Turkey Raffle, and other raffles that help us make money to have the events for the kids and the members. Money is also needed for general expenses, upkeep, and improvements to the club house.

We provide activities for the community each year including an ice fishing derby and a spring trout fishing derby for the kids, plus a member-anyone trout ice fishing derby. Four kids are being sent this summer, for a week, to the Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin. This Camp has a wide variety of themes, such as shooting sports, fish camp, on the wild side, hunter education, north country adventure, and junior conservation officer. Additionally, we hold a rabies clinic, a deer pool, and an adopt-a-highway stretch of road that we clean up on Route 11. Informational speakers and seminars are hosted on a wide range of topics. We have also assisted the local game wardens in a variety of ways.

Our meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Clubhouse in East Andover by the Highland Lake channel. If you have any questions, or if you would like to join our club, call 934-4961. 

## FNRT Minutes for January 15

Condensed from draft minutes

**Board attendees:** Alex Bernhard, Steve Darling, George Heaton, Myra Mayman, Chris Norris, Jack Shields. By external link: Lindy Heim, Charles Martin

**Loyal Rail Trail supporters in attendance:** Ricker Miller, Patrice Rasche, Steve Rasche

### Routine Business Matters

**Treasurer's Report.** The unanimously approved Treasurer's report by Steve Darling found FNRT-MC to be "in good financial shape." A year-end tally from 2019 showed donations higher than ever – about \$15,000 for the calendar year – as well as an increase in grants.

We note with gratitude the inclusion of FNRT-MC in memorials, including the generous example of a memorial to James Angwin, a devoted Trail user and supporter.

The positive financial situation of FNRT-MC at this moment represents good news for the Trail. Except for extremely slight administrative costs, all donations and grants to FNRT-MC go toward its maintenance and improvement. Because Nature makes continuing demands, and diverse users of the Trail suggest new initiatives, FNRT-MC continues to plan and expend for Trail purposes – as discussed below.

### Issues and Projects

**Culverts, Ditches, Bridges, Railings, and Surfaces.** Planning is beginning now for the maintenance and improvement work that is always necessary in the spring/summer/fall. In particular, \$5,000 will be added to budget projections to repair the bridge over Route 127 in Franklin.

Work to restore the railings of two bridges in Danbury – one, worn down over time; and a second, damaged by unknown vehicles – was completed before the end of the year. As the unforeseen vehicular damage caused cost to exceed the predicted budget, payment for the entire repair project, completed by TE Austin Associates of Danbury, was newly authorized.

**State of New Hampshire "Brushing Back."** This past fall, the State of New Hampshire undertook "brushing back" along the length of the Trail. We understand that the State will continue to do this work in the future.

**2020 Recreational Trails Program Grant Application.** Jack Shields and Lindy Heim have been hard at work assembling materials for a grant application to New Hampshire RTP this spring. The purpose of this grant is to construct a new culvert, with associated ditchwork and tree removal, at Eagle Pond, to solve the drainage problems and water damage to the Trail that recur

in this area.

With an assumed June 2020 application date – not yet specified by the State – Jack Shields is soliciting plans and bids from contractors. Lindy Heim has prepared letters of support to submit to Select Boards in all the towns along the Trail, and various Board members agreed to do so for their towns.

### Reporting FNRT-MC Financials.

Over the past few months, discussion has taken place among the Board as to the best and most appropriate ways to report the financial position of FNRT-MC to its interested public. The goals we work toward are transparency, clarity, and feasibility.

With this in mind, Alex Bernhard offered a motion that captured our consensus: include the Federal Tax Form 990 (due yearly from all 501(c)(3) charitable entities) on the FNRT-MC website, with the notation: Additional details are freely available upon request at infonrnt.org.

**E-bike Charging Stations.** With increased use of e-bikes, the need for charging stations grows. Happily, two Trail Hospitality Centers – the Danbury Country Store and the Highland Lake Inn – are now established as charging points.

Recognizing the need for signage to direct Trail users to these and other sites, Jack Shields will procure and install such signs, with the vote of up to \$200 expenditure authority.

### External Activities of Importance

**The New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition.** Charles Martin, founder of the New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition, gave a valuable report on its current activities, which are blossoming in size and scope. In addition, Ricker Miller reported on his participation in the recent Coalition conference, and his pledge of membership by FNRT-MC. We are happy to be part of this worthy endeavor, and urge a look at the (new!) web site: NHRTC.org.

**Andover Historical Society/MUSE (MUSEums Sharing Experience).** These organizations are sponsoring a yearlong project called "All Aboard" to celebrate the impact of the railroad in our area, and its effect on culture, economy, and other aspects of local life. FNRT-MC applauds this effort.

**Rail Trail Extension from Boscawen into Concord.** It is noted that the discussion of this long-desired extension of the Northern Rail Trail continues to be ongoing in the City of Concord.

### Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, at 7 PM at The Hub in Andover. All are invited! No meetings are scheduled for February or March. 



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