

The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

Landing Fill Expansion Plans

Remember When...



This photo shows Art Hall, Jr. making notes as he measures from the center of P&W track back towards museum property to the right. See article inside. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Remember when our first 25 ton locomotive arrived? Guess who is walking toward the camera? (Bill Bredhef Photo)

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

04/17/2016 – Monthly Membership Meeting – 7:00PM – Windham Hospital
05/07/2016 – Museum Opens with Metal Fest – 10:00AM
05/15/2016 – Election Night – Come and make your vote count! Monthly membership meeting 7:00PM
06/19/2016 – Monthly Membership Meeting – 7:00PM – Windham Hospital
07/17/2016 – Monthly membership meeting – 7:00PM – Windham Hospital

Vol. 41 - Number 3- March 2016

Monthly Membership Meetings
3rd Sunday each month.

Sunday, April 17, 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

25 Year Pins Awarded by NRHS

By Jean Lambert

Several of our members recently received their 25 year NRHS pins. They are –
Arthur W. Hall, Jr.
Howard S. Bidwell
Brian R. Wagner
Duke York
J. Jeffrey Laverty
Michael P. O'Donnell
Barbara & Morgan Steele

Note!! The museum would like to do a formal presentation, possibly at Railroad Day.

All About Railroads

Jean Lambert

All About Railroads - The Thompson Historical Society, The Valley Railroad Company, Spinlock Historical Society of Putnam, and the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum. A visit to the Textile Museum will be included in the program.

We will be hosting a group from the program at the QVCC Danielson Campus at the museum on Friday, May 6, 20156 from 2:00PM to 3:00PM. We are asking for docent coverage on this day. Not sure how many people will be attending this event. Watch for updates. For more information please contact Jean Lambert at train0034@gmail.com, or phone 860-940-1071, or call Ray Axelrod at 860-617-3308.

Spring 2016

Chapter Leadership

President Mark Granville
mfgranville@charter.net
860-456-3956
Vice President Duke York
860-423-1878
Treasurer Jeff Laverty
Jeffrr41@yahoo.com
860-429-7961
Asst-Treasurer Jean Lambert
860- 942-1071
Secretary VACANT
National Director Ray Axelrod
860-228-3197
Newsletter Editor – Bob LaMay
860-530-1278
Cermf19@comcast.net
Museum Website -
www.cteastrrmuseum.org.
Like Us on – Face Book!

HELP!

Jean Lambert

Extra help is always appreciated on weekends. We should have more coverage for a better visit for our guests. Also for safety reasons. We need docents, ticket booth sales, and gift shop help.

We are open Saturdays from 10:00AM to 4:00PM and from Noon to 4:00PM on Sundays. Sundays seem to be the problematic days. So if you wouldn't mind spending some time at the museum Sunday afternoons would be great. If you want to give even a couple hours this too would greatly help. Please contact Jean Lambert at 860-942-1071 or e-mail train0034@gmail.com.

CERM Endowment 2015 Report

Cliff Lund

Vanguard Fund
Beginning balance – \$35,948.87
Deposits/Gifts - 143.38
Withdrawals .00
Dividends & Capital Gains 1,932.09
Market Loss -1,988.54

Ending Balance 36,035.80

Dividends and Capital Gains increased our fund value; however the conditions of the

broad market eroded our share value leaving us with an \$87 gain at the end of the year. Our fund is invested with Vanguard STAR Fund which is composed of a conservative mix of other Vanguard sector funds. The results were also included in the 2015 Treasurer's Report.

If you have an opportunity, please mention our endowment fund to prospective or interested individuals who share an interest in railroad preservation and railroad history. We are 501 C (3) organization and the contributions are tax deductible. Further information can be obtained by contacting the CERM Endowment – directors, Cliff Lund, Adrian Atkins, and Howard Raphaelson.

Election of Officer's

Jean Lambert

On the slate for nomination are;

President - Mark Granville
Vice-Pres. Duke York
Treasurer J. Jeff Laverty
Asst. Tres. VACANT
Secretary M. Jean Lambert
Nat'l Director Raymond Axelrod
Trustee Howard Raphaelson

Elections will take place on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at our monthly membership meeting. It is important that we have a quorum to elect our officers. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. If anyone has questions, please feel free to call Jean at 860-942-1071 or e-mail at train0034@gmail.com.

Landing Expansion

Adrian Atkins

On the extreme west end of the museum we now have the necessary permit to fill in the gulch between our landing and the P&W RR track into Willimantic Waste Paper. This will permit us to raise our present fence level so it will be level with the top of our present fill. Accomplishing this means all of our leased land will be usable rather than being taken up by the slope down to the present fence.

We are now in the process of trying to include all of this fill area into our existing lease with DOT. If we accomplish this our lease will go up to 15 feet off the centerline of the P&W tracks. This is our only opportunity to gain more usable land for the museum.

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Tie Replacement Program

Adrian Atkins

Work has started on replacing ties on our passenger track along the main drive. Rolf Johnson has identified the ties that need replacing in order to bring our line up to a minimal safe standard. Art Hall is leading the charge to replace 50 ties. To date all the rotten wood has been removed.

