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supplemented by a recently received grant explicitly for this purpose, we are able to predict with confidence completion of five high-priority maintenance projects, “before the snow flies.” All are in Grafton County.

Now on the horizon is the drafting of a new Maintenance Agreement between FNRT and the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails. The prior agreement is now 10 years old and in need of updating, a process in which Don Moyer is representing FNRT in ongoing discussions with the Trails Bureau.

The volunteer efforts received in the Committee’s work are extraordinary. We recorded 372 hours of all kinds of work from 24 volunteers from May through October. In particular, there has been 137 hours of chainsaw work in 2021, which is vital to keeping the Trail clear.

FNRT heartily thanks all these volunteers, and looks forward to days of recognition – and of course, Trail work – in 2022. Don is planning a Trail-long Clean-Up Day in the spring.

The Committee is preparing for next year’s projects and proposals, including a likely RTP Grant Application for resurfacing near Potato Road in Canaan. Don is beginning to scope this out and establish relationships with potential contractors.

Administration and Finance Committee: Craig Heim presented a proposal drafted by the Committee to change wording in Articles 3 and 4 of the by-laws. These articles had heretofore spoken of “dues” for “membership,” as

well as donations, in a manner that did not reflect the reality of current practice.

The amended by-laws give “membership” in the FNRT to any individual, family, or organization that makes a monetary contribution. Members are invited to the Annual Meeting and have a right to cast one vote in the election of the Board. The FNRT will endeavor to make yearly contact with members, although yearly donations are not required.

Other Reports

Boscawen Extension: Jack Shields reported on NHDOT’s having received the executed Contribution Agreement from FNRT, setting forth our contribution, rights, and responsibilities in the Boscawen Extension project. With that agreement and the Purchase and Sale Agreement with PanAm, both awaiting execution by the State and the Governor’s Council, we come ever-closer to its start.

Documenting Rail Trail Contributions: Charles Martin offered a discussion of the many ways Rail Trails benefit their communities, as well as the engagement of volunteers in this effort through “in-kind” contributions. Don Moyer made the additional point that Trail projects, particularly those involving construction, are of great benefit to the local economy. The Board agreed to consider ways to track and publicize these contributions – and to recognize and thank volunteers.

Trail Paving in Lebanon: Amy Chan noted plans by the City of Lebanon to pave a small portion of the Trail between Spencer Street and Bank Street. The Board welcomed this news.

Report on Enfield: Guest Kurt Gotthardt reported on the Town of Enfield’s consideration of possible uses for Town-owned parcels of land that abut the Trail. The Board expressed its support for easy access to the Trail, and welcomes further news.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 15, at 5 PM via Zoom

New London Hospital Opens Express Care Service

Insurance accepted; no appointments needed

Press release

New London Hospital’s (NLH) Express Care is now open and ready to treat conditions such as sprains, skin rashes, tick bites, cuts and lacerations, colds, and certain infections. Express Care has its own designated entrance, parking, and registration at NLH and is open seven days a week, from 9 AM to 7 PM Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday, and 9 AM to 3 PM on Sundays.

Express Care is a service for those two years of age and older. Most insurance plans are accepted, including Medicare and Medicaid.

“We are excited to launch Express Care for our community,” says Tom Manion, president and CEO, NLH. “This will be such a valuable service for our patients. For those assessed as having serious medical conditions that cannot be treated in an urgent care setting, our skilled, on-site Emergency Department team is prepared to meet their needs.”

Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, NLH recently held a private ribbon cutting to kick off the opening of this new service. Invited guests included local officials and NLH board members and employees. Express Care staff provided tours of the new space.

“I believe this will be such an asset



A private ribbon cutting event was held to kick off the opening of the new Express Care Center located at the New London Hospital.

Photo: Timothy Lund

to our community,” says John Cannon, Selectman, New London. “It will ease the stress on the hospital’s Emergency Department and provide a convenient option for residents who don’t want to drive to Lebanon or Concord for urgent care.”

Express Care appointments are not required. Visit NewLondonHospital.org/expresscare or call 603 526-5155 for more information.

Feline Illnesses Shut Animal Shelter Temporarily Out of Caution

Accepting applications for Shelter Manager

Press release

The Franklin Animal Shelter would like to take this opportunity to reassure our friends and members of the greater Franklin community of our commitment to the dogs and cats in our area.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Shelter has been closed to the public for a few weeks because some of our cats have been sick. The staff has used that time to clean the shelter top to bottom and to build out our cat kennel area to better provide for the safety and comfort of the animals. We continue to accept donations during our listed operating hours, and we hope to reopen to the public fairly soon.

Additionally, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we are in the process of hiring a new Shelter Manager to oversee operations starting in 2022. Interested parties are welcome to view more information on and submit appli-

cations through the Shelter website.

Currently, our long time employee Krista Hebert is serving as our Interim Shelter Manager during this challenging time. The staff of the shelter have rallied behind Ms. Hebert and are doing an amazing job of keeping the animals safe and well cared for during this time of transition.

Finally, the Shelter is now preparing to send out envelopes for our Annual Appeal. This is our major fundraising push each year, and proceeds go to ensure the care and safety of every animal that comes to us. If you get an envelope in the mail, please consider a donation to us. Donations can also be made through our website. All donations are fully tax deductible.

The staff and board of the Shelter would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season. We are always amazed at the support the greater Franklin community gives to the shelter, and we look forward to serving community needs into 2022 and beyond.

Publicize Your Fundraiser!

Articles, photos, and/or ads in the Beacon will help raise \$\$\$ for your cause. 603 735-6099

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