

**GREEN RIVER VILLAGE PRESERVATION TRUST  
NEWSLETTER**

Issue No. 30

Fall/Winter 2023-24



Dear Neighbors and Friends of Green River,

As we experience the shorter days and brighter lights of the holiday season, we hope this newsletter finds you healthy and looking forward to joyous gatherings shared with family and friends. We are writing to share news of what's happening in and around Green River, provide an update on our past spring and summer activities, and share a summary of our fall tasks and future projects.

**News from Green River Village**

**A very sad announcement...**

The days before and immediately after Thanksgiving were filled with excitement throughout the Village. It seemed like every house was brimming with visitors and the roads were filled with people walking and laughing in small clusters. Then on the afternoon of Monday, November 27th, tragedy struck. The iconic, red, Minott family farmhouse that has sat on the knoll overlooking the crib dam for over 200 years, was suddenly engulfed and partially destroyed by a very hot and fast-moving fire. Neighbors stood watching, some openly crying, most too stunned to even talk, as firemen from seven different towns fought the blaze. By 8pm, as the firemen and onlookers began to leave, the house stood silent, crippled, and ghostlike in the dark. Fortunately, no one was home at the time of the fire, which has been determined to be accidental, and no one was injured battling the blaze. Addie Minott passed away last May, and in the fall, Addison, at age 93, moved to a comfortable apartment at Langdon Place assisted living facility, near his daughter Celia in Keene NH. Addison visited the property, almost daily, to attend to "things that needed to be done" and on Thanksgiving Day more than 30 members of the family joined Addison at the farm, for a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner where they shared many memories of their beloved Addie and their times spent together at the house. The family is strong and resilient and, as they do their best to deal with the aftermath of this tragic event, they want everyone to know that they are very grateful for the many messages and the outpouring of support they have received from friends and neighbors.

**A heart tree rises...what to do if you don't know what to do for the Minott Family.**

Thanks to the efforts of Stacey and Brian Link, the Trust has placed a heart-themed Christmas tree on the front lawn of the Minott house signaling that "our hearts are with you." Anyone who would like to share a message with the family is encouraged to create a heart shaped ornament and hang it on the tree. It can be as simple or lavish as your creativity allows; we only ask that it be weather/wind resistant and tied securely onto the tree. If desired, feel free to include a personal note, as the family is checking the tree often and sharing the messages with others. You may visit and hang your ornament at any time throughout the season. Thank you in advance for any participation - we know this means a great deal to the family at this difficult time.

**Post fire quotes and inspiration from the mouths of babes...**

One four-year-old neighbor child said she "still feels really sad, but the Christmas tree makes her feel safe and loved". Another young child said, "Miss Addie's house is broken, we need to call a builder guy". At times like this, when we are confused about the future and struggling to find the words to express our feelings, it might be best to simply let the children lead us.

**The Carol Sing returns – may the community healing begin...**

After a three-year pandemic related pause, we are pleased to announce that the 60th annual Green River Service of Scripture and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 5pm in the Green River Community Church. Michael Mario returns to lead the service and Ned Phoenix will join us to play the historic Estey organ. Ned worked for hours last spring to repair the organ and he is excited for us to hear the results of his labor. New pipe has been installed on the wood stove and the recently refurbished and painted church will be decorated, warm and welcoming. Hot cider and holiday treats will be served in the vestibule following the service. Please join us if you can.

**Past and Future Projects**

As always, the spring and summer season was a busy time for the Village and for the Trust.

**Riders and Runners**

The D2R2 bike ride, sponsored by the Franklin County Land Trust, brought over 700 riders to the Village for lunch and a rest stop, on August 19th, and on August 27th, 400 runners ran through the Green River Covered Bridge as part of the New England Green River Marathon. These are both exciting non-profit events that the Trust supports. However, to minimize the impact on the community, the Trust is actively involved with the planning and operation of both events.

**The Dam and Fishway**

Kids and adults seemed to enjoy the various sediment islands that formed after last year's sediment removal project and for the first time in two years, the fish ladder ran well all summer. However, sediment continues to accumulate behind the dam at an alarming rate and what used to be a project undertaken every five years, must now be done every two years at a cost of nearly \$12,000 per occurrence. To help us navigate the planning and engineering process, we work closely with Scott Jenson, our regional river engineer. Scott helps us formulate our plans and create a viable schedule. At this point, it looks like we will be removing sediment again next summer.

**Tree Removal at the Dam.**

For safety reasons, we had several large, dead and dangerous trees removed from the area adjacent to the millpond swimming area. The cost of this project was over \$2,000.

