



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

Landing Fill Expansion Plans



This photo shows the view the embankment which starts here and goes off to the left towards the P&W trackage. We are working on expansion plans – see story inside. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Updated Trail Progress



This photo taken by our parking lot shows the trail and the wooden fence that runs alongside our driveway. See article inside. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum
PO Box 665
Willimantic, CT 06226

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

03/20/2016 – Monthly membership meeting – 7:00PM – Windham Hospital
04/17/2016 – Monthly Membership Meeting – 7:00PM – Windham Hospital
05/07/2016 – Museum Opens with Metal Fest – 10:00AM
07/17/2016 – Monthly membership meeting – 7:00PM – Windham Hospital
Museum opens May 7, 2016 – details next issue.



Vol. 41 - Number 2- February 2016

**Monthly Membership Meetings
3rd Sunday each month.**

**Sunday, Feb 21, 2016 @ 7:00 PM
Windham Hospital**
**Please note! If you have photos, short
articles, or just want to make a
comment – please forward them to:
Robert A. LaMay - Editor
@cermf19@comcast.net**

Landing Fill Expansion Plans

Adrian Atkins

The fill has been completed on our original landing at the west end of our property. Thanks to the trail work, the contractor brought sufficient fill to complete our original plans. This area is now graded level for our use. Slopes down to our perimeter chain link fence have also been graded, seeded and mulched. Compared to the jungle we started with it is a useful improvement. Jean-Paul Violette has cleared a path around both sides of the entire fence line and continues his maintenance program of spraying and clearing.

On the north side of the landing there is a gulch between our fill and the P&W RR leased tracks of the former Midland Div. of the NY, NH&H RR. At present this is an unsightly mess. We now have permission from ConnDot (Connecticut Department of Transportation to fill this area but we are waiting on DEEP permits to fill the flood plain area. We could not put fill in the flood plain as a standalone project. So we are coat tailing this as part of the trail project because the fill is coming from the trail which has the overall negative fill factor. This is our only chance to fill this area. I am told we should have a permit within a month.

Winter - 2015

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**Museum Website -
www.cteastrrmuseum.org.**

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With this accomplished, the useable area on the landing will extend right up to the fence line instead of losing the fill slope area.

The next step is to get ConnDot to lease us this area right up to 15 feet from the centerline of the P&W tracks. I have a verbal from ConnDot, P&W, and the Town of Windham for our lease to add this area to our DOT lease. Now all we have to do is get it in writing. This is an opportunity to revise our lease to limit our liability regarding trail related activities

Trail Progress

Adrian Atkins

All of the paving is now complete on both the Airline and the Hop River Trails. Work on the Airline Railroad Bridge is complete as well as the retaining wall and steel railings where the Hop River Trail crosses under Route 66 at Mackey's.

The 3-rail cedar fencing has been completed, where required, west of our main gate and on the wood side of the trail from our main gate to Mickey's. Presently, work is on-going between our drive and the trail. Fencing is complete on both sides of the trail through our parking lot. In the past, our drive appeared real wide whereas the new fencing makes our drive appear more confined. We still have room to add a second track by Mickey's to replace the siding in the compound that we removed in anticipation of the coming of the trail. Miraculously, we still have an 18 foot wide drive in this area.

In the spring, all this fencing will have to be straightened up, the chain link fence replaced around the tail leading toward the river bridge. Work will also have to be done on completing the installation of our main gate and repairing our fence where the contractor's truck backed into the fence along the drive a short distance from our main gate.

At present, our parking lot is in disarray at best. Come Spring we will replace ties and redo the flower beds. Janet Atkins and Pat Jurovaty are going to need help in the spring meeting this challenge. Hopefully, the 3 rail cedar fence will replace some of our ties. The town will be responsible for maintaining all of the cedar along the trail. Some regrading will increase parking along the woods.

Five years from now we will look back and feel our parking lot was indeed improved by the trail work. At least we have a paved walkway from the parking lot all the way to our main gate.

Come spring we will evaluate our signage needs along the trail. Also, the slope just inside our main gate is crying for a sign so trail users know who, what, and where we are. More on signage ideas later.

