

# Topsfield trail development moves to Route 1 and beyond

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Work on the Topsfield portion of the Border to Boston rail trail has moved along considerably and a non-profit doing work in several towns has taken nearly all of the metal railroad rails out of town.

Topsfield Rail Trail Committee member Joe Geller said the Iron Horse Preservation Society has taken out all the metal rails and will begin taking out the creosote-soaked railroad ties. He said this group has allowed the rail trail effort in Topsfield to move along considerably and at no cost.

Topsfield selectmen approved expenses Monday night for extra materials for phase two of the rail trail, which travels from Summer Street to Route 1.

Geller told the board that the \$9,000 expense, which was paid for through a state grant, will provide enough materials to compensate for the extra moist ground in that area. He explained to the board that the contractors will have to dig down into the railroad bed and first install a "geotextile" fabric on the bottom, then lay down larger stones and then a final layer of stone dust.

He said he is not sure whether Iron Horse will complete the trail efforts to install the materials on phase two or if they will need to hire a contractor.

"They'll be involved," said Geller.

Geller is hoping Iron Horse will be able prepare the trail between Route 1 and the Wenham line pretty sufficiently so the Topsfield Rail Trail Committee only has to do finish work, such as laying down stone dust.

Iron Horse will first take out the railroad ties from Route 1 to the Wenham town line while they wait for the area between Route 1 and Summer Street to dry out a little more. Geller is not sure when Iron Horse will be finished in Topsfield but said they have until eight months after they remove the rail.

The trail is roughly 4 miles and crosses both Route 97 and Route 1. Geller said a traffic study must be done on Route 1 before they can decide how to deal with the major roadway and said that Mass transportation officials will determine how the road should be crossed. Topsfield owns the Route 97 crossing and the Town Safety Committee must decide on how to cross.

He said the groups will discuss the issue of having a trail done with no crossings for major roads and the liabilities involved.

The Friends of the Topsfield Rail Trail recently received two grants from non-profit groups. They received a grant for \$2,000 from the Essex Natural Heritage Commission. Another \$1,000 was donated by the Essex County Horse Organization.

Road for a faulty smoke detector head. Parties advised to service the alarm.

6:24 p.m. Vehicle parked at Camp Steppingstone on Stiles Pond Road. Party was fishing.

6:31 p.m. Trees/wires call on Georgetown Road. Party reported he was out for walk and noticed a telephone was split, leaning and the guide wire was pulled out of the ground. Verizon was notified.

7:28 p.m. Suspicious activity on Topsfield Road. State Police received report of a group of youths on overpass trying to climb fence. Gone on arrival.

### **Wednesday, June 2**

2:53 a.m. Boxford officers assisted another police department on Washington Street.

### **Saturday, June 5**

1:07 a.m. Littering on Willow Road (Route 133). Officer reported a bag of trash on side of road.

7:30 a.m. Accident without injury on Washington Street.

8:21 am. Accident without injury on High Ridge Road. •

5:17 p.m. Trees/wires call on Ipswich Road. Party called to report tree was blocking road.

5:36 p.m. Georgetown police ask ark colored mini van headed toward town. Gone on arrival.

7:11 p.m. Trees/wires call on Maple Avenue. Female party reported tree limb on wires. National Grid notified and DPW will have to close both ends of street.

8:42 a.m. Male party came into

motor vehicle was reported on Devonshire Road.

2:23 p.m. A motor vehicle hit and run was reported on Maple Street.

10 p.m. Police dispersed a large group of youths loitering on South Main Street.

### **Thursday, June 3**

8:39 a.m. A motor vehicle accident with injuries was reported on North Main Street.

1:37 p.m. A routine motor vehicle stop resulted in discovery of a stolen car on North Main Street. The vehicle had been stolen out of Methuen.

4:54 p.m. Larceny from a motor vehicle was reported on Sgt. Roode Lane.

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