



# Friends of the

## Fall 2011 Newsletter

[www.GoffstownRailTrail.org](http://www.GoffstownRailTrail.org)



### Goffstown Rail Trail News Briefs:

- ◆ **2011 Improvements:** Every year sees improved trail segments and increased usability, and this year is no exception. From volunteer work to new mileage posts (see articles in this newsletter), the trail continues the tradition of ongoing enhancements to access and usability.
- ◆ **Piscataquog Link to Manchester Update:** Originally scheduled for 2010, the way now appears clear for the Goffstown Rail Trail/Piscataquog Trail bridge to open sometime next year. Stay tuned to Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail [FGRT] website for updates, [www.GoffstownRailTrail.org](http://www.GoffstownRailTrail.org).
- ◆ **FGRT Wins \$200 in PSNH Drawings:** As part of PSNH's 85th birthday celebration, Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail won drawings for donations to nominated non-profit organizations. Thanks PSNH!
- ◆ **250 Years for Goffstown; 7 Years for the Rail Trail:** As Goffstown wraps up its sescentennial, the Goffstown Rail Trail is entering its eighth year since its establishment in 2004.

### Ski & Skate Sale Saturday Nov. 5th

It's back, and it's better than ever! Downhill and XC skis, ice/hockey skates, snowboards, and more. New equipment from Centre Ski & Bike will be for sale, and consignments are accepted 7:30-9:30 AM. The sale is **10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Parks & Recreation building**, 155 S. Mast Road. Interested in helping out? Please contact Dave Pierce at 497-8278. See you there!

### Trail Benefits From NH Bureau of Trails Funds

With funds provided by the NH Bureau of Trails, work has begun to improve the trail surface and drainage conditions between Danis Park and Lynchville Park Roads; the embankment grading at Morgan Circle; steel bollard installation at trail entrances; and other needed projects. The Goffstown Dept. of Public Works is handling the construction operations.

### New Trail Mileage Posts Identify Trail Checkpoints



Over the summer, trail mileage posts were installed by the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail as a donation to the town. Spaced a half-mile apart, the "0.0" post is set at the Goffstown-Manchester boundary line. The "5.5" post is at the granite abutment where the former wooden bridge crossed the Piscataquog River in Goffstown village. Online trail maps (available through the FGRT website and the town's website) show the locations of these mileage posts.

These posts also help in case the police or fire department must respond to a request. A trail user unfamiliar with the area can reference a nearby mileage

### Moose Club Park Gets Bulletin Board

Using a similar design to the bulletin board at the Parks & Rec Building, a new trail information bulletin board has been installed where the trail crosses Moose Club Park Road. The board and accompanying landscaping was an Eagle Scout Service Project by Christopher Maloney and Troop 99.



post in the event of an emergency. The town's emergency dispatchers have trail maps to assist responding vehicle drivers in reaching trail locations quickly using the posts.

**Trivia Question:** Where is the exact middle of the Goffstown Rail Trail?  
(Answer on back)

### FGRT Events Calendar

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| <b>Oct 15th/16th:</b> Giant Pumpkin Festival, Parade & Regatta | <b>Nov 5th:</b> Ski & Skate Sale, 10AM-2PM, Parks & Rec  |
| <b>25th:</b> FGRT Meeting, 7PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg.       | <b>22nd:</b> FGRT Meeting, 7PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg. |



Hey...Didn't they  
remove the rails?!



## Volunteers Continue Trail Upgrades

Each June to September, on the third Saturday of the month, the Friends of the Rail Trail host work projects along the trail. 10-15 people typically gather at a given session. This year the crews implemented many trail improvements:

- Re-mulched the plant berm in front of the Park and Recreation Building
- Widened the encroaching wild growth of trees and brush east of the Shell Gas Station
- Removed six loads of trash, metal and tires visible near the old factory site at Factory Street

- Removed trees and limbs within the trail's "clear zone" at the East Union Street trailhead
- Cleared four loads of metal and tires that were remains of the now closed landfill dump in Pinarville
- Cleared trees and brush from the railroad embankment behind Howe's Pharmacy

Please consider attending a trail maintenance session next summer. Membership or residency is not required, just a couple of hours of your time. Tools will be provided, and the more that attend, the faster the job!



**Left: The Boston and Maine Railroad bridge over the former Henry Bridge Road, circa 1930. Rail service ceased in 1981 and the bridge was removed. The gully is now destined to be filled with gravel in order to carry the trail at grade through this area.**

## Bike the Rail Trail Day Draws New Users

Hot dogs, sunshine, a trail information booth, and new trail users of all ages combined for an enjoyable Bike the Rail Trail day on May 21st at the Parks and Recreation building on Mast Road.



### 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](http://www.GoffstownRailTrail.org/join)



## Safe Travel on the Rail Trail

[Excerpted from an article on Goffstown Today; the full article is available online at [www.goffstowntoday.com/safeontherailtrail.htm](http://www.goffstowntoday.com/safeontherailtrail.htm).]

Traveling on the Goffstown Rail Trail has certainly become a popular pastime. It's a great way to get good exercise and enjoy one's outdoors experience, whether walking, bicycling or dog walking. However, a problem exists and the solution involves simple, courteous consideration by all participants to ensure the safety of all.

There have been some incidents of bikers coming from behind and startling walkers. Bikers need to recognize that walkers often cannot hear them approaching. Passing anyone on the trail without giving notice is dangerous for both walker and biker as most participants use the middle of the trail. No one wants to be a part of a collision.

In all cases, the person in the rear can see people using the trail ahead. This person needs to give ample warning when seeing the back of another. This caution should be taken by every person.

**Trivia Answer:** Mileage 2.75, halfway along the 5.5-mile Goffstown Rail Trail, is located at the trail crossing of Mast Rd. between Magoo's and Henry Bridge Road.

## Grant Report

### 2011 Federal TE Grant

In September 2011, with the oversight approval from the NH Department of Transportation, the Selectmen signed a contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc, Bedford, to begin the design of trail improvements at four specific sites, support land easement negotiations, assist in a public comment session, and prepare construction bid documents.

The actual construction, planned for the summer of 2012, involves safety improvements where the trail crosses three heavily traveled roads and the at-grade crossing of the present 23-foot deep gully which remained when Henry Bridge Road was realigned in the 1980s (see black & white photo at left).

A concept drawing for the potential designs (not necessarily the final design) may be viewed at [www.goffstown.com/images/stories/RFP/2011/DPW-2011-04.pdf](http://www.goffstown.com/images/stories/RFP/2011/DPW-2011-04.pdf). In the award of the design contract, the town already narrowed down the options to carry the trail over the former Henry Bridge Road, specifically to fill in the gully with gravel, as this option (as opposed to bridge design and bridge construction) was the only way to stay within budgetary limits.

Have photos or trail stories to share? FGRT welcomes your input, feedback, and questions! Send them to us at the address below:

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[info@GoffstownRailTrail.org](mailto:info@GoffstownRailTrail.org) - A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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