The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

CERM Display at Amherst Railway Soc. BIG Train Show



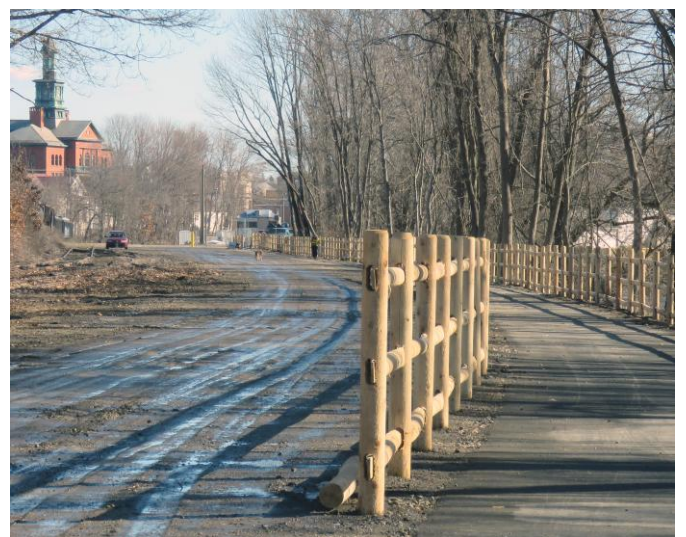
This photo shows visitors talking with museum members at the Amherst Railway Soc. Big Train Show. (Bob LaMay Photo)



From the Land of Down-under comes this photo. Steve Melady is shown inside the engine-house of the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway. It is a heritage steam operation in Kawakawa, which is located in the bay of islands region of Far North, New Zealand.



Jean Lambert in front of display talks business with Pieter Roos (Right) and Jeff Laverty at the Amherst Railway Soc. Big Train Show. (Bob LaMay Photo)



Looking east towards Bridge St., along the driveway and Air Line Trail towards City Hall. (Bob LaMay Photo)



CERM Joins Library Pass Program

Robert A. LaMay

The thought of joining the Library Pass Program has been tossed around for sometime and we finally decided to become a part of it. Our only requirement is to offer a museum pass that would cover a stipulated number of people and what the pass would include. For example we would prepare a museum pass that would cover the admissions for a family of four (2 adults @ \$5.00 each and 2 children ages 8-12 years @\$1.00 each. The pass would cost the library purchasing it \$12.00. If the 2 children are under 8 years the \$2.00 would be a donation. The Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC) would notify various libraries, who in turn would let us know if they are interested in purchasing one of these passes. The money would be sent to us in turn for the pass. From that point on anyone that got the pass at the library and come visit the museum. Train rides and gift shop purchases would be extra. When done the person returns the pass to the library and is available to the next person.. Think of the pass as borrowing and return a book. This would be a way for us to reach out to those towns and hopefully bring more business to the museum. If you have any thoughts on this please contact the editor.

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Willimantic Chocolate Festival

Adrian Atkins

Janet Atkins had a vision. Would it be feasible for the museum to participate in the 2016 Chocolate Festival on Feb. 13, 2013? She was seeking an inexpensive and yet impressive way to promote the museum during the winter months. After checking with the Chamber of Commerce it became apparent that we needed a Main Street location since accessibility to

the museum was in doubt since we are closed for the winter.

Cliff Lund came to the rescue! He made arrangements with Sumner & Sumner Insurance Agency to use their lobby. This secured a Main Street location among other participating businesses, and provided warmth, heat, and electricity. Then he offered his very portable operating train layout. The layout not only worked with authentic railroad sounds but also featured custom made buildings, vehicles, and other items. This layout obviously was the center of attraction for the younger set. (DO NOT TOUCH)

As it was chocolate festival and participants usually hand out some form of chocolate to their guests the question arose as to what we could do. With the idea of keeping things simple we chose to hand out packets of cocoa with a specially made label attached. Mark Granville made the special labels giving the museum location and 2016 days of operation. There were several favorable comments about having the cocoa later.

We also had a table with 2 tri-fold boards showing museum activities along with some hand-out materials. One of the tri-folds was a beautiful new board that Mark made for this event and to be used at future events. Jean Lambert is scheduled for a train show in Dudley, MA. and then there is the business expo at Eastbrook Mall where they will be using this display.

In hindsight, the weather was clear but frigid but just fewer than 100 hardy people viewed the exhibit. Many had been to the museum but felt they needed to come back. Words of encouragement and appreciation were offered up. We had inquiries about having birthday parties at the museum and donations.

For a total of \$6.00 for cocoa, and about 14 hours of time, appreciation to Sumner & Sumner, it appears this crisp simple exhibit was a very worthwhile

venture. – Worth doing again next year. Good Job – Janet, Cliff, and Mark.

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Cliff Lund answers questions about his model railroad and other railroad items. (Bob LaMay Photo)



Visitors look over the tri-fold picture boards at the 2016 Chocolate Festival. (Bob LaMay Photo)



From the Archives – Here is a photo taken Nov 1990 of the New Haven RR Section-house as it sat in the yard at Willimantic, CT. (Photo – the late Bill Bredheff)