### **Riprap and Fencing Adjacent to the Millpond**

To prevent erosion to the west bank of the river next to the fishway, we will be adding additional riprap to the bank and a piece of split rail fencing to the upper edge of the bank at an estimated total cost of \$900

## **Church Projects**

### **Stove Pipe Repairs**

During our spring inspection of the church, we discovered that the stove pipe that runs from the old Glenwood stove in the sanctuary, through the second floor attic, and out through the roof needed to be replaced. This was also a necessary project, but it came with a cost of over \$3,200. Also, several of the poles adjacent to the outside steps had rotted and needed to be replaced. Cost: \$250.

### **Second floor Attic Cleanout and Inspection**

This long discussed project was completed last month in conjunction with the stove pipe repairs. We are pleased to report that the plastered walls and ceilings, the belfry, and the wooden floors are safe and in reasonably good shape. We will contact the Guilford Historical Society to discuss moving some of the old school desks to the History Museum in Guilford Center.

### **Future Church Projects**

Maintaining a 180-year-old church is a never ending and expensive job, especially for an all-volunteer board that receives no assistance from the State or Town. We will continue our work on the church, the dam, and the land as long as funds allow. We are keeping a close eye on the sills and the west side sill covers. Some early signs of rot and broken boards indicate that we will soon have to deal with foundation issues.

### **Green River Meadows update**

The Green River Meadows is a 17-acre piece of conserved land located 7/10ths of a mile south of the Green River Covered Bridge. The land, which was once a large junkyard, is now conserved through the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) and provides trails for hiking and public access to the Green River. The Trust worked closely with the VRC and was instrumental in making this conservation project happen.

Throughout the summer, the area saw good usage by hikers, swimmers and fishermen. We are pleased to report that we have had no vandalism and very little trash to pick up. We encourage you to visit the site for a walk and to enjoy the river

In June The Trust received a \$9,500. grant from the Vermont Community Foundation to cover five sustainability projects on the Green River Meadows Property:

- River access improvements,
- Riparian buffer planting,
- Invasive plant removal,
- Trash and rubble pile removal
- Parking and signage improvements)

Work on these projects will begin next spring.

### **Fall cleanup**

The annual fall clean-up has started and if the oak leaves ever fall, it will be completed.

### **Website**

We plan to continue to enhance our website by adding newsletters, notices, pictures etc.

### **Board Membership**

We are pleased to announce that Priscilla Demovellan, daughter of Addie and Addison Minott, has joined the board. Her presence will ensure that the Minott legacy will continue with the Trust. Also, Chip Carter, who resides in the center of the Village with his wife Laurie, has rejoined the board after a two year break. Welcome back Chip!

### **Land Ownership and Maintenance Responsibilities in the Village**

People are often confused over what land and structures the Trust and the Town own and maintain within the village. Here are the answers:

The Town owns and maintains only the Green River Covered Bridge. The Trust owns the dam and the adjacent land that comprises the swimming areas as well as the church and the church yard. This is private land that we own and voluntarily make accessible to the public. In addition to the regular mowing, raking and general cleanup of all adjacent lands and the village center triangle, we are responsible for maintaining the primary infrastructure of the dam, the fishway and the church which includes major projects such as the regular removal of sediment behind the dam and all church repairs. Since we receive no outside financial assistance from the Town or the State, we are totally dependent on individual donations to finance these tasks.

### **Please help and do know...**

The Green River Village Preservation Trust is a recognized non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation of the historical, physical and community resources of Green River Village. The board is a true "working" board comprised of 11 volunteers. The only maintenance work that we pay for is lawn mowing. All other routine seasonal chores and DIY projects are performed by board members and others who are willing to help. It takes a lot of time, energy, planning and money to carry out these duties, and physical and financial resources are further strained when extraordinary events such as storms and major repair projects arise and demand immediate attention and resources. Your donation of time and money to assist with these projects is critical and much appreciated.

### **There are two ways to donate:**

All donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in writing.

### **Pay by Check**

Make your check payable to GRVPT and send it to:

Lynn Pancake

Treasurer, Green River Village Preservation Trust

1082 Green River Road

Guilford, VT

05301

### **Pay by Credit Card**

Donate using a credit card by visiting our website at **[www.greenrivervillage.org](http://www.greenrivervillage.org)** and follow the DONATE link. And, if you are interested in physically helping with any of our many projects, please send a note to Lynn Pancake at the above address.

Thank you for your support and best wishes for a joyful and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

### **The Green River Village Preservation Trust Board**

Diane Murphy – President, Steve Detra -Vice President, Steve Lembke– Secretary,

Lynn Pancake – Treasurer, Addison Minott - Emeritus and Chris Beebe, Michael Becker, Chip Carter,

Priscilla Demovellan, Eddie Charbonneau, Brian Link and Gabe Maulucci.

