

GREEN RIVER VILLAGE PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 29

Fall/Winter 2022-23



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 a festive season shared with family and friends. We are writing to share news of what's happening in Green River, provide an update on our past spring and summer activities, and share a summary of our fall and future projects.

NEWS FROM GREEN RIVER VILLAGE:

The warm, dry, summer followed by a beautiful fall, produced a lot of activity in the village and surrounding area. We had many swimmers, bikers, runners and hikers enjoy the area and we also had our fair share of village centered demolition, excavation, construction, and renovations. Most notably, the old Ray Gates house, located within the village (on the east side of Green River Road) was demolished and removed. Unfortunately, many experts deemed the house to be dangerous and "too far gone" for renovation. The site has been cleaned up and the remaining two barns painted and restored. At other sites, heavy equipment spent six days removing sediment from behind the dam and several houses, within the village, had construction done, stonewalls built and / or exteriors painted. At this point the village is pretty much tidied up and buttoned down for the winter.

The Annual Carol Sing

Normally, at this time of year, we would be preparing for the 60th annual Green River Carol Sing, but due to persistent and variable covid and flu related issues, we felt it wise and safest to cancel the service again this year. Not only is this disappointing to us and the nearly 100 people

and families who cherish and attend this beautiful country service, it presents the Trust with a major financial problem. The annual carol sing has consistently been our primary source of revenue for the year. Large and small donations made at the service, have always provided the base funding needed to deal with the recurring maintenance and new project needs of the dam, the church, and the surrounding land. We ask that you consider our extensive (and expensive) project list and donate what you can to help close what could be a debilitating funding gap for the Trust. Unfortunately, repairs and maintenance requirements never take a break and the cancellation of the carol sing for three consecutive years, has put a lot of pressure on our finances and our ability to do what needs to be done.

The Green River Crib Dam and Swimming Area

This past summer, the swimming areas above and below the dam were once again fully open to the public. Despite heavy usage, we are pleased to report that the problems of overcrowding and road blockages experienced in past years, were much reduced. We attribute this positive turnaround to public education accomplished through the posting of signs informing people where and how to park and detailing clear guidelines for using and sharing the swimming area. Many thanks to everyone for your cooperation.

The Sediment Problem Behind the Dam

Due to Tropical Storm Irene, the continuous upstream bank erosion and subsequent deposit of silt and debris behind the dam continues to pose a weight impoundment threat to the dam and reduces the area available for swimming. If the silt is not removed on a regular basis, the dam will be threatened, and the entire swimming area will ultimately fill with sediment. The Trust is solely responsible for removing the sediment, with no assistance from the Town or State.

Removal

What used to be necessary once every five years, now must be done every two years at a cost of over \$8,000 per occurrence. After being rained out last year, this summer's extremely dry weather produced ideal conditions for removing the sediment build up. After securing all the required permits, Trust volunteers opened the spillways and drained the swimming areas which allowed a local contractor to bring in a large excavator and two dump trucks to collect and remove over 1,400 cubic yards of sediment. After the sediment was removed, the spillways were closed and the area naturally refilled itself. This project took six days to complete and, due to the increased amount of sediment and rising excavation costs, the project cost the Trust a whopping \$11,700. We hope to be able to continue these necessary sediment removals, but major project costs present a financial burden that will not be sustainable without generous donations from friends and neighbors.

The Fishway, the Spillway and the Retaining Walls

For the first time in over 20 years, the fishway on the west side of the dam was totally blocked by sediment and was not operable all last year. Following the recommendations of fish passage experts from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we removed part of the west bank that was restricting the flow of water past the fishway and added stone riprap adjacent to the fishway to

prevent bank erosion. We are happy to report that, so far, this master plan has been successful and the fishway is once again flowing freely. In addition, repairs made to the base of the retaining wall have stopped several erosive and threatening leaks. Next spring, a new cover for the eastside spillway and additional split rail fencing will be installed for safety.

The Green River Church

Over the summer and early fall we completed a major, multifaceted church project, including the removal and replacement of some rotted fascia boards, repairs to the leaking roof, removal of overhanging trees and branches, and extensive interior and exterior painting. The total cost for this project was over \$15,000. Fortunately, we were able to secure a matching \$7,000 grant from the 1772 Foundation to help reduce the cost, but this church project and the sediment removal have cost the Trust over \$18,000 in a single year. And we recently discovered that the church's woodstove piping needs replacement and upgrading from the stove, into the second floor and through the roof. While we are still exploring options, early estimates indicate the cost for this project could exceed \$5,000.

As you can see, 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.

Other Spring and Summer Events

The Franklin Land Trust's D2R2 bike event brought over 1000 riders to the village on August 20th and the New England Green River Marathon saw 400+ runners pass through the village on the 28th. Trust members volunteered at both events to help ensure minimal disruption for local residents and swimmers. And the Trust hosted its biannual village picnic on the 27th to thank everyone for their support and to share historical information on the dam, the village and the church. Addie and Addison Minott were specifically recognized and thanked for founding the Trust back in 2000, and their quiet and selfless efforts over the past 23 years to preserve the historical, recreational, and cultural attributes of the village and the surrounding area.

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. The area has a new information kiosk, and we encourage you to visit the site for a walk or to enjoy access to the river.

Important Note:

While the Town of Guilford maintains the Green River Covered Bridge, the Trust is responsible for all sediment removal behind the dam and the fish ladder as well as all maintenance of the dam, the church, the village center triangle, and the surrounding land. We are totally dependent

on individual donations to finance these tasks since we receive no outside financial assistance from the Town or the State.

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 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, Addie Minott– Secretary,
Lynn Pancake – Treasurer and Chris Beebe, Michael Becker, Eddie Charbonneau, Steve Lembke, Brian Link, Gabe Maulucci, and Addison Minott