

Selectmen Agenda Item 3 March: Application for a 2014 Recreational Trails Program Grant to Continue with Improvements Needed for the Goffstown Rail Trail.

The NH Trails Bureau is administering 2014 Recreational Trails Program grants. Applications are due March 7, 2014. This is a 80% grant and 20% match program and up to \$30,000 may be requested. Any project accomplished through this grant must be completed by June 30, 2015.

Last Friday, the town's Rail Trail Committee reviewed and endorsed a grant application. This evening I'm asking that the Board approve the proposed grant for submission to the NH Trails Bureau.

The project described in the application is to construct 3,500 feet of trail and associated drainage improvements, between Moose Club Park Road to Lynchville Park Road.

The grant is asking for **\$25,920 in funding** for the purchase construction materials (gravel, nitpack, loam, seed ,etc.) and, if necessary, rental of specialized equipment (drum roller and base spreader). The actual construction would be accomplished with DPW resources. The equivalent worth of DPW labor and equipment, estimated at **\$34,743, becomes the required soft match to the grant.** The combined grant funding and soft match puts the total project at an equivalent cost of \$60,663; and therefore the final funding with 43% through the grant and 57% through the match satisfies the 80/20 thresholds.

To allow you to better understand the commitment this places upon DPW, I estimate that the project, which if done straight through from beginning to end, is estimated to require an average of 6 persons/day for 13 days. Of course, I realize that higher priority projects may interrupt such a perfect schedule and that is acceptable.

The project site was chosen for 4 reasons:

(1) It is a significant length, 2/3 of a mile, and lies in between two stretches already completed. This project, combined with the completed portions, means the first 1.7 miles of trail in Goffstown, starting at the Manchester boundary, will be completed.

(2) The Manchester portion of the rail corridor will also be completed this coming Summer with their construction of a single-span steel bridge spanning the Piscataquog River at Kelly Falls. Their 2.1 miles and our 1.7 miles means 3.8 miles of finished trail from Dannis Park Road, in Goffstown, to the other side of the Merrimack River near the ball stadium will be available to residents of both communities and regional visitors.

(3) Other possible project sites in Goffstown are more expensive per yard so this project is a good efficient use of the grant funding. As 38% of the Goffstown trail has already been constructed, the completion of this project, which is 12% of the trail, will bring the total completed in Goffstown up to 50% – a nice milestone. In addition, another 11% of the trail, representing the most costly sections, are also under contract for completion through the 2010 TE grant.

(4) The design of the trail described in this application, hence an understanding of the construction challenges, was completed last year through the volunteer efforts of the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail. An elevation survey of the 3,500 feet provided detailed information about the necessary trail slope and drainage swales.