In spite of rainy weather on Saturday, April 2nd, Art Hall, Rolf Johnson, Bob Hassett, Paul Shamonis, and Adrian Atkins moved in relay ties. Some of these have already been replaced under the rails.

Now the replacements have to be plated, spiked, and tamped. This is where you can volunteer as we need to complete this prior to opening day. Hopefully, this will keep us from putting a passenger train on the ground.

So come join us on Saturdays. Just show up and bring your lunch and beverage.



Looking west this photo shows the ties removed. (Ed Sheckleton Photo)

Spring 2016

Trail Progress

Adrian Atkins

Hopefully most of the trail work will be completed by April 15, 2016. The ties that the contractor took up along our driveway and the ties damaged in our parking lot have been hauled away by the contractor.

The chain link fence on our trail leading to the railroad bridge is being replaced and the temporary gate will be removed. Work on our main gate is to be completed and the adjacent fence damaged by the contractor will be repaired. The 3-rail wooden fence from our parking lot to our main gate, separating our drive from the trail, is to be installed.

Minor details on the railroad bridge have been completed as well as line striping on the trail parking area. A kiosk has been installed at Mickey's. Ultimately, interpretative signs will be installed at Mickey's and the Airline and Hop River trail intersection.

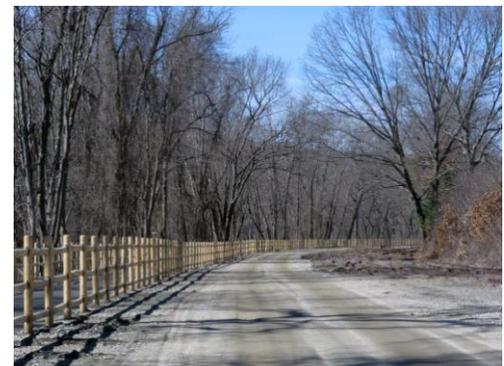
Some sort of kiosk will be installed by the Whitewater organization at the new canoe take-out point along the trail between Mickey's and the power-line.

Our parking lot is a major disaster zone due to the trail work. We will be taking this opportunity to do a major redo. In the long run we will have a better parking lot with a paved walk right up to our main gate.

Make a point to see the many changes to the museum area from the trail installation.



This photo shows reconfigured museum entrance. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



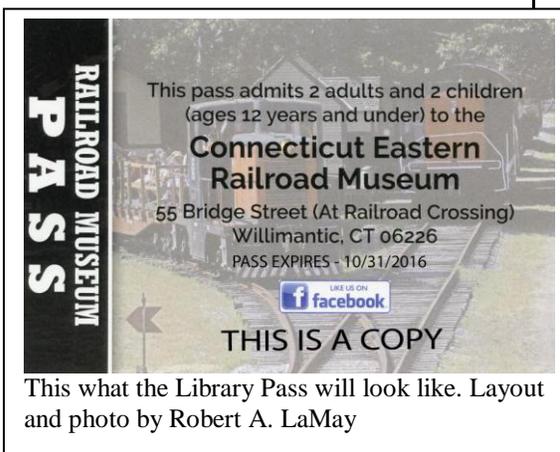
This photo shows view west along our driveway and the trail. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



This photo shows the kiosk being installed at the west end of Mickey's parking lot. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



This what the Library Pass will look like. Layout and photo by Robert A. LaMay

Library Pass Program

Robert A. LaMay

Very shortly we will be joining the Connecticut Library Pass Program. Everything has now been completed. I just need to notify the Connecticut Library Consortium to get it rolling. The Consortium will notify the various libraries letting them know we have a pass available to purchase for the season. They will send me a check payable to CERM for \$100 and in return I will mail them the pass along with brochures. As soon as the brochures are completed the program should start.

Community Outreach



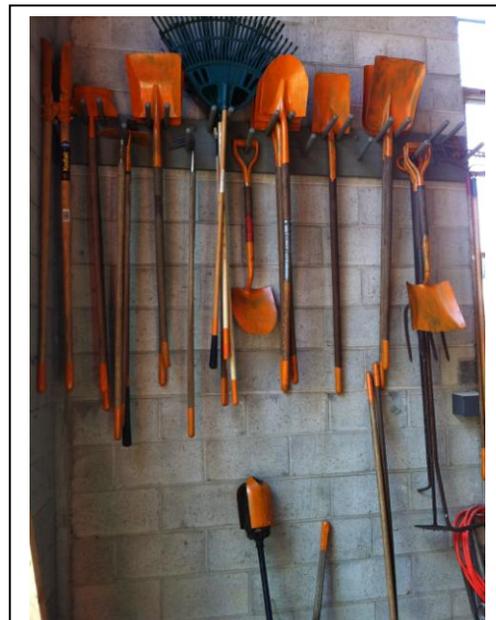
Jean Lambert and Jeff Laverty took part in the 2 day business event that took place at Eastbrook Mall. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



We are getting ready for opening day. Rolf Johnson preps the leaf blower to start while Dan Ditullio picks up sticks. (R.A. LaMay Photo)



Adrian Atkins prepares to install supports for new tool rack inside the roundhouse. The photo to the right shows the finished tool rack. Photo by Bob Hassett



The end result – the finished Tool Rack. Cudos to all those who worked on this project. Photo by Bob Hassett.