Friends of the

GOFFSTOWN Rail Trail

Spring 2011 Newsletter

www.GoffstownRailTrail.org

Pinardville Trail Access Completed

This spring has seen the completion of a short trail section at the Goffstown-Manchester boundary. The construction was funded by a Recreational Trails Program grant from the NH Bureau of Trails. The required 20% match was met through an in-kind contribution of volunteer labor performed at other areas on the Rail Trail. A local firm, John E. Neville Excavating, did the construction under a contract awarded from the Goffstown Department of Public Works.

(See pictures at right)

The first part of the project was to upgrade 300 yards of trail surface at the town line. Portions of the trail had to be raised 3 feet in elevation due to problems created by a storm drainage project years ago. As a result, the trail surface from Moose Club Park Road to the town line, a distance of 0.6 miles, now meets grade and design specifications.

(Continued on page 2)

Bike the Rail Trail Day Sat. May 21st

As this newsletter goes to press, the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail are organizing the first annual **Bike the Rail Trail Day** Saturday May 21st (rain date May 22nd). Based at the Parks & Recreation building, the event runs from 10am-3pm and includes free bike safety checks, riding clinics, and more. Hot dogs and beverages will be available for sale.

For more info please visit **www.GoffstownRailTrail.org**.

Trail Improvement Snapshot: Pinardville Trail Access

Above: Before area upgrade; below, current trail view

Happy 250th Birthday, Goffstown!

If you were around in 1761, the year of Goffstown's incorporation, that was long before 'iron horses' ran the rails...and quite a bit longer before those rails evolved into the Goffstown Rail Trail!

Several events will mark our 250th celebrations this year, including the **Block Party** on August 27th. There's also the **Goffstown Challenge**, a series of 35 area activities highlighting our community; the rail trail is one of them. Participating in an activity awards a stamp in a Challenge booklet; earning 20 or more stamps entitles you to a special free t-shirt.

More information on 250th celebration events and organizations is available at **Goffstown250th.net**. Want a FGRT stamp? Attend a meeting, trail work session, or other FGRT activity this celebration year!

Rail Trail 2011 Plans and Improvements

With some major projects accomplished in 2010 (see articles in this newsletter), 2011 promises additional upgrades and activities for the Goffstown Rail Trail:

- 1st annual Bike the Rail Trail Day (see article this page)

- Mast Road/Henry Bridge Road crossing improvements

- Giant Pumpkin Weighoff/ Regatta information booth

- 19th Annual Ski & Skate Sale

..and more. Check the website for regular updates.

FGRT Named Volunteers of Year

Last year, the Goffstown Board of Selectmen decided to start a tradition of recognizing an annual Volunteer of the Year for the town. This year, the board chose the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail as the "Volunteers of the Year".

FGRT work on trail cleanup and improvements, trail promotion, and raising the quality of life in Goffstown were cited as key reasons for the selection. The award is printed on pg. 2 of the 2010 Goffstown Annual Report, and was presented to the FGRT at a recent Selectmen's meeting.

FGRT Events Calendar

May 21st: Bike the Rail Trail Day
24th: FGRT Meeting, 7PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg.

Jun 18th: Trail Work Session
28th: FGRT Meeting, 7PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg.

Jul 16th: Trail Work Session
26th: FGRT Meeting, 7PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg.

Aug 20th: Trail Work Session
23rd: FGRT Meeting, 7PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg.

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Pinardville Trail Access Completed, *cont.*

One pleasant surprise resulted from this project: The fill for raising the trail came from a high berm located between the trail and the lake. The berm is now removed. The resulting flat area, now accented by a cedar rail fence, provides a wonderful scenic view of Namaske Lake.

The second part of the project was to modify the Sarette Recreational Complex fences so pedestrians and cyclists can reach the Rail Trail from the vehicle parking lot located off Laurier Street in Pinardville. This was achieved by building U-shaped passageways next to the front and rear vehicle gates.

This access to and from the rail trail will prove very beneficial when Manchester completes its pedestrian bridge over the Piscataquog River (now scheduled for 2012). Trail users from Manchester will be able to exit the trail at the Sarette fields and quickly reach shops in Pinardville. Conversely, Pinardville residents will be able to access the rail trail close to the town line, and in just 2.5 miles reach the baseball stadium, and a little further, downtown Manchester.

Beastly to Bucolic: Project Completed

The Rail Trail segment between East Union Street and Shirley Park Road is now open for use. This segment had been previously unusable due to a sixteen-foot deep, stream-eroded gully, originally spanned by a small railroad trestle. Closure of this gap removes the only major physical impediment along the village section of the trail corridor, connecting Main Street, two schools, a town park, the town Parks & Recreation facility, and abutting neighborhoods.

Under a town contract, a local firm, John E. Neville Excavating, installed a 5-foot diameter culvert. Due to a relatively narrow construction zone, just over 100 large concrete blocks were used to build upstream and downstream embankment retaining walls. The path surface dips slightly as it approaches the culvert site from both directions but is within grades allowed by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Inset: View prior to project start

The project included upgrading the trail surface with nitpack gravel from the culvert site to Shirley Park Road. The rest of this segment will have its surface upgraded upon additional funding. In the meantime, the entire segment is usable by walkers, runners, and cyclists.

The construction was funded by a $25,000 Recreational Trails Program grant from the NH Bureau of Trails. Matching funds were provided from the town's recreation impact fee fund and an in-kind match provided by volunteer labor.

Grant Report

NH Bureau of Trails

The NH Bureau of Trails has awarded Goffstown a 2011 Recreational Trails Program grant for trail improvements from Danis Park Road to Lynchville Park Road. The project involves many drainage improvements, especially at the rock cut near Lynchville Park Road.

A paved parking space and trailside fencing will be installed at Danis Park Road. The sharp descent down the embankment at Morgan Circle will be regraded to bring the slope into compliancy with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2010 Federal TE Grant

A major rail trail project funded by a Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant, awarded in 2010, has formally started. On May 2nd, the Board of Selectmen approved the selection of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., to design the trail improvements, prepare bid documents, and supervise the actual construction.

The project includes building trail crossings of Mast Road and Henry Bridge Road. The design and planning, including a public comment session, will occur now through February 2012. Actual construction will begin later in 2012.

For further details on grant activity and status, visit **www.GoffstownRailTrail.org**.

Reasons to.. Join FGRT!
- Play a role in trail development & activities
- Membership is tax-deductible
- Improve your town while having FUN!

Membership: Individual $20 / Family $40
www.GoffstownRailTrail.org/join

Have photos or trail stories to share? FGRT welcomes your input, feedback, and questions! Send them to **info@GoffstownRailTrail.org!**

Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail, PO Box 2, Goffstown NH 03045
info@GoffstownRailTrail.org - A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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