

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Awards \$25,000 Grant to FNRT

Money will fix five sites in Grafton County

Press release

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail (FNRT) was awarded \$25,000 to fix five high priority problem sites in Grafton County. FNRT is among the grantees included in a recent announcement by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), which shared that it has awarded a combined \$308,500 in funding to 45 projects across 16 states.

According to RTC, the grants are investments in community-led efforts to create more opportunities for people to connect with trails in their neighborhoods – either through activities and events or through improved, connected trail infrastructure.

The Grafton project includes five high priority resurfacing sites on the rail trail that have been designated safety issues by FNRT's maintenance team.

"These five consistently wet spots on the rail trail require immediate resurfacing. Plans are in place for the work to be completed in early December of this year," said project manager Don Moyer.

RTC's Trail Grant Program emphasizes strategic investments that support significant regional and community trail development goals, often providing funding for projects that are small in scope and scale and can be hard to finance within traditional funding streams. These projects are essential to building, maintaining, and managing the trails that communities rely upon for recreation, transportation, and economic vitality.

"At RTC, we believe that trails have the power to transform communities and create joyful, vibrant public spaces that are equitable and inclusive," said Liz Thorstensen, RTC's vice president of trail development. "These grants are intentional investments in the partners and people who are working on the ground – in their neighborhoods and in their states – to establish the program-

ming and the infrastructure necessary to invite everyone living in a community to enjoy their trails. Our partners are leading the way to a future where trails connect everyone, everywhere."

This round of RTC trail grants prioritized investment in RTC's flagship initiatives, including RTC's TrailNation initiative, which is designed to establish model trail networks across the country to prove what is possible when you equitably connect people and places by trail. Grants also fund those working to connect the Great American Rail-Trail, the nation's first entirely bikeable cross-country trail, which will one day link Washington

DC and Washington State. Since 2008, RTC has distributed \$2,373,320 in trail development grants. For a listing of all grant recipients, visit RailsToTrails.org/Grants. To learn more about TrailNation, visit RailsToTrails.org/TrailNation. To learn more about the Great American Rail-Trail, visit RailsToTrails.org/GreatAmericanRailTrail.

To learn more about Friends of the Northern Rail Trail, please visit FNRT.org or FNRTNH on Facebook.

The Northern Rail Trail consists of 59 miles of resurfaced railbed extending from just north of Concord to Lebanon through scenic New Hampshire for year-round use by walkers, bikers, horseback riders, mobility assisted users, dog walkers, snowmobilers, and cross country skiers in winter.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is the nation's largest trails organization, with a grassroots community more than 1 million strong dedicated to building a nation connected by trails, reimagining public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike, and be active outdoors. Connect with RTC at RailsToTrails.org and [@RailsToTrails](https://www.facebook.com/RailsToTrails) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Friends of the Northern Rail Trail November 17, 2021

Condensed from draft minutes.

Thanks to One and All, and for All that is Given to our Trail!

Board Attendees: Alex Bernhard, Amy Chan, Barbara Couturier, Steve Darling, George Heaton, Lindy Heim, Cody Hussey, Dustin Ladd, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Ricker Miller, Don Moyer, Jack Shields, Peter Southworth

Loyal Trail Supporters and Committee Members: Kurt Gotthardt (Enfield), Craig Heim

Business Matters

Treasurer's Report: There was unanimous approval for Dustin Ladd's report, which showed little change from last month, with substantial balances at the ready to be expended in the near future for maintenance and improvement projects. We are much buoyed by the receipt of an anonymous maintenance grant, which is already being put to good use, and by continued contributions from PayPal and via "rack cards" at kiosks.

A plan for constructing our yearly budget was presented. Committee chairs are asked to submit estimates of expenses and inflows by December 31. Dustin will then assemble these and other relevant information into a budget proposal for discussion at the January meeting.

Committee Reports

Marketing and Promotion Committee:

Lindy Heim began her report by noting the publication of another photo-filled newsletter, "November on the Northern Rail Trail." In addition, the Committee is engaged with a number of activities, including the use of a "Ride with GPS" app and map.

Of special note is the new, rebuilt, and improved Hannah Duston kiosk in Boscawen. And distribution of flyers in kiosks at Mascoma Lake, Highland Lake, and Lebanon.

Amy Chan reported on new signage being planned in the City of Lebanon that allows users to easily connect the Mascoma River Greenway Trail and the Northern Rail Trail.

Technology Committee: Cody Hussey reported that his major activities are two: merge the preexisting websites of Grafton and Merrimack Counties; and developing a site map.

As there are many useful, challenging, and fascinating activities on the Technology Committee horizon; volunteers to work with Cody would be most welcome!

Trail Building and Maintenance Committee: Don Moyer's PowerPoint slides summarized the many projects and people that are at the heart of our Trail enterprise.

With our already-budgeted projects See FNRT on page 26



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